Michael Craft papers

Finding aid prepared by Julianna Gil.
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Michael Craft papers
Date (inclusive): 1985-2019, undated
Collection Number: MS 415
Extent: 5.88 linear feet (14 boxes, 2 flat file folders)
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900
Abstract: The collection consists of the papers of author, playwright, and screenwriter Michael Craft. Materials in the collection include manuscripts, notes, research materials, correspondence, promotional materials, reviews and other items related to Craft's career and creative works, most notably the Mark Manning and Claire Gray series.
Languages: The collection is in English.
Access
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [date if possible]. Michael Craft papers (MS 415). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.
Acquisition Information
Processing History
Processed by Julianna Gil in 2017, with additional donations processed by Special Collections & University Archives staff in 2019.
Processing of the Michael Craft papers was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Jessica Geiser, Collections Management Librarian.
Biographical Note
Michael Craft, whose full name is Michael Craft Johnson, was born in Elgin, Illinois in 1950. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, earning his bachelor's in graphic design. After graduating he attended several years of graduate school at the University of Illinois Institute for Communications Research, but left in 1976 to pursue a career. He soon received a position at the Chicago Tribune, where he worked for ten years as an art director for the editorial-design department. During his time at the Tribune, Craft moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he began using his long train commute to start writing his first novel. He also met his future husband Leon in 1982, and left the Tribune in 1987 to work for Leon's family-owned business while writing on the side.
After a long period of revising and shopping around his first novel, in 1991 Craft secured his first literary contract with Los Hombres Press for Rehearsing, which was released in 1993. In 1995 he met literary agent Mitchell Waters, who agreed to take Craft on as his first client. In 1996, Craft signed with Kensington Books for the first three books of the Mark Manning series, publishing Flight Dreams in 1997. In 2000, the Mark Manning series then moved St. Martin's Press, who published the next four Manning books as well as all four book in the Claire Gray series.
In 2005, Craft moved from Kenosha to Rancho Mirage, California, and also began pursuing his MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University, which he received in 2007.
In addition to the fourteen published novels written by Craft, he has also written two plays, and was involved in the production of the independent film Pink Squirrels in 2011.
Collection Scope and Contents
The collection consists of the papers of author, playwright, and screenwriter Michael Craft. Materials in the collection include manuscripts, notes, research, correspondence, promotional materials, reviews and other items related to Craft's
novels, screenplays, and stage plays, most notably the Mark Manning and Claire Gray series of mystery novels. The collection also includes materials created as part of the publishing process for Craft's novels, including contracts, promotional efforts and expenses, and significant correspondence with Craft's literary agent Mitchell S. Waters and editors John Scognamiglio and Keith Kahla.

Also included are materials related to Craft's graduate studies at Antioch University, including coursework and graduation materials.

In the process of donating the collection, Craft also wrote various notes offering contextual information on certain works, most of which can be found throughout the collection in folders titled "Author's Note."

**Separated Materials**

Published works written by Craft that were donated with the collection, including his master's thesis, translations, and advance review copies of his novels, have been separated for cataloging in Special Collections & University Archives.

**Collection Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into three series as follows:

- **Series 1: Creative Works, 1985-2019**
- **Series 2: Publishing Records, 1991-2013, undated**
- **Series 3: Graduate Education, 2005-2007**

**Indexing Terms**

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

**Subjects**

American literature
Detective and mystery stories
Lesbian and gay experience
Literature publishing

**Genres and Forms of Materials**

Correspondence
Manuscripts
Notes
Promotional materials

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**Series 1 Creative Works 1985-2019**

**Series Scope and Contents**

The series consists of materials related to the creation and promotion of works written by Michael Craft, including novels, stage productions, and screenplays. Materials in the series include both pre-publication materials like notes, research, outlines, proposals, and manuscripts; as well as post-publication materials including publicity, event information, and reviews.

**Series Arrangement**

The series is arranged by creative work.

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**Mark Manning Mysteries Sub-series 1.1 1994-2007, 2017**

**Flight Dreams Sub-series 1.1.1 1994-1998**

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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Correspondence 1994-1997</th>
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<td>Correspondence - Congratulations 1997-1998</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Floppy Disks circa 1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folders 6-7</td>
<td>Manuscript 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>Notes circa 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-series</td>
<td>Date Range</td>
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<td><strong>Mark Manning Mysteries</strong></td>
<td>1994-2007, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Eye Contact</strong></td>
<td>1994-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body Language</strong></td>
<td>1997-1999</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name Games</strong></td>
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**Publicity and Events**
- Box 1, Folder 9
- Box 14, Folder 2
- Flat-File-Folder 1
- Item 1
- Box 1, Folder 10
- Box 1, Folder 11
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- Box 1, Folder 13
- Box 1, Folder 14
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- **Publicity and Events - Book Signing and Party 1997**
- **Research 1996-1997**
- **Reviews 1997**
- **Submission Plan 1995**
- **Awards Entry Forms 1997-1998**
- **Brainstorming Committee 1994**
- **Correspondence 1997-1998**
- **Cover Proof circa 1998**
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- **Manuscript 1997**
- **Notes circa 1997**
- **Outlines and Proposals 1996-1997**
- **Publicity and Events 1998-1999**
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- **Awards Entry Form 1999**
- **Correspondence 1998-1999**
- **Correspondence - Congratulations 1999-2000**
- **Cover Proof circa 1999**
- **Excerpt - "Upstairs on Prairie Street" circa 1999**
- **Floppy Disks circa 1999**
- **Manuscript 1998**
- **Notes 1999**
- **Order Forms 1999**
- **Proposal and Outlines 1997**
- **Publicity and Events 1999**
- **Research 1997**
- **Reviews 1999**
- **Correspondence 2000**
- **Correspondence - Congratulations 2000**
- **Cover Proof circa 2000**
- **Editorial Notes 1999**
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- **Order Forms 2000**
- **Proposal and Synopsis 2000**
- **Publicity and Events 2000**
- **Research 1995-2000**
- **Reviews 2000**

