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William J. Higginson Papers 7351663

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Higginson, William J., 1938-
Title:	William J. Higginson Papers
ID:	7351663
ID:	MS#1468
Date [inclusive]:	1950-2007
Physical Description:	111 linear feet 23 record cartons; 3 flat boxes; 67 boxes of books
Language of the Material:	Collection is predominantly in English with some writings in Japanese.
Abstract:	The William J. Higginson Papers consist primarily of correspondence with other poets and authors. There is also a sizable amount of Higginson's writings, including his manuscript, <i>The Haiku Handbook: How to Write, Share, and Teach Haiku</i> as well as many poems by both Higginson and his colleagues.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William J. Higginson Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

William J. Higginson spent over forty years studying traditional Japanese poetry. His interest in this subject led him to publish numerous books and articles on the teaching and writing of Haiku and he became one of the foremost authorities on the collaborative form of poetry writing, renku.

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Biographical / Historical

Higginson was born on December 17, 1938 in New York City to parents William J. and Nellie (Roby) Higginson Mackay. He first began studying Japanese at Yale University and discovered haiku at this time. Higginson served in the United States Air Force in the late 1950s, during which he was stationed in Misawa, Japan. He continued studying Japanese poetry throughout his deployment. Some years after his return, he went to college on the G.I. Bill and graduated with honors from Southern Connecticut State University in 1969 with a B.A. in English.

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Biographical / Historical

After a short stint teaching, Higginson became a Consultant in Writing and the Teaching of Writing in 1972, a job that he held for the rest of his life. He was a charter member of the Haiku Society of America, which was founded in 1968 and served as President in 1976, as well as the editor and publisher of Haiku Magazine. Other publications include three collections of poetry and haiku and numerous essays in anthologies and reference works. His poems, essays, and translations appear in the following periodicals and journals: American Book Review, Center, Footwork, Frogpond, Imprint (Hong Kong), Madrona, Newsweek Japan, Open Magazine, ProFiles, Shearsman (London), Sparrow, Sun, and Telegram (London).

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Biographical / Historical

Higginson has published several books in the field, perhaps the most prominent being *The Haiku Handbook: How to Write, Share and Teach Haiku* (1985), a book that uses examples, many of which were not previously available, from Japanese and other languages. This was a collaborative effort between Higginson and his wife, poet and author Penny Harter. Unique to the book are teaching tools, such as lesson plans, a reference section, and lists of haiku publishers and magazines. A follow-up book entitled *The Haiku Seasons* expands on the teaching model and gives a comprehensive history of the form. Higginson also published *Wind in the Long Grass*, an international anthology of haiku for children.

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Biographical / Historical

Higginson was active in several professional organizations, most notably P.E.N. American Center, the Poetry Society of America, the National Writers Union (U.S.), the New Jersey Task Force on Literacy in the Arts, and the Association of New Jersey County Cultural and Historical Agencies.

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Biographical / Historical

William J. Higginson died on October 11, 2008 after battling cancer. He is survived by his wife, Penny Harter.

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Summary

This collection documents the professional life of poet, translator, and literary historian, William J. Higginson. The bulk of the papers are correspondence and writings. Correspondence consists of letters between Higginson and fellow scholars and poets. The writings include drafts of Higginson's manuscript, *The Haiku Handbook*, numerous poems, and articles about the history and craft of writing Japanese Poetry. There is also a small amount of photographs, multimedia materials, and ephemera.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 7 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

File created. xml instance created by Lea Osborne. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-09-04 2009-09-15 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.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2008-2009-M043: Method of acquisition--Gift of Penny Harter; Date of acquisition--November, 2008.

Processing Information

Papers processed Lea Osborne, Carrie Hintz, Elena Locascio, Elizabeth Nolte 08/2008.

