



ArchivesSpace

a community served by  Lyrasis

Saturday Press records 6467565

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.
Description is written in: English.

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 / Historical	3
Summary	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	6
Controlled Access Headings	7
Collection Inventory	7
Series I: Correspondence with Authors	7
Series II: The Eileen W. Barnes Award	8
Series III: Publicity	8
Series IV: Visual Materials	9
Series V: Publications	9

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Saturday Press (Montclair, N.J.)
Title:	Saturday Press records
ID:	6467565
ID:	MS#1431
Date [inclusive]:	1975-1996
Physical Description:	1.5 linear feet 3 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The records document the Saturday Press, a small press dedicated to publishing the works of female poets over the age of 40. The Saturday Press existed from 1975 to 1995. The collection consists primarily of correspondence between the publisher Charlotte Mandell and the authors, as well as correspondence from contestants for the Eileen W. Barnes Award, which the Saturday Press awarded in 1981, 1984, and 1990.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Saturday Press records; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Saturday Press, a small press named after a poetry group out of which the press sprang, was founded in 1975 by Charlotte Mandel. Charlotte Mandel began by publishing her first book, an experience which made her realize simultaneously the importance of publishing to a new poet, and that publishing was a task within her grasp. Although technically founded in 1975, the press did not begin formal operations until 1981, when a bequest from Eileen W. Barnes provided funding. Mandel used the bequest to establish the Saturday Press, and

simultaneously, the Eileen W. Barnes Award, an award granted to a first-time female poet over 40. The bequest also funded the publication of the Press' first three books; after that ran out, the Press reorganized as a non-profit corporation, and relied upon grants, which supported the organization for the remainder of its existence.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Saturday Press was located in Montclair, New Jersey, near Mandel's home, where she lived with her husband, Irwin Mandel, the director of Clinical Research at the Columbia University Dental School.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Eileen W. Barnes award (later known simply as the Barnes Award) was announced in 1981, 1984, and 1990, with the announcement and publication of winners taking place over the following few years in each case. The Award was inspired by Charlotte Mandel's realization that there was a lack of support for older first-time poets, especially women, and she planned the prize as an attempt to garner recognition and prestige for such poets. The Barnes Award led to as much recognition of the Press as did its publication of more established poets.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The first Barnes Award competition requested contestants to submit a biography along with their poetry submission, and the judges of the first competition clearly found these biographies almost as compelling as the poetry itself. Charlotte Mandel cited them extensively in a talk she presented at Rutgers in 1984, and Rachel Hadas, another Barnes Award judge, wrote an article on the subject of the biographies. The first Barnes Award carried a cash prize of \$100 for the winning poet; later awards had no cash prize.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Saturday Press first published the winner of the first Barnes Award, Ghita Orth, in 1982. In 1983, it also published the runner-up, Annaliese Wagner's book, *Hand Work*, as well as an anthology of 53 of the contestants, titled "Saturday's Women". The Press went on to publish poets such as Jean Hollander, Janice Thaddeus, Anne Nicodemus, Geraldine C. Little, and Colette Inez. In total, the Saturday Press published 13 books and an audio tape of Charlotte Mandel reading her poem-novella "The Life of Mary." A small press, books were distributed only to local bookstores and authors were largely responsible for their own publicity. Many of the authors, in explaining their choice to publish with the Saturday Press, cited Charlotte Mandel's personal involvement in the editing process, and deep investment in the quality of the final product. The press ceased operations in 1995.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The collection primarily consists of correspondence and publicity conducted by the Saturday Press: correspondence between the publisher Charlotte Mandel and the authors; correspondence relating to the Eileen W. Barnes Award, including contestant biographies; records of events that publicized the press, such as talks at universities and poetry readings; and clippings of articles citing the press, as well as reader responses to these articles. Finally, the collection contains the entire press run, 13 titles and an audio cassette, as well as photographs and negatives of these books.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 5 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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>

Revision Description

File created. xml document instance created by Patrick Lawlor xml document instance created by Catherine N. Carson EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2008-11-07 2009-01-13 2009-06-04 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The records were a: Source of acquisition--Charlotte Mandel in. Method of acquisition--gift from; Date of acquisition--1998.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Sarah Ponichtera, Columbia GSAS 2010.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Sarah Ponichtera in February 2008.

