

Guide to the Tony Towle Papers

YCAL MSS 745



by Beinecke staff, Elizabeth Vitek

May 2013. Revised: May 2023.

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Tony Towle (1939-)	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1962-2011	6
1963-1979	6
1980-2005	8
2006-2009	10
2010	13
2011	14
Series II: Writings, 1960-2010	15
Oversize	19
Restricted Material	20
Selected Search Terms	21

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 745

CREATOR: Towle, Tony, 1939-

TITLE: Tony Towle papers

DATES: 1960-2017

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 24.04 linear feet (27 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers documenting the life and literary activities of New York City poet Tony Towle. Towle spent his life in New York City and, after training with Kenneth Koch and Frank O'Hara, was associated with the second generation of the New York School. In addition to Koch and O'Hara, Towle corresponded with numerous poets, artists, and editors based in the city, including John Ashbery, Bill Berkson, Ted Berrigan, Joe Brainard, Rob Hershon, Lita Hornick, Sheila Lanham, Charles North, Jeni Olin, Ron Padgett, James Schuyler, David Shapiro, Paul Violi, Anne Waldman, and others.

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

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.towle>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from James S. Jaffe Rare Books on the Ezra Pound Archive Fund, 2012 and the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 17 (correspondence): Restricted until 1 January 2028. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Box 26 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 27 (computer media): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of computer files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Tony Towle 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

Tony Towle Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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 as they are acquired, 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.

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 initial processing.

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

Tony Towle (1939-)

Tony Towle was born 13 June 1939 in New York City to Erwin W. and Mary E. (Rigg) Towle. He attended Georgetown University (1957), New York University (1961-1962), Columbia University (1963), and The New School for Social Research (1963-1964). Towle worked as the secretary at Universal Limited Art Editions, a printmaking studio, in West Islip, New York, from 1964 to 1981. His published works include: *Poems* (1966), *After Dinner We Take a Drive Into the Night* (1968), *North* (1970), *Autobiography, and Other Poems* (1977), *Works on Paper* (1978), *Gemini* (1980), *New and Selected Poems* (1983), *Some Musical Episodes* (1992), *The History of the Invitation: New & Selected Poems* (2001), and *Winter Journey* (2008). Awards include the Gotham Book Mart Avant-Garde Poetry prize (1963), Wagner College Writer's Conference poetry prize (1963), Poet's Foundation awards (1964, 1966), and Frank O'Hara Award (1970) for *North*.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers documenting the life and literary activities of the American poet Tony Towle. Towle spent the bulk of his life in New York City and, after he started writing poetry in the early 1960s and trained with Kenneth Koch and Frank O'Hara at The New School in 1963, he was associated with the second generation of the New York School. In addition to Koch and O'Hara, Towle corresponded with numerous poets, artists, and editors based in the city, including John Ashbery, Bill Berkson, Ted Berrigan, Joe Brainard, Rob Hershon, Lita Hornick, Sheila Lanham, Charles North, Jeni Olin, Ron Padgett, James Schuyler, David Shapiro, Paul Violi, Anne Waldman, and others.

Writings in the collection consists of drafts and proofs for many of Towle's published works, including *Autobiography and Other Poems* (1977), *Works on Paper* (1978), *The History of the Invitation* (2001), *New & Selected Poems* (1983), *North* (1970), *Winter Journey* (2008), and *Memoir* (2003). In addition to the material relating to published works, there are drafts for individual poems and prose works, fiction and non-fiction, printed publicity, reviews, royalty statements, permissions, as well as material relating to Towle's employment in the printmaking studio, Universal Limited Art Editions. Also included are photographs, audiovisual material, and computer media.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1962-2011. II. Writings, 1960-2010. III. September 2017 acquisition, circa 1963-2017.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1962-2011

8 linear feet (8 boxes)

Series I. Correspondence contains five groupings of personal correspondence organized chronologically by date and then alphabetically by name within each grouping. Towle corresponded with numerous poets, artists, and editors based in New York City, including John Ashbery, Bill Berkson, Ted Berrigan, Joe Brainard, Rob Hershon, Lita Hornick, Kenneth Koch, Sheila Lanham, Frank O'Hara, Charles North, Jeni Olin, Ron Padgett, James Schuyler, David Shapiro, Paul Violi, Anne Waldman, and others.