Accruals

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Haiku
- Haiku -- History and criticism
- Haiku -- Technique
- Haiku -- Translations into English
- Poetry
- Visual poetry
- Harter, Penny
- Higginson, William J., 1938-

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1966-2007

Scope and Contents

Series I hold letters from Higginson's friends and colleagues as well as various Haiku societies and organizations. Often colleagues and admirers would send Higginson various poems that they had written for him to criticize or comment on.

Title/Description	Instances	
General Correspondence	box 1	
undated	box 1	folder 1
1966-1972	box 1	folder 2
1973-1976	box 1	folder 3
1977-1982	box 1	folder 4
1983-1985	box 1	folder 5
1986-1989	box 1	folder 6
1990-1991	box 1	folder 7
1992-1993	box 1	folder 8

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1994	box 1	folder 9
1995-1996	box 1	folder 10
1997-1998	box 1	folder 11
1999-2000	box 1	folder 12
2001-2007	box 1	folder 13
Aldridge, Adele, 1975-1976	box 1	folder 14
Amann, Eric, 1968-1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 1	folder 15 to 16
Andras, Villanyi, 1991	box 1	folder 17
Aoyagi, Fay, 1997	box 1	folder 18
Baldwin, Neil, 1991-1993	box 1	folder 19
Barton, Geri, 1973	box 1	folder 20
Beaudoin, Kenneth, 1968-1969	box 1	folder 21
Bihler, Charles Harter, 2000	box 1	folder 22
Bostok, Janice, 1974-1986	box 1	folder 23
Brooks, Randy and Shirley, 1989- 1999	box 1	folder 24
Brower, Gary, 1968-1971	box 2	folder 1
Brown, Naomi, 1993-1998	box 2	folder 2
Bull, James, 1967-1971	box 2	folder 3
Calkins, Jean, 1968-1972	box 2	folder 4
Calogoras, Meagan, 1996-1997	box 2	folder 5
Childs, Cyril, 1996-1998	box 2	folder 6
Cobb, David, 1991-1994	box 2	folder 7
Codrescu, Ian, 1981-1993	box 2	folder 8
Cook, Lewis, 2001-2002	box 2	folder 9
Corman, Cid, 1968-1978	box 2	folder 10
Cramer, Mark, 1972-1975	box 2	folder 11
Crown, Bonnie, 1982-2004	box 2	folder 12
Davidson, Agnes, 1975-2001	box 2	folder 13
Demming, Kristen, 1994-1999	box 2	folder 14
Eckerman, Joan, 1984	box 2	folder 15
Evetts, Dee, 1984-1991	box 2	folder 16

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Forges-Ryan, Sylvia, 1990-1991	box 2	folder 17
Frost, Celestine, 1975-1977	box 2	folder 18
Gates, Larry, 1973	box 2	folder 19
Greeting Cards, undated	box 2	folder 20
Gurga, Lee, 1990-1999	box 2	folder 21 to 22
Haba, James, 1987-1992	box 2	folder 23
Hackett, James, 1968-1971	box 2	folder 24
Haiku Southwest, 1993-1995	box 2	folder 25
Harr, Lorraine, 1972	box 2	folder 26
Harter, Penny, 1993-1997	box 2	folder 27
Hashimoto, Kayoko, 1995-1999	box 2	folder 28 to 29
Heitmeyer, Doris, 1989-1995	box 2	folder 30
Henderson, Harold, 1968-1972	box 2	folder 31
Harold, Christopher, 1999	box 2	folder 32
Hicks, Helen, undated	box 2	folder 33
Higginson, Elizabeth, 1985-1991	box 2	folder 34
Horne, Kimiko, 1993-1994	box 2	folder 35
Hoshino, Tsunchiko, 1989-2004	box 2	folder 36
Hotham, Gary, 1980-1996	box 2	folder 37
Jewell, Rhoda de Long, 1968-1973	box 2	folder 38
Jones, Robert, 1985-1993	box 2	folder 39
Kacian, James, 1996-1998	box 2	folder 40
Kaneko, Tohta, 1990-1993	box 2	folder 41
Kanterman, Leroy, 1968-1974	box 2	folder 42
Kennedy, Bruce, 1981-1982	box 2	folder 43
Kenny, Adele, 1982-1990	box 2	folder 44
Kerr, Walter, 1972	box 2	folder 45
Keyser, Gustave, 1969-1973	box 2	folder 46
Kondo Family, 1969-2000 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 2	folder 47 to 48
Lamb, Elizabeth, 1972-1990		

