Guide to the Robert Ferro Papers

YCAL MSS 322

by Sandra Markham

2009

P. O. Box 208330
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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 322

**CREATOR:** Ferro, Robert

**TITLE:** Robert Ferro papers

**DATES:** 1963–1988

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.5 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Robert Ferro Papers consist of personal correspondence and material related to his published and unpublished writings, with a few files of academic and personal papers. The bulk of the collection concerns Ferro’s writings, particularly his four novels, which with their semi-autobiographical themes of homosexuality, family, and illness, tell much about his community in the 1970s and 1980s. His earlier writings often refer to his experiences of living in Italy. Ferro also wrote critical reviews for various gay newspapers, and the collection contains snapshot photographs of Gay Pride marches in New York. While his correspondence files are not extensive, they do hold letters from other writers working in the United States and abroad.

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

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 http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ferro.

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

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The Robert Ferro Papers 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
Robert Ferro Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
After Robert Ferro’s death, all papers remaining in the rental apartment he shared with Michael Grumley were removed by Ferro’s siblings; the papers were then sorted into groups of files for each author, and packed for transfer to Yale. Material related to their coauthored volume Atlantis had been sorted into Ferro’s cartons, but considering the book’s non-fiction content and publisher, it was moved into Grumley’s papers during processing.

Associated Materials
The Michael Grumley Papers (YCAL MSS 323) holds additional personal and business correspondence addressed to both Grumley and Ferro, as well as horoscope and tarot readings; also filed there are all material related to their coauthored volume Atlantis.

Robert Ferro (1941-1988)
Robert Michael Ferro was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, on October 21, 1941. The son of Michael and Gae Panzera Ferro, he was raised in nearby Cranford, New Jersey, with his siblings Michael Jr., Camille, and Beth. While his father was born in America, Ferro’s mother had immigrated in 1914 from Italy, a country that would figure prominently in her son’s life and writings.

Ferro attended public school in Cranford and in 1963 received a BA in English from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. After graduation, determined to become a writer, he lived for a year in Florence, Italy, where he studied Italian and wrote fiction. Ferro enrolled at the Writers’ Workshop at the University of Iowa in the fall of 1965; there he studied with the Chilean novelist Jose Donoso and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing in 1967. During his final semester at Iowa, Ferro met Michael Grumley (1941-1988), also a student at the Writers’ Workshop, and the two began a two-decade-long personal and professional partnership. Known to their friends as “the Ferro-Grumleys,” the couple lived primarily on New York’s Upper West Side, but also spent extended periods of time in Rome and London. The Ferro family owned an oceanfront home at Sea Girt, New Jersey, which was a place that held particular significance for Robert Ferro: he named the house with a double entendre, “Gaewyck,” and designed extensive improvement campaigns for the property. As recorded in Michael Grumley’s engagement calendars and daily journals, the pair regularly stayed at the shore house, where they gardened, cooked, read books, and entertained friends and family, while still carving out time to work on their writing projects.

Robert Ferro published five books during his lifetime, four novels and one work of non-fiction, Atlantis: the Autobiography of a Search (Doubleday, 1970), that he coauthored with Michael Grumley. His novels formed what he referred to as a “cycle” of semi-autobiographical writings about homosexuality, the family, and illness. He considered the first, The Others (Scribners, 1977) to be a prologue to the rest: The Family of
Max Desir (Dutton, 1983), The Blue Star (Dutton, 1985), and The Second Son (Crown, 1988). Ferro thought the last, in which the lead characters are lovers who both have AIDS, to be his best work. Well received by critics, it was one of the earliest published novels in which the disease features prominently.

Michael Grumley and Robert Ferro were affiliated with a literary group known as the Violet Quill, whose seven members, as men writing for men, are regarded as one of the strongest collective voices of the gay male experience in the post-Stonewall era. Authors Christopher Cox, Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano, Edmund White, George Whitmore, Ferro, and Grumley met several times in 1979, 1980, and 1981 to read aloud from their works in progress. Also on the agenda were discussions of how they could work together to promote recognition, acceptance, and publication of gay literature beyond the boundaries of their own community. Of the VQ writers, Michael Grumley and Robert Ferro were the first to die from AIDS-related complications, both at age 46 in 1988, Grumley on April 28 and Ferro on July 11; they were followed by Whitmore in 1989 and Cox in 1990.

