

Guide to the Paul Mariah Papers

GEN MSS 2096



by Brooke McManus

July 2023

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
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2096

CREATOR: Mariah, Paul , author

TITLE: Paul Mariah papers

DATES: 1898-2014

BULK DATES: 1960-1988

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.30 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of writings, correspondence, personal papers, printed material, a small amount of photographs, a sound recording, and other papers by or relating to American publisher, poet, and gay rights activist Paul Mariah.

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

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.mariah>.

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

Purchased from Elysium Press on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2018.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 8 (sound recording): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Paul Mariah 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

Paul Mariah Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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.

Paul Mariah (1937-1996)

Paul Mariah (born Paul Meredith Jones) was a publisher and poet prominent in the gay literary scene in San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s. Born in Whittington, Illinois in 1937 to Ada Pearl Kelley and Herman Jones, Mariah graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1959 with a degree in theater. After graduation, Mariah briefly taught at a middle school before he was incarcerated in Menard Correctional Center in Illinois for three years. After his release from prison, he changed his name to Paul Mariah. In 1966, Mariah moved to San Francisco and became involved with gay rights activism, joining the Society of Individual Rights. He earned a Master's degree in English literature from San Francisco State College in 1969. During his graduate studies, Mariah was a personal secretary for writers Kay Boyle and Robert Duncan. In August 1969, Mariah and Richard Tagett founded ManRoot, a small press that published books and chapbooks by many notable writers of the San Francisco Renaissance and the Stonewall era, as well as twelve issues of *ManRoot* poetry magazine. As a poet, Mariah's work appeared in numerous publications, and he published two poetry collections, *Personae Non Gratae* (1971) and *This Light Will Spread* (1978).

Mariah was a project scheduler and research assistant for the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research's San Francisco Homosexual Study in 1969-1970 and was a member of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, serving as its president in 1971. Mariah was also a counselor from 1972 to 1975, working with former prisoners. His partner of fifteen years, Kenneth Poff, an Army veteran and ManRoot's business manager, died in 1986. Mariah died in 1996.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of writings, correspondence, personal papers, printed material, a small amount of photographs, a sound recording, and other papers by or relating to American publisher, poet, and gay rights activist Paul Mariah.

Writings contain drafts of poetry and prose by Mariah, Helen Luster, and Huncce Voelcker, as well as journals kept by Mariah and notes on Mariah's poems by his partner Kenneth Poff. Correspondence generally concerns professional matters, such as Mariah's poetry submissions and ManRoot publications. Included are letters and cards from Andrew Bifrost, James Broughton, Allen Ginsberg, Mary Norbert Körte, Lynn Lonidier, Richard Tagett, and Voelcker. The collection also contains Mariah's correspondence with his mother, Ada Pearl Jones. Personal papers contain artwork, notebooks, calendars, a few writings, ephemera, and Poff's will. Also included are a copy of visitation rules for the Menard Correctional Center; materials concerning Mariah's involvement with the Council on Religion and the Homosexual and the Kinsey Institute's study on gay men and women in San Francisco in 1969-1970; and a file on "gay phemenology" with typescripts of articles and speeches by others about gay liberation, marriage, and mental health. Printed material contains ephemera related to readings, exhibitions, concerts, symposia, and conferences documenting the work and activism of gay, Black, and Indigenous poets, artists, and musicians, as well as materials related to gay advocacy groups such as One, Inc. and the Society for Individual Rights.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Writings, 1929-1992. II. Correspondence, 1898-2002. III. Personal Papers, 1967-1988, undated. IV. Printed Material, 1937-2014. V. Sound Recording, 1976.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1929-1992

1.83 linear feet (3 boxes)

This series contains poetry and other writings by Paul Mariah, Helen Luster, and Hunce Voelcker. Mariah's works include *Dances with Dali* and "One Mad Queen: Poems for Cavafy." Files related to Luster contain publicity photographs, drafts of *Crystal* (book seven of her "I(EE)" series), and an unpublished collection of correspondence with Allen Ginsberg. Also included are Mariah's notebooks and journals, which contain writings and notes on personal and professional matters, and a few poetry broadsides by authors associated with ManRoot, such as James Broughton.