Organized as received by the library.

1963-1979		
b.1	"A" general	1963-1979, undated
b.1	Ashbery, John	1963-1978, undated
b.1	Ayden, Erje	1971-1976, undated
b.1	"B" general	1965-1979, undated
b.1	Berkson, Bill	1965-1979
b.1	Berrigan, Ted	circa 1963-1979
b.1	Brainard, Joe	1964-1974
b.1	"C" general	1966-1979
b.1	Carroll, Paul	1967-1972
b.1	Chaloner, David	1971-1977
b.1	"D" general	1963-1974, undated
b.1	"E" general	1965-1978
b.1	Elmslie, Kenward	1963-1978, undated
b.1	"F" general	1964-1979, undated
b.1	"G" general	1967-1979, undated
b.1	Gioseffi, Daniella	1969-1977, undated
b.1	Golde, Morris	1967-1975

1963-1979 (continued)

b.1	Goldman, Judith	1970-1971
b.1	"H" general	1968-1979, undated
b.1	Haseloff, Charles	1970-1971
b.1	Hornick, Lita	1964-1979
b.1	"I" - "J" general	1965-1979, undated
b.1	"K" general	1964-1977, undated
b.1	Koch, Kenneth	1966-1970, undated
b.1	Kornblum, Allan	1971-1973, undated
b.1	Kostakis, Peter	1972-1974
b.1	"L" general	1967-1978, undated
b.1	Lima, Frank	1962-2000, undated
b.2	"M" general	1963-1979, undated
b.2	Miscellaneous	1965-1966
b.2	"N" general	1966-1976, undated
b.2	North, Charles <i>3 Folders</i>	1970-1979
b.2	"O" general	1972-1977, undated
b.2	O'Hara, Frank <i>2 Folders</i>	1950-1978, undated
b.2	"P" - "Q" general <i>2 Folders</i>	1966-1979, undated
b.2	Padgett, Ron	1964-1978, undated
b.2	Pittsburgh High Schools	1966-1967
b.2	"Q" - "R" general	1964-1979, undated
b.2	"S" general	1962-1979, undated

1963-1979 (continued)

b. 2	Schuyler, James	1966-1978
b. 2	"T" general	1966-1977
b. 2	"U" - "V" general	1969-1978
b. 2	Violi, Paul	1971-1979
b. 2	"W" - "Z" general <i>2 Folders</i>	1968-1979, undated
b. 2	Waldman, Anne	1967-1979
1980-2005		
b. 3	"A" general	1987-2005, undated
b. 3	Ashbery, John	1982-2002
b. 3	"B" general	1979-2005
b. 3	Berkson, Bill	2001-2004
b. 3	Bolton, Ken	1993-2003, undated
b. 3	Brennan, Max; Burton, Sigrid	1982-2005, undated
b. 3	"C" general	1981-2005, undated
b. 3	Cohen, Mo	1981-2005
b. 3	Collins, Billy	1989-2005, undated
b. 3	"D" general	1981-2005
b. 3	"E" general	1982-2003
b. 3	Edelstein, Leo	2000-2005
b. 3	"F" general	1989-2005, undated
b. 3	Fossella, Darrin	2003-2004, undated
b. 3	Friedman, Ed	1986-2003, undated
b. 3	"G" general	1982-2002
b. 3	"H" general	1969-2005, undated

1980-2005 (continued)

