

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Gary Soto Papers

YCAL MSS 640



by Beinecke staff

May 2007

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 640

**CREATOR:** Soto, Gary , author

**TITLE:** Gary Soto papers

**DATES:** 1973–2016

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 11.35 linear feet (22 boxes + 1 portfolio, 3 film cannisters)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Gary Soto Papers contain writings, audiovisual material, and other papers that document the professional life of Gary Soto.

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

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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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.soto>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.            box  
        item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from various sources, 1999-2021.

February 2021 acquisition: Purchased from Gary Soto on the Danford N. Barney, Jr. Fund, 2021.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 13, 15, 17, 25, 26 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 16, 24 (computer disks): Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Gary Soto 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Gary Soto Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections 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.

The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition. Further organization, rehousing, and description were carried out in 2012.

The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as: Uncat ZA MS 604, 611, 647; Uncat ZA File 410; and Uncat MSS 96, 210, 576, 729. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, according to month and year of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. 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 basic processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Gary Soto (1952- )

Gary Soto, Mexican-American author, poet, and filmmaker. Soto was born on April 12, 1952, and was raised in Fresno, California.

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## Scope and Contents

The Gary Soto Papers contain writings, audiovisual material, and other papers that document the professional life of Gary Soto.

## **Arrangement**

Organized into nine groupings: February 1999 Acquisition, 1990-1998, undated; April 1999 Acquisition, 1980-1999, undated; January 2000 Acquisition, 1973-1999, undated; June 2000 Acquisition, undated; January 2001 Acquisition, 1977-1978, undated; November 2001 Acquisition, 1998-2001, undated; November 2003 Acquisition, 1977-1997, undated; November 2004 Acquisition, 1995-2003; February 2021 Acquisition.

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## Collection Contents

### February 1999 Acquisition, 1990-1998, undated

*1 linear foot (1 box + 1 portfolio)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 604

Contains correspondence, scripts, printed material, sound and video recordings, and a musical score by or relating to Soto.

Purchased from Arte Americas on the Adele Gutman Nathan Theatrical Collection Fund, 1999.

Box 17 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for more information.

The Bike		
b. 1	Financial records	1990
b. 1	Publicity	1990
b. 1	Correspondence, contracts, and releases	1992
b. 17, ■■■■ 39002102338259	The Bike, TRT 12:30 ycalmss640_0002 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:12:46 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1991
b. 1	Dog Cruise off Ensenada, script	undated
b. 1	Flaco, script and agreement	1998
b. 1	Kung-Fu Grandpas, treatments	1995
b. 1	Los Screemies, script	undated
b. 1	Nerdlandia, scripts <i>5 Folders</i>	1996-1998
b. 2 (Oversize)	Nerdlandia, musical score	undated
Novio Boy		
b. 1	Scripts <i>2 Folders</i>	1995, undated
b. 1	Production records	1998
b. 1	Publicity	1998
b. 17, ■■■■ 39002102338267	Novio Boy, teleplay by Gary Soto ycalmss640_0003 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:27:29 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

## Novio Boy (continued)

b. 17, ■■■■ 39002102338275	Novio Boy, Amigos Unidos Club of Fresno Pacific University presents ycalmss640_0004 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 01:24:26 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
The Pool Party		
b. 1	Script	undated
b. 17, ■■■■ 39002102338283	The Pool Party ycalmss640_0005 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:29:31 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 1	The Skirt, script and other material	1993
b. 1	Taking Sides, script	undated
b. 1	Up Stream with Pilar and Diko, script	undated
	Hunger soundtrack, sound recordings <i>(1 reel-to-reel tape and 1 audiocassette)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 15, ■■■■ 39002091243890	Hunger soundtrack <i>1 Audiocassette 00:14:39 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard on the tape. <a href="#">[Aviary] ycalmss064039002091243890.u.mp3</a> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 15, ■■■■ 39002091243908	Hunger <i>1 Film Reel (8mm) 00:14:33 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Kodachrome stock with 1984 and 1985 Kodak date codes. Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

**April 1999 Acquisition, 1980-1999, undated***1.21 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 611

Contains writing drafts by Soto, proofs for illustrations by Robert Casilla with a related letter, and letters from Christopher Buckley to Gary Soto.

Purchased from Gary Soto on the Sinclair Lewis Fund, 1999.

