Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Maureen Owen Collection of Greenwich Village Poetry

YCAL MSS 218

by Kathleen T. Burns

June 2006

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 218

CREATOR: Owen, Maureen, 1943-

TITLE: Maureen Owen collection of Greenwich Village poetry

DATES: 1975–1981

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection consists of audio recordings, originally recorded on reel-to-reel tape and audio cassette. Many of the recordings are of poets reading their work or the work of others at literary events held by the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York City. Also includes recordings of poets reading their work and being interviewed on Susan Howe's radio shows on WBAI Radio in New York. Miscellaneous readings recorded in Connecticut and elsewhere are present. The collection includes audio publications Black Box No. 12 and BREATHINGSPACE/77.
The recordings include readings by the following authors: Russell Banks, Regina Beck, Ted Berrigan, Elizabeth Bishop, Ed Friedman, John Godfrey, Ted Greenwald, Barbara Guest, John Francis Alexander Heath-Stubbs, Dale Herd, Bob Holman, Fanny Howe, Carole Spearin McCauley, Douglas Messerli, Eileen Myles, Charles North, George Oppen, Maureen Owen, Ron Padgett, Charles Rezkinoff, Adrienne Rich, Ed Sanders, Ron Silliman, Jack Spicer, and Virgil Thomson.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.green

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.green.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Richard Deming, 2004.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Digitized audio files are available via this finding aid for streaming on-site at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Digital versions of the original recordings are available for reference use to scholars off-site. Original recordings are housed in *Restricted Fragile* in boxes 1-3, and may only be consulted with permission of the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Maureen Owen Collection of Greenwich Village Poetry is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Maureen Owen Collection of Greenwich Village Poetry. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Recordings were digitized from audiocassettes and reel to reel recordings during processing. Original recordings are now housed in *Restricted Fragile* in boxes 1-3. In most cases, containers suffered from water damage and were discarded; sound recordings were retained.

MAUREEN OWEN (1943-)

Maureen Owen, poet, editor, publisher, and editor, was born in 1943 in Graceville, Minnesota. Owen began publishing and editing Telephone Books and *Telephone* magazine in 1969. During the 1970s, she worked as coordinator and director (1976-1980) of the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York City. She taught writing and magazine production workshops for the Poetry Project, a Greenwich Village collective founded in 1966 as a forum for public literary events and as a resource center for writers.

Owen's publications include *Country Rush* (1973), *No Travels Journal* (1975), *Hearts in Space* (1980), *AE (Amelia Earhart)* (1984), *Zombie Notes* (1986), *Imaginary Income* (1992), *Untapped Maps* (1993) and *American Rush* (1998).

Owen received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship grant in 1979-80, and in 1998 was awarded by the Foundation of Contemporary Performance Arts. She received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Festival Prize in 1999. Owen has taught at Edinboro University, Swarthmore College, Saint Joseph College (CT), and Naropa University.

Scope and Contents

The Maureen Owen Collection of Greenwich Village Poetry consists of audio recordings on reel-to-reel tape and audio cassette. Many of the recordings are of poets reading their work or the work of others at literary events held by the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York City. There are also recordings of poets reading their work and being interviewed on Susan Howe's radio shows on WBAI Radio in New York. Miscellaneous readings recorded in Connecticut and elsewhere are present as well. The collection includes two audio publications which were originally issued on cassette, *Black Box No. 12* and *BREATHINGSPACE/77*.

The recordings include readings by the following authors: Russell Banks, Regina Beck, Ted Berrigan, Elizabeth Bishop, Ed Friedman, John Godfrey, Ted Greenwald, Barbara Guest, John Francis Alexander Heath-Stubbs, Dale Herd, Bob Holman, Fanny Howe, Carole Spearin McCauley, Douglas Messerli, Eileen Myles, Charles North, George Oppen, Maureen Owen, Ron Padgett, Charles Rezkinoff, Adrienne Rich, Ed Sanders, Ron Silliman, Jack Spicer, and Virgil Tomson.

