Guide to the Correspondence between Walter Clark, Jr. and John Ridland Mss 376


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Title: Correspondence between Walter Clark, Jr. and John Ridland

Identifier/Call Number: Mss 376

Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Research Collections

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.83 linear feet (2 document boxes)

Creator: Clark, Walter, 1931-2008

Creator: Clark, Francelia Mason, 1938-

Date (inclusive): 1953-2019

Date (bulk): 1953-2008

Abstract: Correspondence between poets Walter Clark, Jr. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and John Ridland (University of California, Santa Barbara), dating from 1953-2008.

Physical Location: Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library

Language of Material: The collection is in English.

Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], Correspondence between Walter Clark, Jr. and John Ridland, Mss 376. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Acquisition Information
Gift of Francelia Clark and John Ridland, 2019.

Processing Information
Correspondence arranged by Francelia Clark and John Ridland, 2018-2019.

Biographical Note on Walter Clark, Jr.

Biographical Note on John Ridland
John Ridland (1933-) was born in London and grew up in California. He earned his PhD from Claremont Graduate School and has published numerous books and chapbooks, including Ode on Violence (1969), In the Shadowless Light (1978), Palms: Six ballads (1993), A Brahms Card Ballad (2007), Happy in an Ordinary Thing (2013), and A. Lincolniad: An epic poem honoring the memory of President Abraham Lincoln (2014), among many others. With his wife Muriel he wrote And Say What He Is: The Life of a Special Child (1975). Ridland is also a translator and has published translations of the Middle English poems Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and Pearl as well as books of selected poems of the Hungarian poets Sándor Márai and Miklós Radnóti and many others here and in Hungary. Ridland published a verse translation of the Hungarian folk epic John the Valiant (Corvina Press, 1999). In 2010, Ridland was recognized with the Balassi Sword Award for his translations of Hungarian literature. Ridland has received a gold medal from the Arpad Society of Cleveland Ohio. He taught for over forty years at the University of California-Santa Barbara and is currently professor emeritus of the college. From the Poetry Foundation's "John M. Ridland." https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-m-ridland. Accessed on 5 September, 2019.

Scope and Content
Correspondence between poets Walter Clark, Jr. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and John Ridland (University of California, Santa Barbara).

Both attended Swarthmore College, where they met in 1953. After graduation, Clark and Ridland maintained a lifelong correspondence. Collected and arranged into volumes by date, the letters trace events in the personal lives of Clark and Ridland, their friendship, their development as poets and educators, and above all, their ideas about both the craft and teaching of poetry. The letters include poems by Clark and Ridland.

Correspondence continued until 2008, the year of Clark’s death. The correspondence was meticulously arranged into volumes (by date) by Francelia Clark, Clark’s widow, and John Ridland. This arrangement has been preserved. The collection also contains a folder of correspondence between John Ridland and Francelia Clark, dating from 2011 to 2019.

**Related Archival Material**

John Ridland papers, UArch FacP 51. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

English teachers -- California -- Santa Barbara
English teachers -- Michigan -- Ann Arbor
Correspondence
Poems
Clark, Walter, 1931-2008 -- Correspondence
Ridland, John -- Correspondence
Clark, Francelia Mason, 1938- -- Correspondence

University of California, Santa Barbara. Department of English. Faculty

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**Correspondence**

- box 1, folder 1: Volume 1 1953-1964
- box 1, folder 2: Volume 2 1965-1966
- box 1, folder 3: Volume 3 1967
- box 1, folder 4: Volume 4 1968-1978
- box 1, folder 5: Volume 5 1971-1988
- box 2, folder 1: Volume 6 1989-1993
- box 2, folder 2: Volume 7 1994-2008
- box 2, folder 3: Correspondence between Francelia Clark and John Ridland 2011-2019