b. 3	Poem drafts The Story on This Street, Making Up Time, and Hitch-hiking	undated
b. 3	Correspondence	1989 January 1
b. 3	Interview with Gary Soto by Christopher Buckley	1998
b. 3	Prose complement for "The Geography of Home: An Anthology"	1998
b. 3	Big Bushy Mustache or The Mustache, script <i>2 Folders</i>	1994, 1997
	Boys at Work	
b. 3	Letter from editor Michelle Poploff	1994 June 3
b. 3	Near final draft	1993-1994
b. 3	Draft marked "Final"	1993-1994
b. 3	Chato and the Mexican Mystery: Chato and the Mexican Mystery, draft	1993
b. 3	Chato and the Mexican Mystery: Chato Celebrates the Day of the Dead	1994
b. 3	Chato Throws a Pachanga: Chato and the Party Animals, draft <i>2 Folders</i>	1996-1997
b. 3	Chato Throws a Pachanga, untitled mock-ups of the illustrations	1997
b. 3	Crazy Weekend, near final draft	undated
b. 3	Mi Carro: Mi Carro, draft	1998
b. 3	Mi Carro: Mi Carro es Muy Firme, draft	1998
b. 3	Mi Carro: Mi Carrito, draft <i>2 Folders</i>	1998
	Off and Running	
b. 3	Draft	1994-1995
b. 3	Final draft	1995
b. 3	Compositor's proof, second pass	1995 November 21
b. 3	Various compositor's pages	1996



b. 3	The Old Man and His Door, near final draft	undated
b. 3	Petty Crimes, typescript draft	1997
b. 3	Petty Crimes, author's galleys	1997 November 3
b. 3	The Pool Party, final	1993 February 12
b. 3	The Pool Party, printer's blues	1993 March 15
b. 3	Sand Bites, drafts <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 3	Summer on Wheels, letter from editor Ann Reir	1993
b. 3	Summer on Wheels, near final draft	1993
b. 4	Letters to Soto from Christopher Buckley <i>12 Folders</i>	1980-1999, undated

**January 2000 Acquisition, 1973-1999, undated***1.05 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 647

Contains correspondence, writing drafts, printed material and a CD recording by or relating to Gary Soto. Includes correspondence, book reviews and notes relating to Gary Soto's tenure case at the University of California.

Purchased from Arte Americas on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund, 2001.

b. 5	<i>Greenfield Review</i> , "NCAE Ethnic Writers Workshop-Stevens Point"	1973
	University of California at Berkeley, tenure review material	
b. 5	Book reviews	1983
b. 5	Three journals with reviews of Soto's books	1983
b. 5	Living Up the Street, typescript draft	1983
b. 5	Comments on tenure case	1983
b. 5	Taking Sides, copyedited and edited typescript	1991
b. 5	Contributors to <i>Ploughshares</i> edited by Soto	1994-1995
b. 5	Familiar Song, typescript	undated
b. 5	Buried Onions, typescript edited	1995
b. 5	<i>Self Portraits</i> , published book	undated
b. 6	Buried Onion <i>2 Folders</i>	1995, 1997
b. 6	Too Many Tamales	undated
b. 6	Whiting Foundation correspondence	1998
	Nickel and Dime	
b. 6	The Literary Life	1999
b. 6	Untimely Passing of the Radio	1999
b. 6	Ars Poetica	1999
b. 27	Locations, "Teaching English," radio play written and narrated by Soto <i>(1 compact disc)</i>	undated
	Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 27	LOCATIONS TEACHING ENGLISH by GARY SOTO BAY AREA RADIO DRAMA 2000-ycal-0104-a-0001 <i>1 CD-R 272197004 bytes (272.20 Megabytes.)</i>	
b. 6	Deck of Soto trading cards, unopened	undated

b. 6

*Ploughshares*, Spring 1995

1995

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## **June 2000 Acquisition, undated**

*1 linear foot (1 box)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA File 410

Purchased from P. Scott Brown on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund, 2000.

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b. 7	Baseball in April: typescript, early draft, with revisions. Includes: The Karate Kid, Undue Worry, Marble, The Barbie Doll, Mother and Daughter, The Gullible Kid, Two Dreamers, First Love, The Guitar and the Lost Dog, The Talent Show, Detective Mike, The New Year and Tell the Truth.	undated
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**January 2001 Acquisition, 1977-1978, undated***1 linear foot (1 box)*

Formerly Uncat MSS 96

Purchased from Arte Americas on the Thornton Wilder Memorial Fund, 2001.

Contains writing drafts by Soto.

b. 8	Elements of San Joaquin, review by Juan Rodriguez: typescript	1977
b. 8	The Tale of Sunlight: typescript	1978
b. 8	Small Faces <i>10 Folders</i>	
b. 8	Jessie de la Cruz	
b. 8	Nickel and Dime <i>12 Folders</i>	
b. 8	Various drafts <i>3 Folders</i>	
Computer Media		
b. 16	GARY SOTO 2001-ycal-0118-b-0001 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	

**November 2001 Acquisition, 1998-2001, undated***1.05 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Former call number: Uncat MSS 210

Purchased from Arte Americas on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund, 2001.

b. 9	Nerdlandia, copy edited typescript	undated
b. 9	Jessie de la Cruz <i>14 Folders</i> Includes corrected typescript drafts, photographs, interview typescripts, research notes, cover art, notebooks, and correspondence	1998-2000
b. 10	The Effect of Knut Hamsun of a Fresno Boy, typescript, and "master" first galleys <i>2 Folders</i>	1999-2000
b. 10	Poetry Lover, corrected draft and book design software printout <i>4 Folders</i>	2000-2001
b. 11	Poetry Lover, blue line proofs and various material <i>3 Folders</i>	2001, undated

**November 2003 Acquisition, 1977-1997, undated***0.51 linear feet (2 box + 1 film)*

Former call number: Uncat MSS 576

Purchased from the California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. on the Sinclair Lewis Fund, 2003.