Collection Contents

Series I: Audio Recordings, 1975-1981

Series I. *Recordings*, is organized into four subseries: St. Mark's In-the-Bowery Poetry Project Readings, WBAI Radio (New York, N.Y.) Programs, Audio Publications, and Other Recordings. Each subseries has been arranged chronologically. The original format of the recording is identified in brackets following the folder title. In some cases, readings on different dates were recorded onto a single source; a note references the other readings that were found on the original recording. Original recordings which were transferred to multiple compact discs are noted in the finding aid by discrete audio files. Tracks for single recordings have also been separated where indicated by individual audio files. Undated recordings are arranged at the end of each subseries. Original recordings are in *Restricted Fragile*.

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH IN-THE-BOWERY POETRY PROJECT READINGS

b. 1, f. 1-2, 39002137113263	Sanders, Ed. Workshop on Investigative poetry *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:33:40 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. Dropouts in the audio are present. High amounts of hiss are present. Speed fluctuations occur at the end of the program. Static is present. High frequency background noise is present during the last 45 minutes of the program. Originally recorded on single reel Q&A session at end of second disc Total running time: 92.94 min Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1977 October 20
b. 1, f. 3-4, 39002137113271	Holman, Bob and Adam, Helen *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 tape; diameter 5″ 01:34:44 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. High amounts of hum are present. Speed fluctuations can be heard. With introduction and Poetry Project announcements for track 1 and introduction for track 2. Recording has dropouts of sound Bob Holman reading originally recorded as track 1 and Helen Adam reading recorded as track 2. Running time of track 1: 46.31 min Running time of track 2: 47.50 min Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1978 October

ST. MARK'S CHURCH IN-THE-BOWERY POETRY PROJECT READINGS (continued)

b. 1, f. 5-6, 39002137113289	Guest, Barbara and North, Charles *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:10:25 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* Static and high amounts of hum are present. The program is distorted at times. Track 1 includes Poetry Project announcements and introduction and track 2 includes introduction. Barbara Guest reading originally recorded on side 1, track 1 of reel and Charles North reading originally recorded on side 1, track 4. Track 1 running time: 36.18 min Track 2 running time: 36.46 min Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1978 December 13
b. 1, f. 7-8, 39002137113297	Howe, Fanny and Owen, Maureen *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 00:27:06 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. High amounts of hum are present. Crosstalk can be heard. Fanny Howe reading originally recorded on left track of reel. Maureen Owen reading originally recorded on right track of reel. Left track running time: 21.24 min Right track running time: 26.50 min Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1978 December 17
b. 1, f. 9-10, 39002137113305	Greenwald, Ted and Banks, Russell *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:49:24 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. Crosstalk is present. Ted Greenwald reading originally recorded as track 1. Russell Banks reading originally recorded as tracks 2 and 3. Track 1 running time: 44.00 min Tracks 2 and 3 running times: 47.41 min Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1979 February 28
b. 1, f. 11-12, 39002137113313	Godfrey, John and Herd, Dale *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:36:34 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. High amounts of buzz and hum are present. Dropouts are present. Speed fluctuations can be heard on the tape. John Godfrey reading originally recorded as side 1. Dale Herd reading originally recorded as side 2. Side 1 running time: 41.30 min Side 2 running time: 55.58 min Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1979 March 7

ST. MARK'S CHURCH IN-THE-BOWERY POETRY PROJECT READINGS (continued)

b. 1, f. 13-14,
39002137113321

Celebration of Emily Dickinson's birthday
1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 02:02:49 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
The program is distorted at times. Dropouts in the program are present. High background noise is present.

Originally recorded on single reel

Disc one includes introduction and schedule information. Readers: Jan Heller Levi, Charles Bernstein, Susan Lightus, Charles Doria, Virginia Terrace, Barbara Guest, Madeleine Keller, Vicky Hudspith, Armand Schwerner, Karen Edwards, and Jackson Mac Low

Disc two includes introduction. Readers: Maureen Owen, Susan Howe, Jay Leyda. Q&A session follows

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

1979 December 10

b. 1, f. 15,
39002137113339

Bloomsday Readings Series
1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:24:03 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
The program is distorted at times. High amounts of hum are present. Dropouts in the audio are present.