**Michael Craft papers**
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**Boy Toy** Sub-series 1.1.5 1995-2002
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- Correspondence - Congratulations 2001-2002
- Editorial Notes 2000
- Floppy Disks circa 2001
- Lambda Literary Awards 2002
- Manuscript 2000
- Notes 2000
- Proposal and Outline 2000
- Publicity and Events 2001
- Publicity and Events - insightoutbooks.com Catalogs 2001-2002
- Publicity and Events - Postcard 2001
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**Hot Spot** Sub-series 1.1.6 2001-2003
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**Bitch Slap** Sub-series 1.1.7 2003-2005
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- Correspondence 2003-2004
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**Mark Manning Book 8** Sub-series 1.1.8 2005-2007, 2017
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**Rehearsing** Sub-series 1.2.1 1985-1996
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Publicity and Events - Round Table West 2003
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Proposal and Outline circa 2003
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Box 9, Folder 4 Lakeside Players - Production Information 2003
Box 9, Folder 5 Outlines and Notes circa 2003
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>11, Folder 1</td>
<td>Publicity and Events - &quot;Gin and Coke&quot; Stage Reading 2010</td>
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<td>11, Folder 2</td>
<td>Publicity and Events - Performance Programs 2010</td>
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<td>11, Folder 3</td>
<td>Script 2010</td>
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<td>11, Folder 4</td>
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<td>11, Folder 5</td>
<td>Script with Shooting Schedule 2010</td>
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**The Transit of Venus Sub-series 1.7 2004-2013, 2017**

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<td>11, Folder 8</td>
<td>Author's Note 2017</td>
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<td>11, Folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence - Brainstorming with Dean Yohnk 2004</td>
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<td>11, Folder 10</td>
<td>Floppy Disk 2004</td>
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<td>11, Folder 11</td>
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<td>11, Folder 14</td>
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<td>Script - Director's Copy 2010</td>
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<td>Staged Reading - DVD 2010</td>
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<td>11, Folder 17, Flat-File-Folder 2, Item 1</td>
<td>Staged Reading - Production Information 2010</td>
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**Mister Puss Mysteries Sub-series 1.8 2018-2019**

**FlabberGassed Sub-series 1.8.1 2018-2019**

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<td>Awards 2019</td>
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<td>14, Folder 13</td>
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<td>14, Folder 14</td>
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<td>14, Folder 15</td>
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<td>Desert Sun Opinion Piece on Journalism 2017</td>
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**Series 2 Publishing Records 1991-2013, undated**

**Series Scope and Contents**

The series consists of materials related to the publishing of Craft's literary works, including correspondence with his various editors, publishing contracts, and publicity efforts including files related to two independent publicists that worked with Craft.

**Series Arrangement**

The series is arranged alphabetically.

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<td>11, Folder 20</td>
<td>Contracts - Kensington Publishing Corp. 1996</td>
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<td>11, Folder 21</td>
<td>Contracts - Los Hombres Press 1991</td>
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<td>14, Folder 15</td>
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<td>14, Folder 1</td>
<td>Contracts - St. Martin's Press 1999-2004</td>
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<td>11, Folder 22, Box 12, Folders 1-3</td>
<td>Correspondence - Fan Mail 1995-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>12, Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence - General 1996-2002, 2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Series 2 Publishing Records 1991-2013, undated

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Correspondence - Scognamiglio, John 1996-1999
Correspondence - St. Martin's Press 2000-2003
Correspondence - Waters, Mitchell S. 1995-2013
Events and Readings 1999-2002
New York Blade - Gay Mystery Novels Panel 2000
Publicity - Articles on Craft 2000-2003, 2018
Publicity - Articles on Craft's Home 2001-2009
Publicity - Bookstores/Publications List undated
Publicity - Green, Jacqueline 2001
Publicity - Hughes, Larry 1999-2000
Publicity - Kensington Publishing Corp. 1997-1999

Series 3 Graduate Education 2005-2007

Series Scope and Contents
The series consists of materials related to Craft's graduate studies undertaken at Antioch University from 2005-2007. Materials in the series include coursework, residency materials, and graduation information.

Series Arrangement
The series is arranged alphabetically.

Coursework 2005-2007
Coursework - Critical Paper 2006
Coursework - Senior Lecture 2007
Graduation 2007
Residency 2005-2007