Arranged alphabetically by author or folder title.

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Eberhardt, Karen. Resume and poems submitted to Mariah | 1992 |
| | Luster, Helen Helen Luster (1913-1985) was a poet, editor, founder of the Los Angeles Poetry Center, and personal secretary to Allen Ginsberg at Naropa University for ten years. She assembled a large collection of Ginsberg's writings and planned to publish their correspondence as a book shortly before her death. Luster's poems were published in <i>ManRoot</i> , and she co-led poetry workshops with Paul Mariah. She named Mariah as executor of the Ginsberg literary collection and correspondence in her will. Luster also had an interest in parapsychology, which informed some of her research and writings. | |
| b. 1, f. 2-3 | <i>Crystal</i> , typed copies | circa 1980 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | <i>Crystal</i> , draft with illustrations | circa 1980 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Ditto of complete text of "I(EE), Book VII Snake & Crystal" (including prose piece "Crystal" which must be revised for this book) | circa 1980 |
| b. 1, f. 6-7 | Luster photos [includes negatives and publicity prints, clipping, high school report card] | 1929-1983 |
| b. 1, f. 8-10 | "Helen and Allen: Oracle Letters to Allen Ginsberg, 1963-1983," master, original, edited and footnoted copy Also contains photographs of Luster and Ginsberg and autograph manuscript notes. | circa 1984 |
| b. 1, f. 11-12 | Retyped letters from Helen to A.G. | circa 1984 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Extra photocopies of Alan [sic] G's letters -- used in book -- in master copy | circa 1984 |
| | Mariah, Paul | |
| b. 1, f. 14-15 | Poems, typescript drafts Includes copy of "Letter to Robert Duncan While Reading Bending the Bow." | 1962-1968 |
| b. 1, f. 16 | "Concordances with Dali," composition for San Francisco State College poetry course | 1968 |
| b. 1, f. 17 | "Poems: Metaphysical Caverns," San Francisco State College master's thesis | 1969 |
| b. 1, f. 18 | Gay Heretic/Dups [poems by Mariah] | 1971, undated |

Mariah, Paul (continued)

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| b. 1, f. 19-20 | Ken [Poff] has read Poems and essays by Mariah, a few poetry broadsides, including one signed by James Broughton, and copies of published writings. | 1972-1991 |
| b. 2, f. 21-22 | [Poems by Paul Mariah] Drafts of poems by Mariah and reading notes by Ken Poff. Includes some printed ephemera and clipping of a review of <i>ManRoot</i> issue #11. | 1973-1992 |
| b. 2, f. 23 | <i>Dances with Dali</i> , typescript | 1974 |
| b. 2, f. 24 | "One Mad Queen: Poems for Cavafy," typed copy | 1975 |
| b. 2, f. 25 | Originals not for reading | undated |
| b. 2, f. 26 | "The New I," poetry collection, typescript (photocopy), corrected | undated |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Essays | undated |
| b. 2, f. 28 | "Rivers & Bars," printed poem, preliminary mockup of <i>ManRoot</i> issue | undated |
| b. 2, f. 29 | Notebook | 1967-1969 |
| b. 2, f. 30 | College notebook | 1969 |
| b. 2, f. 31 | Odes to a Public Body [poetry journal] | 1970-1974 |
| b. 2, f. 32 | A working notebook, journal -- etc. Sept 1973 -- | 1973-1978 |
| b. 2, f. 33 | The Leathern Look [journal containing writings on various topics, reading notes] | 1974 |
| b. 2, f. 34 | The Leathern Look [leather journal cover] | circa 1974 |
| b. 3, f. 35 | Journal | 1966-1992 |
| b. 3, f. 36 | Journal - loose papers removed from | 1966-1992 |
| b. 3, f. 37 | Poetry notebook | 1977-1981 |
| b. 3, f. 38 | The Blood of the Wolsunga [journal] "An opera about going to the opera," most pages blank. | undated |
| b. 3, f. 39 | Planthold, Mildred A. "Marjorie's Gift: a play in one act" | undated |
| b. 3, f. 40-41 | Voelcker, Hunce. "Bridge," typed copy inscribed to Paul Mariah on the title page | undated |
| b. 3, f. 42 | Writings of others | 1983, undated |

