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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Fred Jeremy Seligson Collection of Cid Corman and James Weil

YCAL MSS 1200



by Michael L. Forstrom

November 6, 2020

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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:** YCAL MSS 1200

**CREATOR:** Seligson, Fred Jeremy

**TITLE:** Fred Jeremy Seligson Collection of Cid Corman and James Weil

**DATES:** 1958–2010

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.12 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains correspondence, writings by Cid Corman, and other papers. Series I and Series II includes correspondence to Seligson from Corman and James Weil and third party correspondence between Corman and Weil. There are 108 pieces of correspondence from Corman to Seligson dating from 1982 to 2002. Corman's letters discuss personal, literary, and cultural matters, as well as travel. Third party correspondence features approximately 332 pieces of correspondence from Weil to Corman from 1962 to 2002. Letters discuss a range of personal and professional matters and document Weil's work as a publisher, first with The Elizabeth Press (1963-1981), and then from the mid-1980s onward, as James L. Weil, Publisher. Series III. 2019 Addition includes additional correspondence between Corman and Weil, writings by Corman, and other papers. The series features drafts of more than 100 distinct works by Corman, including poems, essays, and other writings. Corman's writings in the series span from 1958 through 1999, though most drafts date from the 1960s and 1970s. The August 2022 Acquisition contains notebooks, photographs, and other papers, dating from 1960-1969.

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

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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.seligson>.

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  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Fred Jeremy Seligson on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and the Ezra Pound Archive Fund, 2018-2022.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Fred Jeremy Seligson Collection of Cid Corman and James Weil 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

Fred Jeremy Seligson Collection of Cid Corman and James Weil. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Cid Corman (1924-2004) and James Weil (1929-2006)

Cid Corman, born 29 June 1924 in Boston, Massachusetts to parents of Ukranian ancestry, was an American poet, translator, and editor. He was the author of more than 100 works, including *Livingdying* (1970), *Belongings* (1977), *At their word* (1978), *In particular: poems new and selected* (1986), and *For crying out loud* (2002), as well as multiple titles with Weil's Elizabeth Press. In 1958 he moved to Japan, where he lived much of the rest of his adult life. He died 12 March 2004 in Kyoto, Japan.

James L. Weil, born 15 June 1929 in New York to Morris, a financier, and Charlotte (Ullman) Weil, was an American poet and publisher. He attended the University of Chicago (1950) and Oxford University (1954) before going to work for the Dialight Corporation (1954-1968). Weil founded the Elizabeth Press (1963-1981), an important publisher of American poetry in the 1960s and 1970s, and published limited edition chapbooks and keepsakes under his own name from 1985 onward. His authors include William Bronk (1918-1999), Cid Corman (1924-2004), Larry Eigner (1927-1996), Theodore Enslin (1925-2011), Felix Stefanile (1920-2009), and others.

Summary information is also available in the standard print and online biographical resources.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings by Cid Corman, and other papers. Series I and Series II includes correspondence to Seligson from Corman and James Weil and third party correspondence between Corman and Weil. There are 108 pieces of correspondence from Corman to Seligson dating from 1982 to 2002. Corman's letters discuss personal, literary, and cultural matters, as well as travel. Third party correspondence features approximately 332 pieces of correspondence from Weil to Corman from 1962 to 2002. Letters discuss a range of personal and professional matters and document Weil's work as a publisher, first with The Elizabeth Press (1963-1981), and then from the mid-1980s onward, as James L. Weil, Publisher. Series III. 2019 Addition includes additional correspondence between Corman and Weil, writings by Corman, and other papers. The series features drafts of more than 100 distinct works by Corman,

including poems, essays, and other writings. Corman's writings in the series span from 1958 through 1999, though most drafts date from the 1960s and 1970s. The August 2022 Acquisition contains notebooks, photographs, and other papers, dating from 1960-1969.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into four groupings: I. Letters to Fred Jeremy Seligson, 1982-2003. II. Third Party Correspondence, 1962-2002. III. 2019 Addition, 1958-2010. IV. August 2022 Acquisition, 1960-1963.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Letters to Fred Jeremy Seligson, 1982–2003