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<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 2	folder 49 to 50
Landherr Jr., Ken, 1991	box 3	folder 1
Lee, Jeff, 1997-2004	box 3	folder 2
Laughlin, James, 1976-1981	box 3	folder 3
Lerman, Minna, 1990-1994	box 3	folder 4
Lifshin, Lyn, 1978-1981	box 3	folder 5
Little, Geraldine, 1974-1995	box 3	folder 6
Loose, Gerry, 1970-1973	box 3	folder 7
Luce, Ralph A, 1998	box 3	folder 8
Margeson, June, 1968	box 3	folder 9
Masseron, Julien, 1968	box 3	folder 10
McClintock, Michael, 1971-2001	box 3	folder 11
McGinnis, Tim, 1982-1984	box 3	folder 12
McNierney, Michael, 1972-1998	box 3	folder 13
Miyashita, Emiko, 1999-2000	box 3	folder 14
Moore, Leonard, 1987-1993	box 3	folder 15
Mormino, Kay T, 1968-1973	box 3	folder 16
Morris, Ivan, 1972	box 3	folder 17
Nolan, Pat, 1975	box 3	folder 18
Novak, Robert, 1970-1971	box 3	folder 19
O'Connor, John, 1990-1995	box 3	folder 20
O'Donnol, Dion, 1968-1971	box 3	folder 21
Okada, Ritsuo, 1998-2000	box 3	folder 22
Okazaki, Tadao, 1985-1986	box 3	folder 23
Olczak, George, 1992-1996	box 3	folder 24
O'Williams, Paul, 1972-2000	box 3	folder 25
Pearce, Anna, 1993-1995	box 3	folder 26
Petty, Ryan, 1974	box 3	folder 27
Pizzarelli, Alan, 1971-1982	box 3	folder 28
Polster, Edythe, 1993	box 3	folder 29
Poe, Marian, 1968-1969	box 3	folder 30

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Porach, Francine, 1989-1993	box 3	folder 31
Poulter, Scott, 1971-1972	box 3	folder 32
Pratt, Claire, 1968-1969	box 3	folder 33
Procsal, Gloria, 1974	box 3	folder 34
Ratner, Rochelle, 1980-1982	box 3	folder 35
Reichhold, Jane, 1989-1993	box 3	folder 36
Rexroth, Kenneth, 1976	box 3	folder 37
Roan, Carol, 1998	box 3	folder 38
Rogers, Steve, 1977-1978	box 3	folder 39
Rotella, Alexis Kaye, 1981-1990	box 3	folder 40
Roseliep, Raymond, 1982-1983	box 3	folder 41
Ross, Bruce, 1992-1995	box 3	folder 42
Rutherford, Anne, 1972	box 3	folder 43
Sakurai, Emiko, 1972-1984	box 3	folder 44
Sato, Hiro, 1976-1983	box 3	folder 45
Sato, Kazuo, 1982-1989	box 3	folder 46
Sato, Ken-ichi, 1989	box 3	folder 47
Shimakawa, Kyoko, 1991	box 3	folder 48
Shirane, Haruo, 1997-2000	box 3	folder 49
Silverman, Hersch, 1993	box 3	folder 50
Simmons, Carl, 1991	box 3	folder 51
Sommerkamp, Sabine, 1981-1990	box 3	folder 52
Spiess, Robert, 1982-2000	box 3	folder 53
Squires, Bonnie, 1971-1972	box 3	folder 54
Stark, Larry, 1968-1969	box 3	folder 55
Stefanile, Felix, 1975-1991	box 3	folder 56
Stubbs, Kendon, 2000	box 3	folder 57
Takado, Sazuko, 1992-1994	box 3	folder 58
Takahashi, Nobuyuki, 1968-1970	box 3	folder 59
Takeshita, Ryusai, 1993	box 3	folder 60
Tanemura, Kenneth, 1991	box 3	folder 61
Taylor, William J, 1968-1977	box 3	folder 62

