Descriptive Summary
Languages: English
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175
Title: David Bromige Correspondence
Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0006
Physical Description: 0.25 Linear feet (1 archives box)
Date (inclusive): 1962-1972
Abstract: The correspondence of poet, playwright, and educator David Bromige (1933-2009).

Scope and Content of Collection
The David Bromige Correspondence includes exchanges with such noted American writers as Ted Berrigan, Robert Bly, Richard Brautigan, Robert Creeley, Robert Duncan, Clayton Eshleman, Denise Levertov, George Oppen, and Gary Snyder. The collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The materials cover the period from approximately 1962 to 1972 and include copies of written materials and often detailed exchanges concerning publishing and readings.

Biography
David Mansfield Bromige, who resided in the Bay Area, is often associated with the Black Mountain School via the Vancouver nexus of poets centered around the magazine Tish.

He was born to Harold and Ada Bromige on 22 October 1933 in London, England, where his father was a director of documentary films. Until he settled in the Bay Area in the early '70s, Bromige led a peripatetic life: he travelled, held various jobs, and received an education in Europe, Canada, and the United States.

After attending prep school at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys in London, Bromige worked from 1950 to 1953 as a cowman on dairy farms in England, Sweden, and Canada. During the '50s he also supported himself as an attendant in mental hospitals in Canada and as an elementary school teacher in England and Vancouver, British Columbia. In the early 1960s he served as a freelance critic for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Vancouver.

It was during his years in Vancouver that Bromige began gaining a reputation for his writing. In 1961 he won the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Playwriting Prize for "The Cobalt Poet," and in 1962 he won the KVOS TV Playwriting Prize for "Save What You Can." In 1961 Bromige divorced his wife of four years, actress Ann Livingston, and married Joan Peacock, with whom he had a son, Christopher.

Bromige received his B.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1962. That same year he began working toward his Master's Degree at the University of California, Berkeley. Two years later he received his degree from Berkeley and returned to the University of British Columbia, where he worked as an instructor in English for a short time. Bromige then returned to Berkeley where he continued his studies and taught from 1964 to 1970. In 1965 he published his first book, The Gathering, and he wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the poetry of Robert Creeley and Robert Duncan - Duncan having been particularly influential to Bromige's own work. In 1970 Bromige married the writer Sherril Jaffe, and he began teaching English at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California - a position he held until his retirement in 1993.

Much of Bromige's influence on contemporary poetry has been the result of his association with various journals. He was poetry editor of the Northwest Review (1963-64), and editor of Raven (1960-62), R.C. Lion (1966-67), and Open Reading (1972-76).

Starting with his earliest work, Bromige's poetry has been centered on the page, not in the "real" world. He describes his writing as an exploration process, saying, "I am interested in poetry as speech arising from dumb desire and passion and arousing further word clusters until constellations emerge I had previously no knowledge were within me."


Preferred Citation
David Bromige Correspondence, MSS 6. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.
Acquisition Information
Acquired 1978.

Publication Rights
Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
American poetry -- 20th century
Bly, Robert -- Correspondence
Bromige, David -- Archives
Berrigan, Ted -- Correspondence
Brautigan, Richard -- Correspondence
Corman, Cid -- Correspondence
Creeley, Robert, 1926-2005 -- Correspondence
Duncan, Robert, 1919-1988 -- Correspondence
Eshleman, Clayton -- Correspondence
Levertov, Denise, 1923-1997 -- Correspondence
Oppen, George -- Correspondence
Snyder, Gary, 1930- -- Correspondence
Wakoski, Diane -- Correspondence

CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1, Folder 1
Berrigan, Ted
General note
3 TScs, including the poems "Bolingbroke," "Ikonostasis," "Sunlight in Jungle-Land," and "Dick Gallup (Birthday)."

Box 1, Folder 2
Bly, Robert 1971
General note
1 ALs

Box 1, Folder 3
Brautigan, Richard 1966
General note
1 TSa, "The Pretty Office" (1966)

Box 1, Folder 4
Corman, Cid 1963
General note
2 TLs

Box 1, Folder 5
Creeley, Robert 1963-1972
General note
3 ALs, 6 TLs, 2 TLc, 1 TPC, 2 APC, TSc ("The Finger"); xerox announcement of Creeley reading.

Box 1, Folder 6
Duncan, Robert 1962-1970
General note
8 ALs, 2 APCs; copy of Central County Clarion, 12 May 1970, showing picture of Duncan reading; 19 TS, 1 TSc ("Concert Reading Version of Adam's Way prologue," including narrative bridge).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 7</th>
<th>Eshleman, Clayton 1968-1972</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>6 ALs, 16 TLS, 7 APCs, 9 TSs, 39 TSc</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 8</th>
<th>Levertov, Denise 1965-1970</th>
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<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>3 ALs, 4 APCs, 39 TSc, including xeroxed selections from &quot;Entr'acte,&quot; and &quot;Europe after 10 years, England after 20 years, Summer of 1970.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 9</th>
<th>Oppen, George</th>
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<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>1 ANs, 1 TNs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 10</th>
<th>Snyder, Gary 1966</th>
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<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>3 TS, including the poems &quot;The Six Hells of the Engine Room,&quot; &quot;The Wipers Secret,&quot; and &quot;RECTIFY in Accord with the THOUGHT of Chairman MAO.&quot;</td>
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<th>Box 1, Folder 11</th>
<th>Wakoski, Diane 1963-1972</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>6 TLS, 1 APCS</td>
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