#### *5 Folders*

Series I. Letters to Fred Jeremy Seligson features 108 pieces of correspondence from Corman to Seligson dating from 1982 to 2002. Corman's letters discuss personal, literary, and cultural matters, as well as travel. Corman and Seligson resided chiefly in Kyoto, Japan and Seoul, South Korea respectively during these years.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 1-4	Corman, Cid	1982-2003, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Weil, James L.	1997–2003

**Series II: Third Party Correspondence, 1962–2002***1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Series II. Third party correspondence features approximately 332 pieces of correspondence from Weil to Corman over a period of four decades, from 1962 to 2002. Letters discuss a range of personal and professional matters and document Weil's work as a publisher, first with The Elizabeth Press (1963-1981), and then from the mid-1980s onward, as James L. Weil, Publisher. Enclosures, such as contracts, copies of writings, third party letters, clippings, and photographs, can be found among Weil's letters to Corman.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 6-7	Corman, Cid to James L. Weil	1994-2002, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Weil, James L. to Kathryn Beam	2001 February 26
b. 1, f. 9-14	Weil, James L. to Cid Corman	1962–1972
b. 2, f. 15-24	Weil, James L. to Cid Corman	1972–1987
b. 3, f. 25-29	Weil, James L. to Cid Corman	1988-2002, undated

**Series III: 2019 Addition, 1958–2010***3.25 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Series III. 2019 Addition includes additional correspondence between Corman and Weil, writings by Corman, and other papers. The series features drafts of more than 100 distinct works by Corman, including poems, essays, and other writings. Writings include eleven notebooks, numbered III through XIII, of a multi-volume memoir of childhood. The volumes, autograph manuscript, appear to have been written over the course of a decade, from 1968 to 1978. Corman's writings in the series span from 1958 through 1999, though most drafts date from the 1960s and 1970s.

Many drafts of poems show revisions. Drafts, typescript, often show multiple dates, suggesting that the typescripts are transcriptions or revised drafts, with certain dates citing a previous, possibly original draft. Drafts with autograph manuscript corrections and/or annotations also appear to bear the dates of these revisions. For example, an untitled poem with one line of autograph manuscript corrections followed by the typed date sequence, "4 June 70 (4) from 8 Nov 66," and then the date "18 Apr 76," in Corman's hand, suggests that the draft typed out on 4 June 1970 was based on an earlier draft dated 8 November 1966, and that the autograph manuscript corrections were made 18 April 1976. Such date histories are accounted for in the folder-level description below.

Organized into three subseries: I. Correspondence, 1963-2010. II. Writings by Cid Corman, 1958-1999. III. Other Papers, 1965-2005.

## Correspondence

b. 4, f. 30	Corman, Cid to Genpei Hoshino	1965 May 4
b. 4, f. 31	Corman, Cid to Lyndon B. Johnson	1965 August 2
b. 4, f. 32	Corman, Cid to Fred Jeremy Seligson	1999–2002
b. 4, f. 33	Corman, Shizumi to Fred Jeremy Seligson	2010 April 20
b. 4, f. 34	Gelber, Morris to Cid Corman	1977 July 15
b. 4, f. 35-37	Weil, James L. to Cid Corman	1963–1982
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 105	Clippings removed from Weil, James L. to Cid Corman	1981 November 19
b. 4, f. 38	Unidentified to Cid Corman	undated

## Writings of Cid Corman

b. 4, f. 39	["The aim is a poetry whose expression..."], essay, draft, typescript	1966 November 13
b. 4, f. 40	"Brother," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1970, 1979
b. 4, f. 41	"CC's: A new concept of business," essay, draft, typescript	1975 September 27
b. 4, f. 42	"The Circle," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1978 February 12
b. 4, f. 43	"Courtship journal," draft, autograph manuscript	[1965?]
b. 4, f. 44	"Dancing city," sketch for proposed film," draft, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4, f. 45	"The Dip," poem, draft, typescript, corrected and annotated	1966–1972