Trumball, Charles, 1997	box 3	folder 63
Uchida, Sono, 1982-1993	box 3	folder 64
Ueda, Makato, 1972-2001	box 3	folder 65
Van der Heuvel, Cor, 1971-1998	box 3	folder 66
Verbeke, Geert, 2001	box 3	folder 67
Virgil, Anita, 1969-1998	box 3	folder 68
Wakiyama, Katsuo, 1983	box 3	folder 69
Webb, Joyce W., 1968-1975	box 3	folder 70
Welch, Michael Dylan, 1992-1999	box 3	folder 71
Warner, Gary, 1999	box 3	folder 72
Wiggin, Larry, 1971-1982	box 3	folder 73
Wilde, Teruko, 1998	box 4	folder 1
Wills, Marlene and John, 1970-1982	box 4	folder 2
Wilmott, Rod, 1989-1994	box 4	folder 3
Wright, David, 1991	box 4	folder 4
Wyatt, Bill, 1968-1996	box 4	folder 5
Yagi, Kametaro, 1968-1972	box 4	folder 6
Yatsuka, Ishihara, 1992-1994	box 4	folder 7
Young, Virginia, Brady, 1970- 1985	box 4	folder 8

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Series II: Writings, 1960-2007

Scope and Contents

Higginson's writings contain research, drafts, and notes for various projects such as *Butterfly Dreams*, *The Haiku Handbook*, and *The Haiku Seasons*. The series also has correspondence relating to the creation of these projects and about Haiku in general, proofs of *Haiku Magazine* volumes 5-6, and poetry written by Higginson in collaboration with colleagues.

Title/Description	Instances	
Manuscripts		
<i>Butterfly Dreams</i>		
Autumn, 2005- 2006	box 5	folder 14
Correspondence, 2006	box 5	folder 15
Drafts, 2006	box 5	folder 16

Spring, 2006	box 5	folder 17
Summer, 2006	box 5	folder 18
<i>The Haiku Handbook</i>		
African Haiku, 1979-1982	box 4	folder 9
Chapters 6-7, 1979	box 4	folder 10
Chapters 8, 9, 11, 16, 1979	box 4	folder 11
Draft 1-1, 1980s	box 4	folder 12
Draft 1-2, 1980s	box 4	folder 13
Draft 1-3, 1980s	box 4	folder 14
Draft 1-4, 1980s	box 4	folder 15
Draft 2-1, 1980s	box 4	folder 16
Draft 2-2, 1980s	box 4	folder 17
Draft 2-3, 1980s	box 4	folder 18
Draft 2-4, 1980s	box 4	folder 19
Draft 3, 1980s	box 4	folder 20
Dutch Examples, 1983	box 5	folder 1
Glossary, 1983	box 5	folder 2
Modern Examples--French, 1983	box 5	folder 3
Modern Examples--Yugoslavian, 1983	box 5	folder 4
One-Line Haiku, 1982-1983	box 5	folder 5
Outlines, 1983	box 5	folder 6
Reprints, 1996	box 5	folder 7
Season Words, 1982	box 5	folder 8
Teach Writing, 1980	box 5	folder 9
<i>The Haiku Seasons--Corrections and Design Notes</i> , 1995	box 5	folder 10
<i>The Haiku Seasons--Drafts</i> , 1988- 1996	box 5	folder 11
<i>Ten Years</i> , 1987	box 5	folder 12
<i>Wind in the Long Grass</i> , 1990	box 5	folder 13
Poetry		
General		
Undated	box 5	folder 19 to 20