During the 1980s Ferro gave several interviews occasioned by specific book releases, but because his novels were conceived as a cycle, he generally touched upon them all. To his interviewers he spoke openly about the effect his writings had on his family, in particular his father, who was loving and accepting of his son in private life, but became upset when the family’s storyline was exposed to the public in print. The death of Gae Ferro from cancer in 1979 was also a pivotal point in the family dynamic, which was further stressed when her death precipitated discussions about selling the Sea Girt property. In interviews, Ferro also talked about the external forces that affected his work, including the state of literature, specifically gay literature, and the looming AIDS crisis then beginning to decimate his own and the larger cultural communities. By the end of his life, Ferro was aware of his place in all those worlds, and expressed his belief that one great value gay writers brought to fiction was truth; having already struggled their way out of the closet, there was little left to fear and much to celebrate in prose. As he observed in one of his final interviews, published in the San Francisco Sentinel a few months before his death, “I understand now that I’m a part of a very important movement in American literature. We are an army of people writing a way of life and writing a history.”

Scope and Contents

The Robert Ferro Papers consist of personal correspondence and material related to his published and unpublished writings, with a small selection of academic and personal papers. The bulk of the collection concerns Ferro’s writings, particularly his four novels which, with their semi-autobiographical themes of homosexuality, family, and illness, tell much about his community in the 1970s and 1980s; his earlier writings often refer to his experience of living in Italy. Ferro also wrote critical reviews for various gay newspapers, and the collection contains snapshot photographs of Gay Pride marches in New York. While his correspondence files are not extensive, they do hold letters from others writers working in the United States and abroad.

Arrangement

Collection Contents

Series I. Correspondence and Personal Papers

2 linear feet (4 boxes)

The series holds correspondence files and a selection of personal papers. The correspondence is primarily personal and that received by Ferro, with a few random copies and drafts of his outgoing letters. The correspondence with his parents, however, is largely two-way. Notable among his correspondents are the Hydra-based American poet and publisher Ann Rivers, and the authors Andrew Holleran and Peter Menegas, from whom there are several folders worth of letters. Ferro kept Holleran’s letters (minus their envelopes) in a special box covered in red paper and tied shut with satin ribbons; it has been retained and is stored in box 4. Files of General Correspondence appear at the end of the subseries. Correspondence related to Ferro’s writings is filed in Series II.

Personal Papers includes material related to memorial services for Grumley and for Bill Whitehead, Ferro’s editor and friend. There are just four volumes of Ferro’s engagement calendars and no personal diaries, but readers seeking information on his daily activities may consult Michael Grumley’s papers (YCAL MSS 323), where Grumley’s twenty-years-worth of daily journals and calendars record his and the couple’s activities, as well as many of Ferro’s appointments and events.

The third subseries contains three folders holding photocopies of writings by Cynthia Ozick, Harold Acton, and Eudora Welty.