## Writings of Cid Corman (continued)

b. 4, f. 46	"Dooley the tout," poem, draft, corrected and annotated	1964-1968
b. 4, f. 47	"Family," treatment for proposed film, draft, typescript (photocopy)	undated
b. 4, f. 48	"The First death of another," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1970-1977
b. 4, f. 49	"From the war," poem, draft, typescript	1972, 1976
b. 4, f. 50	"Hidetaka Ohno," essay," draft, typescript, corrected	1964 July
b. 4, f. 51	["I have been called arrogant..."], essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1976 December 21
b. 4, f. 52	"The Including," poem, draft, typescript	1980 July 21
b. 4, f. 53	"Inheritance," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1962, 1971
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 106	["It is white..."], poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 54	"The Judgement," poem, draft, typescript	1978 January 16
b. 4, f. 55	"The Last straw," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	1966 January 16
b. 4, f. 56	"Lazarus," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1977, 1979
b. 4, f. 57	"Man as the creature whose destiny is self-awareness," [essay?], draft, autograph manuscript	197[6?] September 24
b. 4, f. 58-62	"Memoirs," III-VII, drafts, autograph manuscript (in notebooks)	1968-1971
b. 5, f. 63-70	"Memoirs," VIII-XII, drafts, autograph manuscript (in notebooks)	1973-1978
b. 6, f. 71-72	"Memoirs," XIII, draft, autograph manuscript (in notebook)	1978 September 7
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 107	Clipping removed from "Memoirs" XIII	undated
b. 6, f. 73	"Mon oncle," poem, draft, typescript, annotated	1976-1977
b. 6, f. 74	"The Nature of art," essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1967 February 4
b. 6, f. 75	"The Odor of grapes," poem, draft, typescript	1976 October 8
b. 6, f. 76	"On the translation of poetry," essay, draft, typescript	1965 August 10
b. 6, f. 77	"On translation," essay, draft, typescript, corrected and annotated	undated
b. 6, f. 78	"The Operation," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1972, 1977
b. 6, f. 79	"Owning," poem, draft, computer printout	[1999 January 24?]
b. 6, f. 80	"Polly seeds," poem, draft, corrected	1967, 1979
b. 6, f. 81	[Poems], untitled, drafts, typescript, corrected	1958-1980, undated

## Writings of Cid Corman (continued)

b. 6, f. 82	"Poetry as necessity," essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1976 July 29
b. 6, f. 83	["Poets of the world..."], essay, draft, typescript	1966 November 21
b. 6, f. 84	["Proust in his famous research..."], essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1976 September 2
b. 6, f. 85	"The Revelation," poem, draft, typescript	1975 January 16
b. 6, f. 86	"Relic costume drill," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1974
b. 6, f. 87	"Shakespeare revisited," essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1980 April 26
b. 6, f. 88	"Shard," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1968, 1977
b. 6, f. 89	"Sin," essay, draft, typescript	1976 July 28
b. 6, f. 90	"The Son," story, draft, typescript, corrected	1962 January
b. 6, f. 91	"The Spectator," poem, draft, typescript	1979 February 9
b. 6, f. 92	"Teddy," poem, typescript, annotated	1977 March 29
b. 6, f. 93	["There is need for an update on the Oedipus..."], note, draft, typescript	1980 June 3
b. 6, f. 94	"The Thing itself," essay, draft, typescript, corrected and annotated	1976 September 2
b. 6, f. 95	"Towards Gilles/Pyre," essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1975 November 19
b. 6, f. 96	"The Trick," poem, draft, typescript	1976 May 1
b. 6, f. 97	"The Trite," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	1966-1967
b. 6, f. 98	"The Words," essay, draft, typescript, corrected	1973 January 24
Other Papers		
b. 6, f. 99	Clippings	1972-1978, undated
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 108	Clippings	1965-1970, undated
b. 6, f. 100	Empty envelopes	undated
b. 6, f. 101	Financial records	1965
b. 6, f. 102	Manuscript notes and fragments	undated
b. 6, f. 103	Photograph of unidentified group	undated
b. 6, f. 104	Printed ephemera	1980-2005, undated

**August 2022 acquisition, 1960–1969**

*0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)*

## **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  
Authors, American -- 20th Century  
Authors and publishers  
Poets, American -- 20th Century  
Publishers and publishing

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Contributors**

Seligson, Fred Jeremy  
Corman, Cid, 1924-  
Weil, James L. (1929 June 15)  
Elizabeth Press

### **Acquired From**

Seligson, Fred Jeremy