Series II: Correspondence, 1898-2002*1 linear foot (1 box)*

This series consists of professional and personal correspondence of Paul Mariah. Correspondents include ManRoot cofounder Richard Tagett, poet and filmmaker James Broughton and artist Joel Singer, Beat poets Allen Ginsberg and Mary Norbert Körte, poet and musician Lynn Lonidier, and publishers and editors such as Andrew Bifrost from *Mouth of the Dragon* and Louise Simons from *Painted Bride Quarterly*. Also present are a number of poetry submissions by Mariah and correspondence regarding *Vector* magazine, published by the Society of Individual Rights. The series additionally contains Jones and Kelley family correspondence, including letters from Mariah to his mother, and a small amount of third party correspondence, primarily related to the work of Helen Luster.

Correspondence can also be found in Series I. Writings and Series III. Personal Papers.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent or folder title, with first name only, unidentified, and third party correspondence filed at the end of the sequence.

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 4, f. 43 | "A-C" General | 1974-1986, undated |
| b. 4, f. 44 | Ambi Sextrous (Robert Lee Graham) | undated |
| b. 4, f. 45 | Barbezat, Marc | 1980 |
| b. 4, f. 46 | Beesley, Wade | 1976 |
| b. 4, f. 47 | Black Sparrow/John Martin | 1968-1970 |
| b. 4, f. 48 | Borsa, Victor | 1986 |
| b. 4, f. 49 | Broughton, James and Joel Singer | 1980-1988 |
| b. 4, f. 50 | Clark, William C. estate | 1972-1974 |
| b. 4, f. 51 | Corelli, Evelyn "Evie" | 1991, undated |
| b. 4, f. 52 | "D-L" General | 1968-1985 |
| b. 4, f. 53 | Fabian, Gerald Primarily related to final issue of <i>ManRoot</i> , titled "The Complete Poems of Jean Genet," with proofs of the cover and poems. | 1979-1980 |
| b. 4, f. 54 | Ginsberg, Allen | 1972 |
| b. 4, f. 55 | Hicks, Solomon Hicks was incarcerated in Cook County Jail in Chicago. | 1966 |
| b. 4, f. 56 | Inman, Will | 1977 |
| b. 4, f. 57 | International Poetry Review | 1975 |
| b. 4, f. 58 | Jama, Stephen (poetry booklet) | 1976 |
| b. 4, f. 59 | Jones, Ada Pearl | 1960-1980 |
| b. 4, f. 60 | Jones, Benjamin E. | 1980 |

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 4, f. 61-62 | Jones and Kelley families Includes correspondence with Mariah's sister Mary Alice Sims and brother George W. Jones, and a note and handmade booklet with flowers pressed in from Louella, presumably a relative, in 1898. | 1898-1994 |
| b. 4, f. 63 | Körte, Mary Norbert | 1986 |
| b. 4, f. 64 | Lomax, Joseph F. (<i>Wings Press</i>) | 1977 |
| b. 4, f. 65 | Lonidier, Lynn | 1977 |
| b. 4, f. 66 | "M-T" General | 1973-1986, undated |
| b. 4, f. 67 | Mackey, Mary | 1972 |
| b. 4, f. 68 | Mariah, Paul to Kenneth Poff | 1983, undated |
| b. 4, f. 69 | Miller, Michael | 1973 |
| b. 4, f. 70 | Montague, Tony, with translations of René Char by Montague | 1973-1981 |
| b. 4, f. 71 | Nelson, Richard "Hans" | 1987-1996 |
| b. 4, f. 72 | Newbrough, Celeste | 1984 |
| b. 4, f. 73 | Perron, Lee Includes correspondence related to Helen Luster's estate. | 1982-1990 |
| b. 4, f. 74 | Peters, Robert L. | 1977-1978 |
| b. 4, f. 75 | Roper, Art | 1972 |
| b. 4, f. 76 | Simons, Louise (<i>Painted Bride Quarterly</i>) | 1978 |
| b. 4, f. 77 | Sklar, Morty | 1977 |
| b. 4, f. 78 | Tagett, Richard | 1986 |
| b. 4, f. 79 | Tucker, B. W. | 1958 |
| | Untitled binder Poetry submissions by Mariah, as well as correspondence with colleagues, family, and friends, writings, ephemera, and other papers formerly enclosed in an unmarked binder. Materials were removed from the binder and rehoused in folders by library staff during processing. | |
| b. 4, f. 80 | Gay People's Union | 1973-1974 |
| b. 4, f. 81 | Steven Finch | 1986 |
| b. 4, f. 82 | Andrew Bifrost | 1974 |
| b. 4, f. 83 | Contraband Press | 1974 |
| b. 4, f. 84 | Gordon Curzon | 1972-1973 |
| b. 4, f. 85 | Related to <i>Diana</i> (poetry collection by Mariah), <i>Vector</i> magazine | 1968-1969 |

