
Guide to The Reaper Records, 1979-1989

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Collection number: M0512

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Descriptive Summary

Title: The Reaper Records,

Date (inclusive): 1979-1989

Collection number: M0512

Extent: 4.5 linear ft.

Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.

Abstract: Records pertain to the editorial process of THE REAPER, its production, financial management, and other miscellaneous business, as well as the literary interests and opinions of its editors and contributing authors. Included is correspondence between the poetry editors Mark Jarman and Robert McDowell; letters received from authors, subscribers, and others; submitted manuscripts; production files for most issues consisting of original contents, paste up, galleys, artwork, related correspondence, and printing flats; grant applications; mailing records; clippings and reviews; and other business records.

Language: English.

Access

None.

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Acquisition Information

Purchased, 1988.

Biography

The Reaper, a small poetry and fiction magazine founded by Robert McDowell and Mark Jarman, was an important voice in the movement in American poetry known as the New Narrative or the New Formalism, which began in the late seventies. The movement attacked the free verse poetics of autobiographical experiences that the Beats had espoused in the 1950's .

The New Formalists argued for a return to meter and rhyme, recognition of the importance of narrative, and the inclusion of public as well as private experience. From Issue #1, published in 1980, to Issue #19/20, the final issue, to be published in 1990, The Reaper was strongly committed to narrative poetry and published many of the authors working in this new form including Dana Gioia, Rita Dove, Frederick Morgan, Liam Rector, Chris Semansky, Chase Twichell, and Rusty White. In addition, The Reaper published Jarman and McDowell's reviews and critical essays on modern poetry that prompted reviewers to call it "feisty and iconoclastic."

Collection Scope and Content Summary

The records of The Reaper, dating from 1979 to 1989, are arranged in three series: correspondence, issue files, and business files. They document the editorial process of the journal, its production, financial management, and other miscellaneous business aspects, as well as the literary interests and opinions of its editors and contributing authors.

Access Terms

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

Carter, Jared.

Cervantes, James.

Dove, Rita.

Eberhart, Richard, 1904-.

Flynn, Richard.

Gioia, Dana.

Haas, Barbara.

Hall, Donald, 1928-.

Hilton, David, 1938-.

Jarman, Mark.

Joselow, Beth.

McDowell, Robert, 1953-.

Mastro, Mark Anthony.

Morgan, Frederick, 1922-.

Rector, Liam, 1949-.

Semansky, Chris.

Twichell, Chase, 1950-.

Wilhemous, Tom.

American literature--20th. century.

Poetry, modern--20th. century.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1980-1989
Scope and Content Note

Series I, Correspondence, is divided into two sections. The first contains correspondence of the editors, Mark Jarman, Robert McDowell, and Tom Wilhemus. The bulk of this section is letters between Jarman and McDowell, poetry editors, 1980-1989, discussing poems submitted, production details, financial matters, their joint articles, and general literary matters, with some personal news included. Manuscripts are included with some of the letters; in addition there are photocopies of a typescript poem and a letter from Robert Bly to Robert McDowell, 1985. There are also other letters of Robert McDowell and a small number of letters from Tom Wilhemus, fiction editor. Correspondence in this section is separated by editor and then arranged chronologically. The second section consists of letters to *The Reaper* from potential and published authors, subscribers, and readers, including a special file of correspondence with British poets. These letters are arranged alphabetically, with the general alphabet preceding files for specific authors. Some of the letters from authors include poetry manuscripts submitted for consideration. Authors represented by more than one or two letters were separated from the general alphabet and include Jared Carter, Rita Dove, Dana Gioia, Donald Ha, Liani Rector, and Chase Twichell. AU of the correspondence is open to researchers except for two letters by Donald Hall which were pulled from the collection due to their confidential nature.

