Guide to the Robert Peterson Papers

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Guide to the Robert Peterson Papers

Collection number: MS 44

The University Library
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Robert Peterson papers
Dates: 1945-1990
Collection number: MS 44
Creator: Peterson, Robert
Collection Size: 1 document box
Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
San Cruz, California 95064
Abstract: This collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, drafts and annotated typescripts of poet, Robert Peterson.
Physical location: Stored offsite at NRLF: Advance notice is required for access to the papers.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection open for research.

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Preferred Citation
Robert Peterson papers. MS 44. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

 Acquisition Information
Gift of Robert Peterson and Carolyn Stoloff.

Biography
The author of nine books and a widely anthologized poet, Robert Peterson was born in Denver in 1924. His childhood was spent in San Francisco at the Fielding Hotel, a Union Square hotel owned by his adoptive parents. There he developed a sharp idiosyncratic eye for human nature that would later give his poems their particular style and charm. He was writer-in-residence at Reed College, Portland Oregon from 1969-1971. After leaving Reed College, Peterson lived in Taos, New Mexico, where he wrote a collection of poems, Leaving Taos, that was named a National Poetry Series selection in 1981. He then returned to the Bay Area, where he started his own publishing company, Black Dog Press, and created artworks that were shown in local galleries. He also served a writer-in-residence at Oregon's Willamette University from 1991-1992. Peterson was one of the first artists to win a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts after its founding in 1965, and one of the first to edit an anthology of poems in opposition to the Vietnam War.
Robert Peterson died of cancer in September 2001 at the age of 76.

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection contains early correspondence from Peterson to his parents, outgoing correspondence to long time friend and poet Carolyn Stoloff, manuscripts, drafts and annotated typescripts of poems.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Peterson, Robert--Archives
Authors, American--California--Santa Cruz County
American poetry--20th century
Santa Cruz County (Calif.)--Imprints
Stoloff, Carolyn

Box:folder 1:1  Biographical information
Box:folder 1:2-7  Correspondence - Outgoing
Box:folder 1:2  To Mr. & Mrs. Ernest F. Peterson, February 2 - May 26, 1945
Box:folder 1:3-7  To Carolyn Stoloff,
Box:folder 1:3  1964-1969
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Box:folder 1:8  Undated manuscripts, drafts, annotated typescripts, undated
Box:folder 1:8  Sudden Love undated
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Box:folder 1:8  Cracking its wild bones, 1/23 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Kuhlman as Caviar, 2/18 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Amos Feely at the Fielding (Sonnet for Amos Feely), 3/9 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Evening Poem (Meditations on a Still Night), 4/16 undated
Box:folder 1:8  A Possible Suicide, 4/17 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Now and then I find myself, 5/5 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Planning my future (backside: To the Single Mind), 5/5 undated
Box:folder 1:8  We’re sitting around a table, 5/7 undated
Box:folder 1:8  In the 2am club, 5/9 undated
Box:folder 1:8  You’ve been sent off in the rain, 5/9 undated
Box:folder 1:8  I’m walking to the Bay, 5/12 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Hands folded like napkins in my lap, 5/13 undated
Box:folder 1:8  The Second Year, Two Rhododendrons, 5/19 undated
Box:folder 1:8  The Young Conquistador, 5/26 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Three Northamericans, 7/6 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Mazatlan, 7/11 undated
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Box:folder 1:8  A Swim in Ouhuira Bay, 7/18 undated
Box:folder 1:8  The Yellow Cat, 7/28 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Thinking about what to do next, 8/12 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Skunk, 9/19 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Famous for Comfort, 9/25 undated
Box:folder 1:8  A Disaster, 10/5 undated
Box:folder 1:8  You Dream of Bawdy Priests, 10/10 undated
Box:folder 1:8  The Bird, 10/19 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Late Autumn Leaves, 11/2 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Stopped by Highway Patrol going too slow, 12/26 undated
Box:folder 1:8  Dated manuscripts, drafts, annotated typescripts, 1957-1979
Box:folder 1:9  I can hear it now (The First day of the Lovers) 4/21/1957
Box:folder 1:9  Beach at Ft. Cronkite - Draft 1 10/5/1965
Box:folder 1:9  Toshiro Mifune as Ski Patrol 11/16/1965
Box:folder 1:9  A Neighbor to the South (An Enemy) 4/20/1966
Box:folder 1:9  The laurels sway like java dances 9/11/1966
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<td>Box:folder 1:9</td>
<td>Sea Poem / Sea Changes 1/26/1968</td>
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<td>Box:folder 1:9</td>
<td>Resolutions 1/22/1971</td>
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<td>Southwest Sunsets 12/1/1971</td>
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<td>January of this Year 1/4/1972</td>
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