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Thomas Francis Parkinson papers 4078533

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical sketch	4
Scope and Content	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	7
Collection Inventory	7
Series I: Correspondence	7
Series II: Manuscripts	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Parkinson, Thomas Francis, 1920-
Creator:	Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997
Creator:	Corso, Gregory
Creator:	McClure, Michael
Creator:	Snyder, Gary, 1930-
Creator:	Whalen, Philip
Title:	Thomas Francis Parkinson papers
ID:	4078533
ID:	MS#0974
Date [inclusive]:	1950-1985
Physical Description:	1 linear feet 2 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Thomas Parkinson Papers contain correspondence between Parkinson and members of the San Francisco literary scene, such as beat poets Allen Ginsberg, Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, and Philip Whalen. The collection also includes manuscripts written by Parkinson and his friends and associates.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Thomas Francis Parkinson Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Thomas Parkinson was a professor of literature at the University of California Berkeley, a poet, political activist, and scholar of William Butler Yeats and the writers and culture of the Beat Generation.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Parkinson was born in San Francisco in 1920. He grew up in the Haight-Ashbury district with his father, a plumber and union leader. His father's political and union activities shaped Parkinson's own political views, and he remained a committed political activist throughout his life.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Parkinson graduated from Lowell High School and attended some courses at a junior college, but left to do odd jobs and a brief stint in the army before returning to the University of California Berkeley. He completed his Bachelor's, and then his PhD at Berkeley and stayed on to teach as faculty member in the English Department. He remained at Berkeley for the entirety of his career as a scholar, and was awarded the University's highest honor, the Berkeley Citation, in 1991.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

In addition to his activities as a scholar, Parkinson was a poet who was involved in the art and literary scene in the San Francisco area in the 1950s and 1960s. He was friendly with poets such as Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, Philip Whalen, Robert Duncan, and Allen Ginsberg, and wrote an early academic analysis of beat poetry entitled *A Casebook of the Beat* in 1961.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Thomas Parkinson died of a heart attack in 1992, survived by his wife, the artist and theatrical designer Ariel Parkinson.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

The collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, and printed ephemera related to Thomas Parkinson and his involvement in the San Francisco Renaissance literary scene.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Selected items cataloged; remainder arranged.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-07-13 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Method of acquisition--Purchase, 400-10.16.87; Date of acquisition--10/16/87. Accession number--M-87-10-16.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gary Snyder letters, manuscripts, and photographs: Source of acquisition--Serendipity Books. Method of acquisition--Purchase-297-08.16.88; Date of acquisition--08/16/88. Accession number--M-88-08-16.

Ownership and Custodial History

Purchase, 1987; 1988.

Processing Information

Processed 04/07/88 PL

Processing Information

Gary Snyder letters, manuscripts, and photographs. Processed 09/26/88 PL

Processing Information

Reprocessed 07/12/10 by Carrie Hintz

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Bohemianism
- Beats (Persons)
- Correspondence
- Poets, American -- 20th century
- College teachers
- Parkinson, Thomas Francis, 1920-

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1950-1985

Scope and Contents

The correspondence series is comprised of letters to and from Parkinson related to his involvement in the literary scene of the beat generation and the San Francisco Renaissance.

Title/Description	Instances	
BBC to Ginsberg and Parkinson, 1958	box 1	folder 1
Corso, Gregory to Parkinson, undated	box 1	folder 2
Feinberg, Charles to Parkinson, 1963	box 1	folder 3
Ginsberg, Allen to Parkinson, undated, 1950-1985 <u>Physical Description:</u> (5 Folders)	box 1	folder 4 to 8
McClure, Michael to Parkinson, undated and 1963-1982, undated, 1963-1982	box 1	folder 6
Parkinson		
to Allen Ginsberg, undated, 1958-1969	box 1	folder 7

to Michael McClure, 1963-1971	box 1	folder 8
to Gary Snyder, 1970	box 1	folder 9
to Philip Whalen, undated	box 1	folder 10
Snyder, Gary	box 1	folder 11
to Ariel Parkinson, undated	box 1	folder 12
to Parkinson, 1959-1983 <u>Physical Description:</u> (6 Folders)	box 1	folder 13 to 18
Scope and Contents		
(some of these letters include poetry manuscripts)		
Whalen, Philip to Parkinson, undated and 1957-1980, undated, 1957-1980 <u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)	box 2	folder 1 to 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Manuscripts, 1957-1980

Scope and Contents

The Manuscripts series includes manuscripts of poetry by Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, and Philip Whalen, as well as a collection of publishing announcements and gallery invitations for writers and artists associated with the San Francisco poetry scene. This series also includes a manuscript of Michael McClure's book of essays, *Wolf Net*, inscribed to Tom and his wife Ariel.

Title/Description	Instances	
McClure, Michael		
Ghost Tantra #31	box 15-H-03	
Notes and Poems, undated and 1957, undated, 1957	box 2	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
(Also includes an essay on Allen Ginsberg's poetry)		
<i>Wolf Net</i> typescript, 1972	box 2	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
(inscribed to Tom and Ariel Parkinson)		
Snyder, Gary		
Poetry Manuscripts, Resume, and Statement on Parkinson, 1965-1980	box 2	folder 6
Photographs, undated	box 2	folder 7

Whalen, Philip

Poetry, 1958-1969

box 2

folder 8

"O Tom, O Parkinson,", 1961

box 15-H-03

Scope and Contents

(poem dedicated to Parkinson)

Printed Material

box 2

folder 9

Scope and Contents

(Advertisements, Announcements, and Clippings)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)