Box 1, Folder 1	Jarman, Mark to Robert McDowell, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 2	Jarman, Mark to Robert McDowell, 1983-1986
Box 1, Folder 3	Jarman, Mark to Robert McDowell, 1987-1989 and undated
Box 1, Folder 4	McDowell, Robert to Mark Jarman, 1980-1984
Box 1, Folder 5	McDowell, Robert to Mark Jarman, 1985
Box 1, Folder 6	McDowell, Robert to Mark Jarman, 1986
Box 1, Folder 7	McDowell, Robert to Mark Jarman, 1987
Box 1, Folder 8	McDowell, Robert to Mark Jarman, 1988-1989 and undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Dowell, Robert. Letters, 1985-1987 and undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Wilhemus, Toni. Letters, 1985 and undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters to The Reaper: A-B, 1981-1989
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters to The Reaper: C-D, 1981-1989
Box 1, Folder 13	Letters to The Reaper: Carter, Jared, 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 14	Letters to The Reaper: Ceivantes, James, 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 15	Letters to The Reaper: Dove, Rita, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 16	Letters to The Reaper: E-G, 1981-1986
Box 1, Folder 17	Letters to The Reaper: Eberhait, Richard, 1981
Box 1, Folder 18	Letters to The Reaper: Flynn, Richard, 1984-1986
Box 1, Folder 19	Letters to The Reaper: Gioia, Dana, 1982-1986
Box 1, Folder 20	Letters to The Reaper: H, 1981-1989
Box 1, Folder 21	Letters to The Reaper: Haas, Barbara, 1982
Box 1, Folder 22	Letters to The Reaper: Hall, Donald, 1983-1985
Box 1, Folder 23	Letters to The Reaper: Hall, Donald, 1986-1988
Box 1, Folder 24	Letters to The Reaper: Hilton, David, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 25	Letters to The Reaper: I-K, 1981-1988
Box 1, Folder 26	Letters to The Reaper: Joselow, Beth, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 27	Letters to The Reaper: L, 1981-1988
Box 1, Folder 28	Letters to The Reaper: Ma-Mh, 1981-1986
Box 1, Folder 29	Letters to The Reaper: Mastro, Mark Anthony, 1982
Box 1, Folder 30	Letters to The Reaper: Mi-Mz, 1982-1988
Box 1, Folder 31	Letters to The Reaper: Morgan, Frederick, 1981-1988
Box 1, Folder 32	Letters to The Reaper: N-P, 1980-1986
Box 1, Folder 33	Letters to The Reaper: Q-R, 1981-1982
Box 1, Folder 34	Letters to The Reaper: Rector, Liam, 1983 and undated
Box 1, Folder 35	Letters to The Reaper: S-T, 1981-1985
Box 1, Folder 36	Letters to The Reaper: Semansky, Chris, 1985 and undated
Box 1, Folder 37	Letters to The Reaper: Twichell, Chase, 1980-1985
Box 1, Folder 38	Letters to The Reaper: U-Z, 1981-1982 and undated

Box 1, Folder 39
 Box 1, Folder 40

Letters to The Reaper: [No last name], 1981-1985
Correspondence with British poets, 1980-1981

Scope and Content Note

Graham Chainey, Tony Curtis, Douglas Dunn, D.J.Enright, Duncan Forbes, Mike Jenkins, Kevin Porter, Jon Silkin, David Sweetnian, and D.M.Thomas.

Series 2: Issue files, 1979-1988

Scope and Content Note

Series II, Issue Files, documents the production of The Reaper, and is primarily arranged by issue number; photocopies of the table of contents from each issue are included with this guide. Each issue may or may not include the following files: original contents, photocopies of contents, paste up, photocopy of paste up, galleys, artwork, related correspondence from authors, artists, and between the editors, and miscellaneous items such as backgrOund materials, revisions of lead essays, and extra covers. Oversized and non-paper items such as paste up sheets, printing flats, and printing plates have been boxed separately. Issues 1 through 11 are especially well documented; there are partial files on Issues 12 , 13 , 16 , and 18 . Issues 14 , 15 , and 17 are not represented in the collection at all. The remainder of this series consists of accepted poems that were never published and other miscellaneous manuscripts.

Box 1, Folder 1
 Box 1, Folder 2
 Box 1, Folder 3
 Box 1, Folder 4
 Box 1, Folder 5
 Box 1, Folder 6
 Box 1, Folder 7
 Box 1, Folder 8
 Box 1, Folder 9
 Box 1, Folder 10
 Box 1, Folder 11
 Box 1, Folder 12
 Box 1, Folder 13
 Box 1, Folder 14
 Box 1, Folder 15
 Box 1, Folder 16
 Box 1, Folder 17
 Box 1, Folder 18
 Box 2, Folder 2
 Box 2, Folder 2
 Box 2, Folder 3
 Box 2, Folder 4
 Box 2, Folder 5
 Box 2, Folder 6
 Box 2, Folder 7
 Box 2, Folder 8
 Box 2, Folder 9
 Box 2, Folder 10
 Box 2, Folder 11
 Box 2, Folder 12
 Box 2, Folder 13
 Box 2, Folder 14
 Box 2, Folder 15
 Box 2, Folder 16
 Box 2, Folder 17
 Box 2, Folder 18
 Box 2, Folder 19