Untitled binder (continued)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| b. 4, f. 86-89 | Poetry submissions | 1965-1974 |
| b. 4, f. 90 | Voelcker, Hunce | 1977, undated |
| b. 4, f. 91 | First name only | 1955-1983 |
| b. 4, f. 92 | Unidentified | circa 1983-1996, undated |
| Third party correspondence | | |
| b. 4, f. 93 | Bell, John S. (CERN) and Helen Luster | 1984 |
| b. 4, f. 94 | Heintz, William F. to Mary Alice Sims (Mariah's sister) | 2002 |
| b. 4, f. 95 | Hill, Betty and Helen Luster | 1974-1975 |
| b. 4, f. 96 | Jordan, Roy to Lee Stoney | 1996 |
| b. 4, f. 97 | Luster, Helen related to quantum theory & ESP Correspondence, printed material, biographical notes on Luster, largely related to John Bell and Nick Herbert's book <i>Quantum Reality</i> . | 1974-1985 |
| b. 4, f. 98 | Various to Kenneth Poff | 1986, undated |

Series III: Personal Papers, 1967-1988, undated*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series consists of artwork, calendars, a journal, notecards related to church correspondence, a copy of Kenneth Poff's will, a visitor request form and outline of rules for visiting Menard Correctional Center, and other papers. Included are materials documenting gay activism, the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, and Mariah's work at the Kinsey Institute. The series also contains inventories of Helen Luster's collection of Allen Ginsberg writings and correspondence; Mariah was named in her will as executor of the Ginsberg materials after her death.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

| | | |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| b. 5, f. 99-100 | Address book Photographs, notes, and ephemera are enclosed. | circa 1980s |
| b. 5, f. 101 | Aura Color Distribution | undated |
| b. 5, f. 102 | Birthday book | 1977 |
| b. 5, f. 103 | Blank stationery headed "PM" | undated |
| b. 5, f. 104 | Calendar | 1974 |
| b. 5, f. 105 | Council on Religion and the Homosexual, typed outline of advocacy actions | 1972 |
| b. 5, f. 106 | Gay phenomenology [workshop, symposium, publishing materials] Includes correspondence, schedules and ephemera, and writings on gay marriage, mental health and gay liberation, and women's colleges. Among the authors and correspondents are Sally Gearheart, Robert W. Anderson, and Ronald D. Lee. | 1969-1972 |
| b. 5, f. 107 | Helen Luster collection of Allen Ginsberg, inventory | circa 1984 |
| b. 5, f. 108 | [Helen Luster] Allen Ginsberg Collection: Catalogue of Items as of March 17, 1984 | 1984 |
| b. 5, f. 109 | Journal Diary entries and some notes on professional matters. | 1968-1988 |
| b. 5, f. 110-111 | Journal - loose papers removed from Photographs, notecards, lists related to <i>ManRoot</i> , poems, and several pages of interview contacts, mostly likely for Mariah's work as an interviewer and scheduler with the Kinsey Institute's San Francisco study. | 1968-1988 |
| b. 6, f. 112 | [Kappa Teatron] Frat Φ&K / Address & initiates listing | 1983, undated |
| b. 6, f. 113 | Library holdings 1964 list? | undated |
| b. 6, f. 114 | Male nudist art zodiac calendar | 1967 |
| b. 6, f. 115 | Memo book | undated |
| b. 6, f. 116 | Menard Correctional Center visiting rules and procedures | undated |
| b. 6, f. 117-118 | "Men on Wood" by Robert Berner, pen or ink drawings on wooden squares Berner provided many of the illustrations featured in <i>ManRoot</i> magazine and designed covers of books printed by ManRoot. | 1980 |
| b. 6, f. 119-121 | Paul's church correspondence / index / bibliography [alphabetical index cards] | undated |

b. 6, f. 122

Will of Kenneth Thomas Poff (photocopy)