The series is organized into three subseries: Correspondence; Personal Papers; and Writings of Others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrews, John</td>
<td>See: Peter Menegas Menegas, Peter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Barbrook, Marguerite</td>
<td>1969–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Boyle, Nichola</td>
<td>1968–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Burns, Camille Ferro, and family</td>
<td>1968–1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Clemons, Walter</td>
<td>1977–1986, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Cratsley, Bruce</td>
<td>Includes a brief essay on Cratsley’s work by Ferro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Donoso, Jose</td>
<td>1971–1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7-8</td>
<td>Ferro, Gae and Michael</td>
<td>1968–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Ferro, Kathleen</td>
<td>1977–1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Ferro, Michael Jr. See: Peter Menegas Menegas, Peter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11-14</td>
<td>Holleran, Andrew</td>
<td>1967–1988, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Correspondence (continued)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>Indiana University, Bloomington. Creative Writing Program</td>
<td>1965, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes copies of essays submitted prior to application for graduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>Ingram Merrill Foundation</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 17</td>
<td>Iowa Writers’ Workshop</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 1, f. 18</td>
<td>Kramer, Larry</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 19</td>
<td>Lipscomb, Dennis</td>
<td>1968–1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 20</td>
<td>Marx, Frank P.</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 26</td>
<td>Moses, Charles</td>
<td>1968–1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 27</td>
<td>Rivers, Ann</td>
<td>1974–1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 28</td>
<td>Stambolian, George</td>
<td>1985–1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 29</td>
<td>Streeter, Colin</td>
<td>1983–1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 31</td>
<td>White, Edmund</td>
<td>1981–1987, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 32</td>
<td>Correspondence with potential literary agents</td>
<td>1964–1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 33</td>
<td>Christmas cards</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 34-38</td>
<td>General correspondence</td>
<td>1965–1988, undated</td>
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</tbody>
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### Personal Papers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 39</td>
<td>Aptitude test</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 40</td>
<td>Birth certificate (copy)</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 41</td>
<td>Blackglama mink advertisement parodies</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 42</td>
<td>Design for a monument</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 43</td>
<td>Dinner party menus</td>
<td>1975–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 46</td>
<td>Engagement calendars</td>
<td>1984–1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 47</td>
<td>Fellowship, residency, and grant applications</td>
<td>1979–1988</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Ferro, Gae P.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 48-49</td>
<td>Condolence cards and letters</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obituary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 50</td>
<td>Research paper on antisemitism</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 51</td>
<td>Gay network mailing lists (“Bill Whitehead address file”)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes lists used for party invitations, book distribution, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 52</td>
<td>Grumley, Michael, memorial service</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 241</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 53</td>
<td>Hofstra University</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 2, f. 54-55 | Medical papers                                                              | 1982–1988 |}
| b. 2, f. 55   | Medical papers                                                              |           |
| b. 2, f. 56   | Photographs                                                                 | 1960s–1980s|
|             | Includes portraits of Ferro, and snapshots of and with friends; several were |           |
|             | taken at Gay Pride events in New York                                        |           |
| b. 2, f. 57   | Italy, Rome                                                                 | 1971–1972 |
| b. 2, f. 58   | US, New York, Jones Point/Mead’s Hollow                                     | 1973, undated|
| b. 3, f. 62   | Resumes                                                                     | circa 1964, circa 1986 |
| b. 3, f. 63   | Tarot and other readings                                                    | 1986, undated|
| b. 3, f. 64   | Tax records                                                                  | 1970–1987 |
| b. 3, f. 65   | Travel documents                                                            | 1986      |
| b. 3, f. 66   | Whitehead, William G., memorials                                            | 1987      |
|             | Includes tribute essays by Ferro, Stanley Elkin, Doris Grumbach, and Edmund |           |
|             | White.                                                                      |           |
| b. 3, f. 67   | Miscellaneous ephemera, notes, drawings                                     | 1963–1988, undated|
|             | Includes a portrait by Michael Grumley, possibly of Ferro                   |           |
|             | from E.P. Dutton office files                                               |           |
| b. 3, f. 69   | From Memoirs of an Aesthete, by Harold Acton, photocopy                      | undated   |
| b. 3, f. 70   | “Learning to See,” by Eudora Welty, photocopy                                | undated   |
| b. 4         | Box that formerly held Andrew Holleran’s letters                            | undated   |

Page 8 of 16
Series II. Writings by Ferro

6 linear feet (6 boxes)

The subseries Books contains files of correspondence, drafts, reviews, and fan mail for Ferro’s four published novels, *The Blue Star* (1985), *The Family of Max Desir* (1983), *The Others* (1977), and *Second Son* (1988). The subseries Reviews contains typescripts and tear sheets of Ferro’s work for four periodicals, *Advocate*, *Christopher Street*, *New York Native*, and *Philadelphia Gay News*, with some related correspondence. Other Writings holds academic papers from his graduate school days, novels and short stories that went unfinished or unpublished during his lifetime, ideas for screenplays and musicals, and a few poems he composed. The largest sets of files in the subseries document his more extensive work on two book-length projects, “Chiaroscuro,” and “The Minnehaha Bequest”/“The Finishing Touch,” the latter co-written with Michael Grumley. The subseries also contains a paper, “Gay Literature Today,” that Ferro presented at Oberlin College in November 1987; it later appeared in the anthology *The Violet Quill Reader*.

