Guide to the Difficulties Records

YCAL MSS 382

by Molly Wheeler

May 15, 2007

P. O. Box 208330
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 382

**CREATOR:** Difficulties

**TITLE:** The Difficulties Records

**DATES:** 1977–1997

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.52 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Difficulties Records contain correspondence, production files, drafts of writings, and printed material relating to the production and publication of journal issues.

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

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**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.difficulties.

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

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**Administrative Information**

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**


**Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.
Conditions Governing Use

The Difficulties Records 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

The Difficulties Records. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat ZA MS 549.

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing. This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

The Difficulties

The Difficulties was an arts journal started by poet and editor Tom Beckett in 1980. The journal’s name was derived from a Charles Olson quote and the journal was published by Viscerally Press in Kent, Ohio. Between 1980 and 1990, six issues were produced, each focusing on process-oriented and language-centered work. The first issue was comprised of responses to a questionnaire about “language environment;” the second an issue of poetry; and the final four issues were critical considerations of the writers Charles Bernstein, Ron Silliman, David Bromige and Susan Howe.

Scope and Contents

The Difficulties Records contain correspondence, production files, drafts of writings, and printed material relating to the production and publication of journal issues.
## Collection Contents

### Production files

**7.52 linear feet (11 boxes)**

Arranged alphabetically by writer and project name.

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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.

Preferred Titles
Difficulties

Subjects
American literature -- 20th Century --
Periodicals
American poetry -- 20th Century -- History and criticism -- Periodicals
American poetry -- 20th Century -- Periodicals

Genres / Formats
Little magazines -- United States

Names
Beckett, Thomas, (Accountant)