Wachtel, Chuck. Reading from "Joe the Engineer". Starts 0.00

Holman, Bob. Reading Panic DJ, Tear to Open, and new poems. Starts 30.36

Owen, Maureen. Starts 52.20

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

1980 February 24

b. 1, f. 16,
39002137113347

Myles, Eileen
1 Audiocassette 00:38:30 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
High background noise is present. The program is distorted at times. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. Overlapping content is present.

Recording is overdubbed until 6.40

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

1981 October

b. 1, f. 17-18,
39002137113354

Friedman, Ed. Reading from "Journals from the Table, Poetry from the Podium"
1 Audiocassette 01:30:10 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
The program is distorted at times.

Includes reading by Barret Watten on second disc

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

undated

WBAI RADIO (NEW YORK, N.Y.) PROGRAMS

Susan Howe's Radio Shows & Interviews

b. 1, f. 19,
39002137113362

Reznikoff, Charles
1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:07:21 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
The program is distorted at times. Clicks and pops are present. Static can be heard.

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

[1975?]

b. 1, f. 20, 39002137113370	Bishop, Elizabeth *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:08:56 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. The program was recorded at a very high level. The program contains volume fluctuations in the first 25 minutes. Crosstalk is present. Static can be heard. The program is in silence from 00:32:31-00:32:53. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1977 April
b. 2, f. 21, 39002140964546	Heath-Stubbs, John Francis Alexander *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4-inch; 5″ diameter 00:53:13 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. Static can be heard. Tracks are different versions of same recording Tracks include unidentified western music	1978 Nov 29
b. 2, f. 22, 39002140964553	Myles, Eileen *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; 5″ diameter 01:11:39 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is in silence from 00:16:36-00:18:30. Static, clicks, and pops can be heard. The program is distorted at times. Track includes music by The Ramones	1978 December
b. 2, f. 23, 39002140964561	Oppen, George *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 00:46:43 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* There are dropouts in the audio near the beginning of the program. The program is distorted at times. Original container notes copy of recording transferred 1981 Jun 15	1979 Apr 25, 29
b. 2, f. 24-25, 39002140964579	Rich, Adrienne. Interview and reading *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 01:31:15 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* Static is present. High amounts of hum and speed fluctuations are present. The program is distorted at times. The audio drops out near the end of the program. Total running time: 92.33 min	[1980?]
b. 2, f. 26, 39002140964587	Beck, Regina *1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 5″ 00:24:03 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* Speed fluctuations are present at the beginning of the program. Static can be heard. The program is distorted at times.	n.d.

AUDIO PUBLICATIONS

AUDIO PUBLICATIONS (continued)

b. 2, f. 27, 39002140964595	*Black Box No. 12*, A and B *1 Audiocassette 01:01:12 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. The program is distorted at times. Static is present. High background noise is present. There is a warble in the program. Dropouts can be heard in the program. Only partial transfer of original recording due to condition of audio tape _Works by Audre Lord, Allen Ginsberg, Leon Damas, Cynthia Genser, Tess Gallagher, Henry Rasof, Lynn Sukenick, Charles Bernstein, Beth Joselow, Joanna Cattonar Running time: 22.36	1977
b. 2, f. 27a, 39002140964603	*Black Box No. 12*, C and D *1 Audiocassette 00:58:26 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. High background noise is present. The program is distorted at times. Static is present. _Works by Audre Lord, Allen Ginsberg, Leon Damas, Cynthia Genser, Tess Gallagher, Henry Rasof, Lynn Sukenick, Charles Bernstein, Beth Joselow, Joanna Cattonar	1977
b. 2, f. 28-29, 39002140964611	Wellman, John, ed. *BREATHINGSPACE/77*, A and B *1 Audiocassette 01:15:29 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* The program is distorted at times. Works by Beth Anderson, Richard Kostelanetz, Philip Corner, Bruce Andrews, George Quasha & Charles Stein, Charles Morrow, Tom Johnson, Annea Lockwood, John Cage, Bliem Kern, Henry Rasof, John Wellman & Annamarie Prins, Jackson Maclow	1978
b. 2, f. 28-29, 39002140964629	Wellman, John, ed. *BREATHINGSPACE/77*, C and D *1 Audiocassette 01:02:37 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)* Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. The program is distorted at times. Works by Beth Anderson, Richard Kostelanetz, Philip Corner, Bruce Andrews, George Quasha & Charles Stein, Charles Morrow, Tom Johnson, Annea Lockwood, John Cage, Bliem Kern, Henry Rasof, John Wellman & Annamarie Prins, Jackson Maclow	1978