All files on *Atlantis: the Autobiography of a Search*, which was co-authored with Michael Grumley, are held in Grumley’s papers (YCAL MSS 323).

An excerpt from Ferro’s last novel *Second Son* appeared in the anthology *Men on Men: Best New Gay Fiction* (1986); material related to that project is with the files for his novel.

File titles in quotes were taken from the author’s annotations or from his original folders/envelopes/containers.

The series is organized into three subseries: Books; Reviews; and Other Writings.

### Books

Arranged in alphabetical order by book title

#### *The Blue Star* (1985)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 71</td>
<td>Notes and correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td>1984, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 72</td>
<td>“The Bartolini,” typescript photocopy</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 73</td>
<td>“Changes in first draft of Bartolini,” typescript, corrected</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 74</td>
<td>Miscellaneous pages from “The Bartolini,” typescript photocopy</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 75</td>
<td>“The Secret of Temple Park,” typescript, corrected</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 76</td>
<td>“Love Without Wings,” typescript photocopy</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 77-78</td>
<td>Chapters 11-14, holograph</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 79</td>
<td>“Excerpt from a novel, The Blue Star,” typescript and photocopy</td>
<td>Possibly sent with National Endowment for the Arts grant application</td>
<td>[1985]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 80</td>
<td>Fan mail</td>
<td></td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### *The Family of Max Desir* (1983)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 81</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>1982–1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 82</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 83-85</td>
<td>Draft pages, typescript and photocopy (in no order)</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 86-87</td>
<td>Draft, typescript photocopy, corrected</td>
<td></td>
<td>undated</td>
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### Series II. Writings by Ferro

**Robert Ferro papers**  
**YCAL MSS 322**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 88-89</td>
<td>Draft, typescript photocopy, corrected</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 90-91</td>
<td>Draft, typescript photocopy, corrected (“Walter’s copy”)</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 92</td>
<td>Excerpt: “Black Madonna,” (published in <em>Christopher Street</em>)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 93</td>
<td>Excerpt: “The Ripple Effect”</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 94</td>
<td>Excerpt: “The Voice”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 95-96</td>
<td>Setting copy</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 97</td>
<td>Master galley</td>
<td>1983 Mar 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 98</td>
<td>Galley, author’s corrected copy</td>
<td>1983 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 99</td>
<td>Blurbs for dust jacket</td>
<td>[1983]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 100</td>
<td>Party invitation and distribution lists</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 6, f. 101 | Publicity and reviews  
Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folders 242 | 1983       |
| b. 6, f. 102 | Fan mail | 1983–1984   |
| b. 6, f. 103 | Paperback edition cover | 1984       |

**The Others (1977)**  
Includes drafts composed under the working titles “The Voyage of the Balalaika” and “The Others”

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 104</td>
<td>Charles Scribner’s Sons</td>
<td>1976–1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 105</td>
<td>Hash-Marc, Inc.</td>
<td>1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 106</td>
<td>Murray, Angus Wolfe</td>
<td>1973–1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 107</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>1972–1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 108</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
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**“The Voyage of the Balalaika”**