Box 13 and Box 17 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 12	Ronnie and Joey, typescript	1977
b. 12	Tall Dog, typescript corrected	1988
b. 12	The Untimely Passing of the Clock Radio <i>4 Folders</i>	1997
b. 17, ■■■■ 39002102300267	Novio Boy, producer Gary Soto ycalmss640_0001 <i>1 Videocassette (BetacamSP) 00:35:19 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
	The Bike <i>(116mm motion picture film)</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 13 (Cold Storage)	The Bike, 16mm motion picture film Box 13 (cold storage): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

**November 2004 Acquisition, 1995-2003***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Former call number: Uncat MSS 729

Purchased from Gary Soto on the Stanton Francis Kennedy Fund, 2004.

b. 14	El maullido de la gata	1995
b. 14	No place like home	2002
b. 14	Cesar Chavez: a hero for everyone, advance reader's copy <i>6 Folders</i>	2002-2003
b. 14	Chato goes cruisin', various revised drafts and correspondence <i>5 Folders</i>	2001-2003



**February 2021 Acquisition, 1973–2016***4.92 linear feet (7 boxes + 2 film cannisters)*

This acquisition consists of writings, correspondence, printed material, films, and other papers by or relating to Gary Soto.

Purchased from Gary Soto on the Danford N. Barney Jr. Fund, 2021.

b. 18	96 tears: Chicano oldies but goodies musical <i>2 Folders</i> Typescripts, two drafts.	circa 1995
b. 18	Accidental love Typescript, corrected.	2005-2006
b. 18	Afterlife Typescript, corrected.	2003
b. 18	Amnesia in a Republican country Typescript, corrected.	2003
b. 18	Baseball in April Typescript, copyedited.	1989
b. 18	Big busy moustache Typescript, with letter.	1998 June 11, undated
b. 18	Black hair Typescript leaves interleaved into printed version.	1985
b. 19	Elements of San Joaquin Typescript in original binder.	1973-1977
b. 19	Facts of life Typescript, corrected.	2008
b. 19	Fearless Fernie (Fernie and me) Typescript, corrected.	2001-2002
b. 19	Fire in my hands Typescript, corrected.	2006
b. 19	Hey 13! Typescript, copyedited.	2012 June 4
b. 19	In and out of shadows Typescript, two drafts. with production list and postcard.	2013-2014
b. 20	Living up the street: narrative recollections Typescripts, vaerious drafts.	1985
b. 20	Manuel Zaragoa poems Typescript, annotated by Philip Levine.	1975-1976

b. 20	Mercy on the teenage chimps <i>2 Folders</i> Typescript, corrected.	2007
b. 20	Natural man Typescript leaves interleaved in printed version.	1999
b. 20	No place like home Typescript, corrected.	circa 1998
b. 20	One kind of faith Typescript leaves interleaved in printed version.	2003
b. 21	Pacific crossing Typescript, corrected.	circa 1992
b. 21	Poetry lover Typescript, first draft, corrected.	2001
b. 21	Roomates at Hispanic U: premiere of a situation comedy Typescript, copyedited by Jose Novoa.	1998
b. 21	Simple plan Typescript, galleys.	2007
b. 21	Snapshots from the wedding Typescripts, corrected and copyedited.	circa 1995-1997
b. 21	Sudden loss of dignity Typescript, annotated by Gary Soto and Christopher Buckley.	circa 2013
b. 21	Taking sides Typescript, corrected.	circa 1991
b. 21	Tale of sunlight <i>2 Folders</i> Typescript, loose leaves.	1978
b. 21	Tales of sunlight, Where sparrows work hard Typescript with comments and edits by Christophehr Buckley. Housed in folder with second manuscript.	1978, 1981
b. 22	Tryouts Typescript, corrected.	2005
b. 22	Undue worry	circa 1983
b. 22	Where I live Laser print.	2016
b. 22	Where Sparrows work hard <i>2 Folders</i> Typescript, typescript leaves intereleased in printed version.	1981, undated

b. 23	Correspondence <i>4 Folders</i> Christopher Buckley, Sandra Cisneros, Jeanette E. Larson, Poetry.	1984-2015
	Computer media <i>1 CD-R</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 24	LOCATIONS TEACHING ENGLISH by GARY SOTO BAY AREA RADIO DRAMA P O Box 5615 Berkeley CA 94705 Erik Bauersfeld, Dir. (510) 849-3500 2021-ycal-0019-0001 <i>1 CD-R</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 25 (Cold storage)	"Pool party" produced by Gary Soto & John Kelly <i>1 Film Reel</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 26 (Cold storage)	No-guitar blues <i>1 Film Reel</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

## **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 literature -- Mexican American  
authors -- 20th Century  
Mexican American authors -- 20th Century --  
Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Born digital  
Motion pictures (visual works)  
Sound recordings  
Video recordings

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Soto, Gary