1986

Series IV: Printed Material, 1937-2014*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series consists of broadsides, fliers, pamphlets, catalogs, serials, tear sheets, clippings, and other printed material. The bulk of broadsides and fliers advertise poetry readings, concerts, plays, fundraising events, and seminars. Included are ephemera relating to the Society for Individual Rights; Gay Pride Week 1973 in Chicago; a concert by the West Coast Gangster Choir; "I am the Sun," an event featuring poet Maurice Kenny (Mohawk), a contributor to *ManRoot* magazine; and *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (1980), one of the first mainstream lesbian Broadway plays.

Printed material can also be found in Series I. Writings, Series II. Correspondence, and Series III. Personal Papers.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

| | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 7, f. 123 | Broadsides: Other poets | 1968-1993 |
| b. 7, f. 124-129 | Broadsides and fliers Also includes a few pamphlets related to gay rights issues. | 1967-1993, undated |
| b. 7, f. 130 | Catalogs and programs | 1958-1980 |
| b. 7, f. 131 | Committee of Small Magazine Editors and Publishers conference - poster and fliers | 1980 |
| b. 7, f. 132 | Ephemera related to criminal justice and prison reform | undated |
| b. 7, f. 133 | <i>Gay Halloween Cruise News & World Report</i> | 1965 |
| b. 7, f. 134 | Kohoutek Celebration of Consciousness program, annotated | undated |
| b. 7, f. 135 | ManRoot - broadsides, fliers, press releases, and catalogs | 1973-1988 |
| b. 7, f. 136 | <i>Menard Time</i> Newspaper produced by incarcerated at the Menard Correctional Center. | 1937 |
| b. 7, f. 137 | Micheline, Jack. <i>Purple Submarine</i> Inscribed to Mariah. | 1976 |
| b. 7, f. 138 | Poetry flyers, posters '66-'70 Includes clippings and photocopy of "A Modest Proposal for Gay People's Liberation." | 1962-1967, undated |
| b. 7, f. 139 | RFD's "Dear Love of Comrades" calendar | 1989 |
| b. 7, f. 140 | Serials, tear sheets, and clippings | 1975-1992 |
| b. 7, f. 141 | Small ephemera | 1989-2014 |
| b. 7, f. 142 | Tear sheets from <i>Saturday Review</i> and <i>New Republic</i> | 1964-1966 |
| b. 7, f. 143 | Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus of San Francisco News | 1978-1979 |

Series V: Sound Recording, 1976

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

One 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm vinyl record enclosed with Jack Micheline's *Purple Submarine*.

b. 8, f. 144 Micheline, Jack. Side One: "Tigers in the Sky" / Side Two: Songs and Poems Read by 1976
Jack Micheline

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access
Services for further information.

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

African American musicians
American literature -- 20th Century
Christian gays
Gay activists -- United States
Gay authors
Gay men's writings, American
Gay press publications -- United States
Gay rights -- United States
Indian poets
LGBTQ resource
Poetry -- Women authors
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Publishers and publishing -- United States --
20th Century
Sexology -- Research
Small presses -- California
Women authors, American -- 20th Century

Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender,
and Reproduction
ManRoot (Firm)
Menard Correctional Center (Ill.)
One, Inc.
Society for Individual Rights

Occupations

Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Photographs
Sound recordings

Names

Bifrost, Andrew
Broughton, James, 1913-1999
Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997
Jones, Ada Pearl
Körte, Mary Norbert, 1934-2022
Lonidier, Lynn
Luster, Helen
Mariah, Paul
Poff, Kenneth, 1935-1986
Tagett, Richard
Voelcker, Hunce

Corporate Bodies

Council on Religion and the Homosexual (San
Francisco, Calif.)