OTHER RECORDINGS

b. 2, f. 30	Thomson, Virgil. "The Art Song in America" [Reel to reel] Incomplete recording Running time: 47.55 min	1979 Apr 12
b. 2, f. 31	Berrigan, Ted. Poetry reading at SCCC, New Haven, CT. [Reel to reel] Originally recorded as track 1, side 1 of reel with 1979 Nov 20 reading by Ron Padgett Running time: 33.55 min	1979 Nov 20
b. 2, f. 32	Padgett, Ron. Poetry reading [Reel to reel] Originally recorded as track 1, side 2 of reel with 1979 Nov 20 reading by Ted Berrigan Running time: 23.02 min	1979 Nov 20

OTHER RECORDINGS (continued)

b. 2, f. 33-35	Messerli, Douglas. Residencies for Writers Workshop [Cassette] Total running time: 156.19 min	1980 May 8
b. 2, f. 36	Reading in Hartford, CT. Readers: Carole Spearin McCauley and Maureen Owen [Reel to reel] Incomplete recording. Level drops Running time: 48.18 min	n.y. Jun 3
b. 2, f. 37	Callahan, Bob. Recording about Jaime De Angulo - "Old Time Stories" [Cassette] Tracks are different versions of same recording Running time: 30.44 min	n.d.
b. 2, f. 38-40	Silliman, Ron. Residencies for Writers Workshop [Cassette] Only partial transfer of original recording due to condition of audio tape Running time: 171.04 min	n.d.
b. 2, f. 41	Spicer, Jack. Reading "Billy the Kid" and "The Holy Grail: the Book of the Death of Arthur" with lecture [Reel to reel] Running time: 21.44 min	n.d.

RESTRICTED FRAGILE

1 linear foot (2 boxes)

Restricted Fragile contains fragile orginal recordings which may be seen only with the permission of the curator. Digital reference copies are available.

b. 2, f. 65	Folder 30
b. 2, f. 66	Folders 31-32
b. 3, f. 67-68	Folders 33-35
b. 3, f. 69	Folder 36
b. 3, f. 70	Folder 37
b. 3, f. 71-73	Folders 38-40
b. 3, f. 74	Folder 41

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

American poetry -- 20th Century
Oral interpretation of poetry
Poets, American -- 20th Century

Geographic Names

Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.) -- Poetry

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Literary readings
Sound recordings

Occupations

Poets -- 20th Century

Preferred Titles

Black box
Breathingspace

Names

Adam, Helen, 1909-1993
Banks, Russell, 1940-
Beck, Regina
Berrigan, Ted, 1934-1983
Bishop, Elizabeth, 1911-1979
Friedman, Ed, 1950-
Godfrey, John, 1945-
Greenwald, Ted, 1942-
Guest, Barbara, 1920-2006
Heath-Stubbs, John, 1918-2006
Herd, Dale, 1940-
Holman, Bob, 1948-
Howe, Fanny, 1940-
Howe, Susan, 1937-
McCauley, Carole Spearin
Messerli, Douglas, 1947-
Myles, Eileen, 1949-
North, Charles, 1941-
Oppen, George, 1908-1984
Owen, Maureen, 1943-
Padgett, Ron, 1942-
Reznikoff, Charles, 1894-1976
Rich, Adrienne, 1929-2012
Sanders, Ed, 1939-
Silliman, Ronald, 1946-
Spicer, Jack
Thomson, Virgil, 1896-1989

Corporate Bodies

St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery (New York, N.Y.)
WBAI Radio (New York, N.Y.)