b. 3	Hershon, Bob	1989-2005, undated
b. 3	Holabird, Jean	1980-2005, undated
b. 3	"I" - "J" general	1981-2005, undated
b. 3	Jamail, Justin	2002-2005, undated
b. 3	Jensen, Ruth	1994-1998, undated
b. 3	Jimenez, Vita <i>2 Folders</i>	1993-2005, undated
b. 3	"K" general	1983-2005, undated
b. 3	Kelley, David	1980-2005, undated
b. 4	Kimball, Jack	1998-2005
b. 4	Koch, Kenneth	1982-2005, undated
b. 4	"L" general	1978-2005, undated
b. 4	Lima, Frank	1993-1997
b. 4	"M" general	1981-2005, undated
b. 4	Maurer, Susan	1996-1997, undated
b. 4	McCain, Gillian	1958-2005, undated
b. 4	"N" - "O" general	1980-2005, undated
b. 4	North, Charles <i>2 Folders</i>	1980-2005
b. 4	Olin, Jeni <i>2 Folders</i>	2001-2005
b. 4	"P" - "Q" general	1979-2005
b. 4	Padgett, Ron	1982-2005
b. 4	Perry, David	2003-2005
b. 4	Poetry Project	1980-2004

1980-2005 (continued)

b. 4	Poetry Project Newsletter <i>2 Folders</i>	1988-1989
b. 4	"R" general <i>2 Folders</i>	1985-2005, undated
b. 4	Riggins, Roger	1982
b. 4	"S" general	1980-2005, undated
b. 4	Salerno, Mark	1993-2001, undated
b. 4	Sawyer, Larry	1998-2005
b. 4	Somerville, Michele <i>2 Folders</i>	2004-2005
b. 5	Stannard, Martin	1983-2001, undated
b. 5	"T" - "U" general	1980-2003, undated
b. 5	Tranter, John	1999-2005
b. 5	Tyler, Diane	1998-2005
b. 5	"V" general	1980-2005, undated
b. 5	Violi, Paul <i>3 Folders</i>	1955-2005, undated
b. 5	"W" general	1979-2004, undated
b. 5	Waldman, Anne	1983-2000
b. 5	Wasserman, Jo Ann	2001-2005
b. 5	Website	2004-2005, undated
b. 5	<i>The World</i> submissions	1980
b. 5	"X" - "Z" general	1980-2005, undated
2006-2009		
b. 5	"A" general	2005-2008
b. 5	"B" general	2007-2009
b. 5	Barile, Susan; Gaffney, John	2006-2009

2006-2009 (continued)

b. 5	Berkson, Bill <i>2 Folders</i>	2008-2009
b. 5	Berrigan, Anselm	2006
b. 5	Best American Poetry	2006
b. 5	Bolton, Ken	2006-2008
b. 5	Brook, Donna	2006-2009
b. 5	"C" general	2006-2009
b. 5	"D" general	2006-2008
b. 5	Davis, Michael <i>2 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b. 5	DeCreeft, Donna	2009
b. 5	Di Rifiuti, Isola	2008
b. 5	"E" general	2007-2008
b. 5	EPC website	2007-2008
b. 5	"F" general	2006-2009
b. 5	"G" general	2007-2009
b. 5	Goldenberg, Tom	2007-2009
b. 5	"H" general	2007-2009
b. 6	Hershon, Bob <i>2 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b. 6	Holabird, Jean	2005-2009
b. 6	Holman, Bob	2006-2007
b. 6	Horning, Ron	2006-2009
b. 6	"I" - "J" general	2007-2009
b. 6	Jamail, Justin	2006-2009, undated
b. 6	Jimenez, Vita <i>2 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b. 6	"K" general	2006-20009, undated
b. 6	Kaplan, Allan	2007-2009
b. 6	Kelley, David	2006-2009
b. 6	Kimball, Jack	2006-2008

2006-2009 (continued)

b. 6	Koch, Karen	2006-2009
b. 6	"L" general	2006-2009
b. 6	Lanham, Sheila	2009
b. 6	Latta, John	2006-2009
b. 6	"M" general	2006-2008, undated
b. 6	Maurer, Susan	2006-2009
b. 6	McCain, Gillian	2006-2009, undated
b. 6	McCarron, Andrew	2006-2009
b. 6	"N" - "O" general	2007-2009
b. 6	North, Charles <i>5 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b. 6	O'Hara, Frank	2006-2009, undated
b. 6	Olin, Jeni	2006-2007
b. 6	"P" - "Q" general	2006-2009, undated
b. 6	Padgett, Ron	2006-2009
b. 6	"R" general	2006-2009
b. 6	Reed, Monica	2006-2009
b. 6	Roberts, Steve	2006-2008
b. 7	"S" general	2001-2009, undated
b. 7	Schmall, Jeremy	2008-2009
b. 7	Shapiro, David	2006
b. 7	Somerville, Michele <i>4 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b. 7	St. Mark's Workshop	2006
b. 7	Szymaszek, Stacy	2007-2009
b. 7	"T" general	2007-2009
b. 7	Tyler, Diane <i>2 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b. 7	"U" - "V" general	2006-2009