Issue #1: Original contents
Issue #1: Paste up
Issue #1: Photocopy of paste up
Issue #1: Essays from "After the Flood" Workshop,1979
Issue #2: Original contents
Issue #2: Photocopy of contents
Issue #2: Typeset galleys
Issue #2: Photocopy of paste up
Issue #2: Miscellaneous items
Issue #3 : Original contents
Issue #3: Photocopy of contents
Issue #3: Paste up
Issue #3: Photocopy of paste up
Issue #4 : Original contents
Issue #4 : Photocopy of contents
Issue #4 :Artwork
Issue #4 : Related correspondence
Issue #5 : Original contents
Issue #5 : Photocopy of contents
Issue #5 :Related correspondence
Issue #5 : Extra covers
Issue #6 : Original contents
Issue #6 : Photocopy of contents
Issue #6 : Related correspondence
Issue #7 : Original contents
Issue #7 :Photocopy of contents
Issue #7 : Photocopy of galleys
Issue #7 : Related correspondence
Issue #8: Original contents
Issue #8: Photocopy of contents
Issue #8: Related correspondence
Issue #8: Revisions of lead essay
Issue #9 : Original contents (partial)
Issue #9 : Photocopy of contents
Issue #9 : Related correspondence
Issue #9 : "The Dogtown Letters" version 1
Issue #9 : "The Dogtown Letters" version 2

Box 3, Folder 1	Issue #10: Original contents
Box 3, Folder 2	Issue #10: Photocopy of contents (partial)
Box 3, Folder 3	Issue #10: Paste up
Box 3, Folder 4	Issue #10: Related correspondence
Box 3, Folder 5	Issue #11: Original contents
Box 3, Folder 6	Issue #11: Paste up
Box 3, Folder 7	Issue #11: Related correspondence
Box 3, Folder 8	Issue #11: "How to Write Narrative Poetry: A Reaper checklist" - earlier version of lead essay
Box 3, Folder 9	Issue #12 : Original contents (partial)
Box 3, Folder 10	Issue #13: "Forever Young: A Survey, Conducted, by The Reaper" - typescript, letter, notes
Box 3, Folder 11	Issue #13: "Narrative and Awareness" by Barbara Haas
Box 3, Folder 12	Issue #16: Original contents (partial)
Box 3, Folder 13	Issue #16: Related correspondence
Box 3, Folder 14	Issue #18 : Original contents (partial)
Box 3, Folder 15	Issue #18 : Photocopy of contents
Box 3, Folder 16	Issue #18 : Related correspondence
Box 3, Folder 17	Accepted poems, unpublished
Box 3, Folder 18	Miscellaneous manuscripts
Box 3, Folder 19	Miscellaneous items
Oversize 4, Folder 1	Issue #2 : Paste up
Oversize 4, Folder 2	Issue #5: Paste up
Oversize 4, Folder 3	Issue #6: Paste up
Oversize 4, Folder 4	Issue #7 : Paste up
Oversize 4, Folder 5	Issue #8 : Paste up
Oversize 4, Folder 6	Miscellaneous paste up sheets
Oversize 5, Folder 1	Issue #1: Printing flats
Oversize 5, Folder 2	Issue #2 : Printing flats
Oversize 5, Folder 3	Issue #6: Printing flats
Oversize 5, Folder 4	Issue #7 : Printing flats
Oversize 5, Folder 5	Miscellaneous printing flats
Oversize 5, Folder 6	Issue #1: Printing plates

Series 3: Business files, 1980-1988

Scope and Content Note

Series III, Business Files, concerns the non-literary side of The Reaper, primarily its financial affairs. Included are grant applications to the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts ; notes and records of printing and publication costs ; and purchase orders from libraries and bookstores.

Non-financial materials in this series include mailing records, clippings and reviews, and a resume of Robert McDowell.

Box 1, Folder 1	Bulk rate mailing records and address lists, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 2	Clippings, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 3	Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines, grant applications , 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 4	Fundraising letter, 1986

Box 1, Folder 5	Indiana Arts Conmiission, grant applications, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 6	Indiana State University Evansville, memoranda, 1982
Box 1, Folder 7	Miscellaneous business records
Box 1, Folder 8	National Endowment for the Arts, grant applications, 1984-1987
Box 1, Folder 9	Printing and publication costs, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 10	Resume, Robert McDowell , 1988
Box 1, Folder 11	Retail and library orders, 1983-1986
Box 1, Folder 12	Reviews of The Reaper, 1980-1987