Accrual

No additions expected

Processing Information

Collection is processed to folder level.

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

- Eileen W. Barnes award
- Hollander, Jean, 1928-
- Inez, Colette
- Little, Geraldine Clinton
- Mandel, Charlotte, 1925-
- Orth, Ghita, 1936-
- Thaddeus, Janice Farrar, 1933-
- Wagner, Anneliese, 1929-
- Saturday Press (Montclair, N.J.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence with Authors, 1981-1996

Scope and Contents

Series I contains the Saturday Press' correspondence with its authors. This section is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, and chronologically within each folder.

Title/Description	Instances
Carpenter, Anne, 1984-1994	box 1 folder 1

Hollander, Jean, 1986-1994	box 1	folder 2
Inez, Collette, 1983	box 1	folder 3
Little, Geraldine, 1982-1990	box 1	folder 4
Orth, Ghita, 1981-1996	box 1	folder 5
Partridge, Dixie, 1991-1994	box 1	folder 6
Radin, Doris, 1991-1992	box 1	folder 7
Thaddeus, Janice, 1984-1990	box 1	folder 8
Wagner, Anneliese, 1985	box 1	folder 9
Remainder Letters, 1992-1996	box 1	folder 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: The Eileen W. Barnes Award, 1981-1990

Scope and Contents

This series consists of materials relating to the Eileen W. Barnes Poetry Award, which was given three times by the Saturday Press, in 1982, 1986, and 1990. The materials include contestants' biographies, which they submitted as part of their application in 1982, correspondence between the judges during the 1986 competition, and announcements of the competitions in 1986 and 1990. The correspondence is arranged chronologically, and the biographies are arranged alphabetically by poet and chronologically within each poet's file.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1981	box 1	folder 11
Correspondence, 1984	box 1	folder 12
Correspondence, 1989-1990	box 1	folder 13
Biographies A-H, 1981	box 1	folder 14
Biographies I-Z, 1981	box 1	folder 15

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III: Publicity, 1981-1993

Scope and Contents

This series comprises clippings from articles concerning the Saturday Press, records of promotional events such as poetry readings, transcripts of talks given by Charlotte Mandell on various occasions, and correspondence with distinguished poets for the purpose of collecting "blurbs" to be published on the Press' books.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, "Blurb", 1982-1991		

Saturday Press records 6467565

	box 2	folder 1
Correspondence, Grant, 1985-1991	box 2	folder 2
Manhattan Theater Club Event, 1983	box 2	folder 3
<i>Poets and Writers' Magazine</i> Article,, 1988-1991	box 2	folder 4
Promotional Materials, 1983-1992	box 2	folder 5
Reviews, 1981-1993	box 2	folder 6
Talks, 1984-1988	box 2	folder 7
Student Comments, 1984	box 2	folder 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series IV: Visual Materials, undated

Scope and Contents

This series consists of photographs and negatives of Saturday Press books.

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, undated	box 2	folder 9

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series V: Publications, 1975-1993

Scope and Contents

This series contains the full press run of the Saturday Press; 13 books of poetry and one audio cassette of the author's reading of one of the books (Charlotte Mandel's *The Life of Mary*). The books are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Letters Stacked to be Mailed</i> , 1975	box 2	folder 10
<i>A Disc of Clear Water</i> , 1981	box 2	folder 11
<i>The Music of What Happens</i> , 1982	box 2	folder 12
<i>Saturday's Women</i> , 1982	box 2	folder 13
<i>Hand Work</i> , 1983	box 2	folder 14
<i>eight minutes from the sun</i> , 1983	box 3	folder 1
<i>Ma's Ram</i> , 1985	box 3	folder 2
<i>Crushed Into Honey</i> , 1986	box 3	folder 3
<i>Lot's Wife</i> , 1986	box 3	folder 4

Saturday Press records 6467565

<i>The Life of Mary</i> , 1988	box 3	folder 5
<i>A Well-Tuned Harp</i> , 1988	box 3	folder 6
<i>Keeping Him Alive</i> , 1990	box 3	folder 7
<i>There Are Talismans</i> , 1991	box 3	folder 8
<i>Watermark</i> , 1991	box 3	folder 9
<i>The Life of Mary</i> , 1993	box 3	folder 10
<u>Physical Description</u> : audio cassette recording		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)