2006-2009 (continued)

b.7	Violi, Paul <i>2 Folders</i>	2006-2009
b.7	"W" general	2006-2009
b.7	"X" - "Z" general	2007-2009
b.7	Zoland Books	2006-2007, undated

2010

b.7	"A" general	2010
b.7	"B" general	2010
b.7	"C" general	2010-2011
b.7	"D" general	2010
b.7	DeCreft, Donna	2010
b.7	"E" general	2010
b.7	"F" general	2010
b.7	"G" general	2010
b.7	"H" general	2010
b.7	"I" - "J" general	2010
b.7	"K" general	2010
b.7	"L" general	2010
b.7	"M" general	2010
b.7	"N" general	2010
b.7	North, Charles	2010
b.7	"O" - "Q" general	2010
b.7	O'Hara, Maureen	2010
b.7	"R" general	2010
b.7	"S" general	2010
b.7	"T" general	2010
b.7	"U" - "V" general	2010
b.7	Violi, Paul	2010
b.7	"W" general	2010
b.7	"X" - "Z" general	2010

2011

b. 8	"A" general	2011
b. 8	"B" general	2011
b. 8	"C" general	2011
b. 8	"D" general	2011
b. 8	"E" - "F" general	2011
b. 8	"G" - "H" general	2011
b. 8	Goldston, Andrea	2011
b. 8	Hart, Matt	2011
b. 8	"I" - "J" general	2011
b. 8	"K" general	2011
b. 8	"L" general	2011
b. 8	"M" general	2011
b. 8	"N" general	2011
b. 8	North, Charles <i>3 Folders</i>	2011
b. 8	"O" - "P" general	2010-2011
b. 8	"Q" - "R" general	2011
b. 8	"S" general	2011
b. 8	"T" - "U" general	2011
b. 8	Violi, Paul	2011
b. 8	Violi Reading	2011
b. 8	"V" - "W" general	2011
b. 8	"X" - "Z" general	2011

Series II: Writings, 1960-2010*7 linear feet (7 boxes)*

Series II. Writings contains drafts and proofs for many of Towle's published works, including files for *Autobiography and Other Poems* (1977), *Works on Paper* (1978), *The History of the Invitation* (2001), *New & Selected Poems* (1983), *North* (1970), *Winter Journey* (2008), and *Memoir* (2003). In addition to the materials relating to published works, there are drafts for individual poems and prose works, fiction and non-fiction, printed publicity, reviews, royalty statements, permissions, and material relating to Towle's employment in the printmaking studio, Universal Limited Art Editions.

Files are not arranged in any particular order.

b. 9	MS 2 Folders	1960-1962
b. 9	Poems, misc. typescripts	1960-1962
b. 9	Poems 6 Folders	1960-1964
b. 9	"Lines for the New Year" 3 Folders	1963-1965
b. 9	Poems 2 Folders	1965-1969
b. 9	Notes	1970-1971
b. 9	"The Sea and the Wind"	1970-1971
b. 9	"Nearing Xmas"	1970-1971
b. 9	Poems 2 Folders	1970-1972
b. 10	"In the Romantic Manner"	1970
b. 10	"Pencils and Postcards"	1978
b. 10	Misc. visual	1974-1976
b. 10	New York 7/29/72	1975
b. 10	1977 collabs	1977
b. 10	"The Interesting Story"	1974
b. 10	<i>Gemini</i>	1975
b. 10	<i>Autobiography and Other Poems</i> 4 Folders	1970-1974
b. 10	<i>Works on Paper</i> 2 Folders	1970-1974
b. 10	Swinburne	1972-1974
b. 10	Poems 2 Folders	1972-1974

