Guide to the James Rorty Papers

YCAL MSS 835

by Alison Clemens

2014

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 835

CREATOR: Rorty, James, 1890-1973

TITLE: James Rorty papers

DATES: 1941–1970

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.91 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Manuscripts, printed works, correspondence, and professional papers of the writer James Rorty. The Writings series includes Rorty’s typescript and manuscript essays on social issues, civil rights, and political activism, two of his poems, and printed works. The Correspondence series includes three typed letters between Rorty’s wife Winifred Rorty and Matthew Josephson; letters between Rorty and Jerré E. Tanner regarding Tanner’s setting of Rorty’s poem “A Spring Garland” for voice and piano, with autograph manuscript score; and one typed letter from Rorty to Ruth Aley and one typed letter from Rorty to Tom Sloane. The Professional Papers include Rorty’s curriculum vitae.

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

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.rorty.

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

Gift of James Rorty.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The James Rorty 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
James Rorty 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, 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 in 2014. 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.

This collection includes materials previously identified by multiple call numbers: Uncat Za MS Rorty and Uncat Za File.

James Rorty (1890-1973)
James Rorty (1890-1973), writer, journalist, poet, and father of philosopher Richard Rorty.

Scope and Contents
Manuscripts, printed works, correspondence, and professional papers of the writer James Rorty. The Writings series includes Rorty’s typescript and manuscript essays on social issues, civil rights, and political activism, two of his poems, and printed works. The Correspondence series includes three typed letters between Rorty’s wife Winifred Rorty and Matthew Josephson; letters between Rorty and Jerré E. Tanner regarding Tanner’s setting of Rorty’s poem “A Spring Garland” to music, as well as the original sheet music; and one typed letter from Rorty to Ruth Aley and one typed letter from Rorty to Tom Sloane. The Professional Papers include Rorty’s curriculum vitae.
Arrangement

Collection Contents

Series I. Writings

0.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series I is organized into two subseries: Manuscripts and Printed Material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td><em>It Happened Here</em>, manuscript and typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td><em>The Final Conquest</em>, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td><em>The End of the Line</em>, typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td><em>We Open the Gates: Labor’s Fight for Equality</em>, typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td><em>At the Court of Love</em>, typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td><em>A Suburb in Purgatory</em>, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td><em>The Gift of Henry Vann</em>, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 1-2</td>
<td><em>The Wound and the Arrow</em>, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 3</td>
<td><em>The Communications Crisis</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 3</td>
<td><em>The Metaphysics of Birth Control</em>, typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 3</td>
<td><em>The Criminal Society</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 3</td>
<td><em>Roadway to the Future</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 3</td>
<td><em>Time and Western Man</em>, typescripts, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 3</td>
<td><em>The Reluctant Philosopher-King</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 4</td>
<td><em>TVA and the Common Mooring</em>, typescript fragments, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 4</td>
<td><em>California in the Twenties</em>, typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 4</td>
<td><em>Viking’s Apprentice</em>, typescripts, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 4</td>
<td><em>Reluctant Patriarch</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 4</td>
<td><em>The Epoch of Man’s Becoming</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 4</td>
<td><em>The South Jamaica Story</em>, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 5</td>
<td><em>A Novel about Anti-Gentilism</em>, typescript book review, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 5</td>
<td>Unidentified essay on advertising, typescript fragment, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 5</td>
<td><em>Prayer</em>, typescript poem, signed</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 5</td>
<td><em>The Revolution Absolute</em>, Typescript poem, with typescript essay on ecology</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
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</table>
| b. 2, f. 6 | *América Indígena*  
Contains Rorty's article “¿Hay Discriminación en México?” | 1960 July |
| b. 2, f. 6 | *Brother Jim Crow* by Rorty | 1943 |
| b. 2, f. 6 | *Commentary*  
Two issues containing Rorty’s “Desegregation Along the Mason-Dixon Line”. | 1954, undated |
| b. 2, f. 6 | *Common Sense*  
Contains Rorty’s “Food for Freedom” | 1941 |
| b. 2, f. 7 | *The Commonweal*  
Three issues, containing the Rorty writings “A Study in Cultural Elephantiasis” (12 May 1944); “Did They Know It Was Loaded” (3 June 1949); and “Independence, Like It or Not” (8 September 1961). | 1944-1961 |
| b. 2, f. 8 | "How St. Louis Broke the Race Barrier” by Rorty | 1957 April 20 |
| b. 2, f. 8 | "March of the Machine” by Rorty | 1964 |
| b. 2, f. 8 | *The New Leader*  
Three issues, containing the Rorty writings “VOGT: Soil and the Future”, reviewed by Rorty (11 September 1948); “John T. Flynn on the China Story” (14 January 1952); a letter to the editor (28 January 1952); and “Is McCarthy Subversive” (16 August 1954); | 1948-1954 |
| b. 2, f. 9 | *Toward the Integration of Our Schools: Final Report of the Commission on Integration* | circa 1958 |
| b. 2, f. 9 | *Unfitting the Unborn* by Rorty and N. Philip Norman | 1946 |
| b. 2, f. 9 | *We Open the Gates: Labor’s Fight for Equality* by Rorty and Harry Fleischman | 1958 |
## Series II. Correspondence

**2 folders**

Series II is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 10</td>
<td>Aley, Ruth</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 10</td>
<td>Josephson, Matthew</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 10</td>
<td>Sloane, Tom</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 1</td>
<td>Tanner, Jerré</td>
<td>1967-1969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Includes letters between Tanner and Rorty regarding the creation of sheet music by Tanner based on Rorty's poem cycle "A Spring Garland", as well as the original sheet music.
Series III. Professional Papers

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 11
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 -- Archives
Civil Rights movements -- United States
Journalists -- United States
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Political activists -- United States
Social movements -- United States

Geographic Names
United States -- Social conditions -- 1960-1980

Occupations
Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Journalists -- United States -- 20th Century
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century
Political activists -- United States -- 20th Century

Names
Aley, Ruth
Josephson, Matthew, 1899-1978
Rorty, James, 1890-1973
Tanner, Jerré E.