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 109</td>
<td>&quot;1st draft original&quot;</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 110</td>
<td>&quot;First draft for Story, written in Rome&quot;</td>
<td>1970 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 111-112</td>
<td>&quot;Original typescript&quot;</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 113-114</td>
<td>&quot;Second draft original,” “finished New York”</td>
<td>1971 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 115</td>
<td>&quot;Second draft carbon”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 116</td>
<td>&quot;2nd draft,” photocopy</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 117-118</td>
<td>“3rd draft,” “author’s copy”</td>
<td>1974 Apr 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 119</td>
<td>“Final draft, rough copy”</td>
<td>1976 Jul</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 120-121</td>
<td>“3rd or 4th draft,” “final copy for copy editor”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 6, f. 122-123</td>
<td>“Final copy, with corrections”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 7, f. 124-125</td>
<td>Random draft pages from “The Voyage of the Balalaika”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>“The Others”</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 126</td>
<td>Typescript carbon, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 127-129</td>
<td>Random draft pages</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 130-132</td>
<td>Drafts</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 134</td>
<td>Inscriptions in copies</td>
<td>[1977]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 135</td>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>1977–1978</td>
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<td>b. 7, f. 136</td>
<td>Fan mail</td>
<td>1977–1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 138</td>
<td>Screenplay</td>
<td>undated</td>
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**Second Son (1988)**

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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 139</td>
<td>Manuscript notes and drafts</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 140</td>
<td>“First draft,” chapter 1, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 141</td>
<td>Draft, chapter 1, typescript photocopy</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 143</td>
<td>Draft, chapter 2, typescript photocopy</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 144-145</td>
<td>“First draft,” typescript photocopy, incomplete</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 146-147</td>
<td>“Second draft,” typescript photocopy, corrected</td>
<td>1987 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 148-149</td>
<td>Draft</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 150</td>
<td>Flap copy</td>
<td>[1988]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 151</td>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<td></td>
<td>See also: Series III, Writings about Ferro</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 152</td>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 243</td>
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### Series II. Writings by Ferro

**Robert Ferro papers**  
YCAL MSS 322

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| b. 8, f. 153 | Advocate  
Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 244 | 1984–1985    |
| b. 8, f. 154 | *Christopher Street* | undated      |
| b. 8, f. 155 | *New York Native*  
Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 245 | 1981–1982    |
| b. 8, f. 156 | *Philadelphia Gay News*  
Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 246 | 1983          |
| b. 8, f. 157 | Assignments and papers |          |
| b. 8, f. 158 | Thesis notes | [1966–1967] |
| b. 8, f. 159-162 | Thesis notebooks | [1966–1967] |
| b. 8, f. 163 | "Apotheosis" | undated  |
| b. 8, f. 164 | "Beginnings and Endings" | circa 1965   |
| b. 8, f. 165 | Correspondence | 1968–1975    |
| b. 8, f. 166-173 | Drafts | undated  |
| b. 8, f. 174 | Miscellaneous draft pages | undated  |
| b. 8, f. 175 | "Conch Pearl," screenplay, by Ferro and Michael Grumley | undated  |
| b. 8, f. 176 | "Frank’s Party" | undated  |
| b. 8, f. 177 | "Gay Literature Today"  
Lecture delivered at Oberlin College, November 18, 1987; later published in *The Violet Quill Reader* (1994) | [1987]  |
| b. 8, f. 178 | "Hello, Sailor" | undated  |
| b. 8, f. 179-181 | "High Altars"  
Contains short stories: High Altars; A Hole in the Floor; Of February; Sex with the Belgian; The Daytime Moon; Bullfight, a Carnival, a Bus Ride; Chores; Towards a Better Understanding; Florence in the Rain. | 1965, undated |
| b. 9, f. 182 | "Ideas, Notes on Novel" | undated  |
| b. 9, f. 183 | "The Medicine Man," by Ferro and Michael Grumley  
Also stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 247 | 1972–1975, undated |