b. 10	Sketches	1973-1975
b. 10	Drafts <i>4 Folders</i>	1973-1979
b. 11	Towle-publications	1963-2010
b. 11	"Complete Poems" <i>5 Folders</i>	1963-2009
b. 11	Drafts-1980's	1980-1989
b. 11	Drafts-1990's <i>2 Folders</i>	1990-1999
b. 11	Storytelling	undated
b. 11	Postmod. maturity	undated
b. 11	Foundations	1971-2006
b. 11	Rejections	1965-1991
b. 11	Rejections of <i>Autobiography</i>	1972-1975
b. 11	<i>Immaterial Nocturnes</i>	2001-2008
b. 11	<i>Gemini</i>	2001-2008
b. 11	Illuminations	2001-2008
b. 11	Drafts	2001-2008
b. 11	<i>Winter Journey</i>	2001-2008
b. 11	Permissions	1980
b. 11	Royalty statements	1964-1970
b. 11	Poetic income	1971-1979
b. 11	Columbia U. Press	1960-1990
b. 11	Consignment	1970-1979
b. 11	Young Am. Poets	1960-1990
b. 12	<i>Winter Journey</i> <i>5 Folders</i>	1999-2007
b. 12	Wagner College	1963
b. 12	New School	1963
b. 12	<i>Nine Immaterial Nocturnes</i>	2003
b. 12	<i>The History of the Invitation; New & Selected Poems 1963-2000</i> <i>5 Folders</i>	2001

b. 12	<i>New & Selected Poems (1963-1983)</i> 7 Folders	undated
b. 13	North, proofs	undated
b. 13	North correspondence	1970-1971
b. 13	Poetry workshop 3 Folders	1969-2003
b. 13	Poems - 1966	1966
b. 13	Poems 7 Folders	1963-1979
b. 13	Collaborations	undated
b. 13	"Lines for the New Year"	1964-1973
b. 13	Towle readings	1963-2012
b. 13	Reviews, intros, etc.	1960-1969
b. 13	Announcements 5 Folders Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16	1960-2006
b. 14	Reviews 6 Folders Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16	1970-2010
b. 14	Mentions	2002-2008
b. 14	Misc. art reviews, etc.	1970-1990, undated
b. 14	"Truth in Advertising"	undated
b. 14	<i>Some Musical Episodes</i>	undated
b. 14	Poetic income	1963-1977
b. 14	Prose (fiction) 3 Folders	1964-1979
b. 14	Prose (non-fiction) 2 Folders	1971-2007
b. 14	<i>Memoir</i> 3 Folders	undated
b. 14	Bontecou notes	undated
b. 14	Bontecou interview	1970
b. 14	TT, ZP, BG re: 18 cantos	1967 July 25
b. 14	ULAE interview	1985

b. 15	Text for Grosman's posthumous NYU show	undated
b. 15	TT writings/int ULAE	1966
b. 15	TT/L rivers	1977 June 24
b. 15	ULAE diary <i>7 Folders</i>	1975-1978
b. 15	ULAE outline	1979
b. 15	ULAE text	1979
b. 15	Castleman books	undated
b. 15	Corcoran memoir	1996
b. 15	Corcoran gallery	1996-1998

Oversize

0.08 linear feet (1 box)

b. 16	Announcements (In Series II)	1970-2005
b. 16	Reviews (In Series II)	1970-2001

Restricted Material

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Box 17 (Correspondence): Restricted until 1 January 2028. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 17

Correspondence

undated

Restricted until 1 January 2028. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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 -- 20th Century
American poetry -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

Occupations

Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Born digital
Photographs

Names

Ashbery, John, 1927-2017
Berkson, Bill, 1939-2016
Berrigan, Ted, 1934-1983
Brainard, Joe, 1942-1994
Hershon, Robert, 1936-
Hornick, Lita R., 1927-
Koch, Kenneth, 1925-2002
Lanham, Sheila Mae
North, Charles, 1941-
Olin, Jeni, 1974-
Padgett, Ron, 1942-
Schuyler, James (1923-1991)
Shapiro, David, 1947-
Towle, Tony, 1939-
Violi, Paul, 1944-2011
Waldman, Anne, 1945-