Physical Description: (2 Folders)

1960-1979	box 5	folder 21
1980-1989	box 5	folder 22
1990-1999	box 5	folder 23
2000-2007	box 6	folder 1
Group Poetry, 1976-2004	box 6	folder 2
Haiku by Hian (Higginson), 1968- 1969	box 6	folder 3
"Items,", 1982	box 6	folder 4
One-Line Haiku, 1982	box 6	folder 5
Sampler, 1993	box 6	folder 6
Santa Fe Haiku, 1992-1994	box 6	folder 7
"Twenty-Five Pieces of Now"--Correspondence and Drafts, 1968	box 6	folder 8
"Twenty-Five Pieces of Now"--Masters, [1968]	box 6	folder 9
Short Works		
Undated	box 6	folder 10
1968-1979	box 6	folder 11
1980-1989	box 6	folder 12
1990-1999	box 6	folder 13 to 14
2000-2005	box 6	folder 15
Research and Notes		
Notebooks, 1985-1990s	box 6	folder 16 to 17
Haiku Notes and Book Projects, 1988-2005	box 7	
Poems, Essays and Writings, undated	box 8	

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Series III: Writings by Others, undated

Scope and Contents

This small series consists of poetry and small essays written by friends and colleagues of Higginson. The bulk of the pieces are undated and in many cases the author is not identified.

Title/Description	Instances
Haiku and Writings, undated	

box 9

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Series IV is comprised of printed material such as pamphlets, awards and certificates. There are also files concerning haiku and renku as well as publishing-related documents.

Title/Description	Instances
General Files, undated	box 10
Miscellaneous and Pamphlets, undated	box 11
1970s	box 12
1980s- 1990s	box 13
1980s	box 14
1990s	box 15
2000- 2005	box 16
Renku, 1973- 1974	box 17
1990s	box 18
1990s- 2000	box 19
Publishing Files, 1990s	box 20
2001- 2002	box 28

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Computer disks with backups of Higginson's writings and audio recordings of poetry readings are held in this series.

Title/Description	Instances
Floppy Disks and Other Media	box 21
Audiotapes and CDs	box 27

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Scope and Contents

Photographs of Higginson and Penny Harter at various poetry functions both within the United States and Japan are in Series VI. Events documented include the Global Renku Symposium and meetings of the Haiku Society of America. Of interest is a photograph of Allen Ginsburg with poet Anne Waldman from 1979. In addition to the photographs, there are a fair amount of slides and negatives.

Title/Description	Instances
1987	box 22
Allen Ginsburg and Anne Waldman, 1979	box 22
Global Renku Symposium, 2000	box 22
Haiku Society of America Cherry Tree	box 22
Japan, 1990	box 22
Miscellaneous <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 22
Negatives	box 22
New York City, 1959	box 22
Slides	box 22
Unidentified Photographs, 1950s and 1990s, 1950s, 1990s	box 22

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Series VII: Ephemera, 1980s**Scope and Contents**

Series VII contains a variety of realia including buttons, cards and paper products, prints of artwork, cloth and other textiles. Several scrapbooks documenting Higginson's trips through Japan in the 1980s are held in this series.

Title/Description	Instances
Art Prints	box 22
Buttons	box 22
Cards and Paper Products	box 22
Notebook <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 22
Scrapbook <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 22
Scrapbook-- Japan, 1987	box 22
Ephemera in flat Boxes	box 23

Ephemera in flat Boxes	box 24
Ephemera in flat Boxes	box 25
Scrapbook-- Japan, 1989 <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 Folders)	box 26
Textiles <u>Physical Description:</u> (5 Folders)	box 26
Travel Mementos-- Japan, 1989 <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 Folders)	box 26

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Series VIII: Books

Physical Description: 84 Linear Feet 67 boxes of books

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