*"The Minnehaha Bequest"/"The Finishing Touch"  
Coauthored by Ferro and Michael Grumley, under the pseudonyms Christopher Nash and Alec Sassoon*
### Other Writings > “The Minnehaha Bequest”/“The Finishing Touch” (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 184</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1972–1975</td>
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<td>b. 9, f. 185-187</td>
<td>Synopsis sets</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 188</td>
<td>Notes and draft pages</td>
<td>1972, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 189-199</td>
<td>Drafts</td>
<td>1975, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 200</td>
<td>“The Naked Lobe”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 201</td>
<td>“The 96th St. Crosstown,” by Ferro and Michael Grumley</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 202</td>
<td>“Quietly en Famille”</td>
<td>[1968]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 203</td>
<td>“Report from Florence”</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 204</td>
<td>“River of the City’s Dream”</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<td>b. 10, f. 205</td>
<td>“Specimens”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 206</td>
<td>“White Water”</td>
<td>circa 1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 207-208</td>
<td>“Work in Progress”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Combination of typescript and typescript carbon pages with holograph corrections; pages in no order; title pages bear addresses in Iowa and Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 209</td>
<td>Notes for proposed musical/s by Ferro and Michael Grumley</td>
<td>1986, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 210-215</td>
<td>Miscellaneous literary notes, drafts, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 216-228</td>
<td>Miscellaneous literary notes, drafts, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 229</td>
<td>Notebook with miscellaneous writings</td>
<td>1980–1988, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains draft section of “Max Desir,” some personal letters, and autobiographical writing; also contains drafts of poetry by Michael Grumley</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 230</td>
<td>Miscellaneous poems</td>
<td>1974–1981</td>
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</table>
Series III. Writings about Ferro

9 folders

The series contains interviews with Ferro, which are a combination of clippings, audiotape transcriptions, and handwritten responses to prepared questions. It also includes articles in which Ferro’s work is prominently featured or described.

The series is organized into two subseries: Interviews; and Articles.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 231</td>
<td>Burke, Robert Emmett. Interview for <em>New Castro Times</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 232</td>
<td>Gora, Tom. Interview for <em>In Style for Men</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hoctel, Patrick. Interview in <em>San Francisco Sentinel</em> Stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 248</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reed, Paul. Interview in <em>Bay Area Reporter</em> Stored in: Oversize, box 11, folder 248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 233</td>
<td>Rist, Darrell Yates. Interview, publication unidentified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 234</td>
<td>Saslow, James. Interview in <em>The Advocate</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 235</td>
<td>Unidentified interviewer. Questions and answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 238</td>
<td>Hall, Richard, “20,000 Gay Titles and Still Growing,” in <em>Advocate</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 239</td>
<td>Mordden, Ethan. “Stonewall Lit III,” in <em>New York Native</em></td>
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### Oversize

*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 240</td>
<td>Ferro, Gae: obituary (in Series I)</td>
<td>1979 May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 241</td>
<td>Grumley, Michael, memorial service (in Series I)</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 242</td>
<td><em>The Family of Max Desir:</em> publicity and reviews (in Series II)</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 243</td>
<td><em>Second Son:</em> publicity and reviews (in Series II)</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 244</td>
<td>Advocate (in Series II)</td>
<td>1981 Feb 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 245</td>
<td>New York Native (in Series II)</td>
<td>1981–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 246</td>
<td>Philadelphia Gay News (in Series II)</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 248</td>
<td>Hoctel, Patrick. Interview in <em>San Francisco Sentinel</em> and Reed, Paul. Interview in <em>Bay Area Reporter</em> (in Series III)</td>
<td>1988</td>
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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
AIDS (Disease)
American fiction -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Gay men -- Fiction
Gay men -- United States
Gay men's writings, American
Gay pride parades -- New York (State) -- New York -- Pictorial works
LGBTQ resource
Male homosexuality -- Fiction
Violet Quill (Group of writers)

Geographic Names
Italy -- Description and travel

Names
Cleaver, Diane
Cratsley, Bruce, 1944-
De Combray, Richard
Elliott, Desmond, 1929-2003
Ferro, Robert
Grumley, Michael
Holleran, Andrew
Kramer, Larry
Menegas, Peter
Moses, Charles
Rist, Darrell Yates
Rivers, Ann
White, Edmund, 1940-
Whitehead, William G. (William Grant), 1943-1987

Corporate Body
Iowa Writers’ Workshop