Finding aid of the James L. White Papers

Collection number: Coll2006-003

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:
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Date Completed:
November 13, 2006
Encoded by:
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Descriptive Summary

Title: James L. White papers
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1979-1981)
Collection number: Coll2006-003
Creator: White, James L., 1936-1981
Collection Size: 4 archive boxes1.5 linear feet
Repository: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.
Los Angeles, California 90007
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Box #, folder #, James L. White papers, Coll2006-003, One National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Acquisition Information

Processing Information
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Biography

James L. White was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 26, 1936. From the age of 16 he received training in classical ballet. He was later awarded a scholarship to the American Ballet Theater in New York City, and while serving in the U.S. Army in West Germany he danced for the State Ballet in Karlsruhe. White obtained undergraduate degrees from Indiana University and Colorado State University, and an MA in Literary Criticism from the latter.

For three years in the 1960's, White worked as a poet-teacher with the Navajo in the American Southwest, where he created and directed the Navajo Folk Art Theater. In 1971, he relocated to Minnesota to serve as the Director of the Native American Project of the Poets in the Schools Program, and he later taught in the Writers in Schools Program sponsored by COMPAS (Community Programs in the Arts and Sciences). While teaching he collected and edited Time of the Indian (1976), contemporary poetry written by Native American children, and First Skin Around Me (1976), an anthology of American Indian writings. During the late 1970's, he worked with Allen Ginsberg at the Jack Kerouac School for the Disembodied Poetics, at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.


White died of heart disease at his home in Minneapolis, in July 1981, at the age of 45.

Sources:

Scope and Content of Collection

James L. White's Papers consist almost entirely of his journals and drafts of poetry and prose. The collection forms a single series, arranged by format: interview, journals, poetry, prose, and notes, each arranged chronologically. The journals form the bulk of the collection, and contain photographs and other documents as pasted inserts. White sanitized his papers prior to his death, and they have been re-arranged several times since his death. During the course of these re-arrangements, all loose documents were removed from the journals; these materials are now filed with the journals, but their precise context has been lost. Other materials include a transcript of an interview with White; drafts of his poetry, in particular of his final work, The Salt Ecstasies; two audiocassettes with comments on The Salt Ecstasies by Tess Gallagher; a small amount of prose; and notes on the writings of others.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Diaries
Gays in literature
Gay men's writings, American
Gays' writing, American
Interviews
Poetry
Poets, American--20th century
White, James L., 1936-1981

Related Material

Tom Young Papers, Coll2006-005, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.
Box : Folder 1 : 1  October 1978
Journals
Box : Folder 1 : 2  October 1972-March 1979
Box : Folder 1 : 3  March 1974-June 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 4  December 1975-March 1980
Box : Folder 1 : 5  circa January 1977
Box : Folder 1 : 6  May 1977-November 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 7  September 1977-November 1977
Box : Folder 1 : 8  November 1977-June 1978
Box : Folder 2 : 1  June 1978-August 1979
Box : Folder 2 : 2  November 1978-February 1980
Box : Folder 2 : 3  May 1979-October 1979
Box : Folder 2 : 4  September 1979-October 1979
Box : Folder 2 : 5  October 1979
Box : Folder 2 : 6  June 1980-February 1981
Box : Folder 2 : 7  April 1981-July 1981
Box : Folder 2 : 8  Spiral notebooks (2) & paper tablet undated
Poetry
Box : Folder 3 : 1  Typescript 1975-1980
Box : Folder 3 : 2  The Salt Ecstasies, draft 1979
Box : Folder 3 : 3  The Salt Ecstasies, draft & correspondence 1980
Box : Folder 3 : 4  The Salt Ecstasies, draft 1980
Box : Folder 4 : 1  Paper tablets (2) circa 1978
Box : Folder 3 : 5  Paper tablets (4) undated
Prose
Box : Folder 3 : 6  Typescripts circa 1970
Box : Folder 3 : 7  Typescripts undated
Notes on Others’ Works
Box : Folder 4 : 2  Paper tablets (2) undated
Commentary
Box : Folder 4 : 2  Audiocassettes by Tess Gallagher on The Salt Ecstasies 1980