

# Guide to the Tom Mandel Papers

YCAL MSS 1608



Sarah Lerner

July 2023

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

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1608

**CREATOR:** Mandel, Tom, 1942-

**TITLE:** Tom Mandel papers

**DATES:** 1962-2022

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.33 linear feet (14 boxes)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 999 Computer Files (7.75 gigabytes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, drafts of work, journals, ephemera and photographs, research and administrative files, and computer files by or relating to poet Tom Mandel, as well as works by others, 1962-2022. Collection materials document Mandel's writing process, as well as his discussions of writing and personal life with poets, artists, film makers, family members, and friends including Charles Bernstein, David Degener, Lyn Hejinian, Beth Joselow, Ron Padgett, Ted Pearson, Kit Robinson, Ron Silliman, and Barrett Watten.

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

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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.tommandel>.

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 Granary Books, Inc. on the Alfred Z. Baker, Jr. Fund, 2023.

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Tom Mandel 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

Tom Mandel 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.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Description created by Granary Books, Inc. has been repurposed for series- and folder-level notes.

Computer files were accessioned by the Yale University Digital Accessioning Support Service (DASS). Born digital archival material acquired on media by Yale University Library repositories is accessioned through the DASS prior to researcher use. For more information on the DASS and the actions taken during its accessioning work, click here: [Born Digital @ Yale: Digital Accessioning Support Service](#).

Prior to accessioning, Tom Mandel exported his Google Mail (Gmail) account, after he manually deleted trash and spam folders, and provided Granary Books, Inc. with a single .mbox file. This file contained over 80,000 emails, with both incoming and outgoing messages in the same file. Granary Books then processed the .mbox file to remove obvious spam messages and non-archival, personal information. Following Granary Books' transfer of Mandel's .mbox file to the DASS via Box Drive, Beinecke staff processed the file in ePADD to remove additional spam messages, as well as listserv and marketing messages, and restricted remaining personal information.

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## Tom Mandel (born 1942)

Tom Mandel (born 1942) is an American poet whose work is often associated with the Language poets, an avant-garde group in United States poetry that emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

He authored or co-authored more than 20 books and chapbooks of poetry from 1978 to the present, including *Realism*, *Letters of the Law*, *To the Cognoscenti*, and *The Grand Piano*, a ten-volume experiment in collaborative autobiography by San Francisco Language Poets.

Mandel was born Thomas Oskar Poëller in Chicago, Illinois, to Austrian Jewish parents Rose Kassner Poëller (1915-1996) and Thaddeus Poëller (1912-1946). His parents fled to America to escape Nazi persecution, first in Austria and later in Vichy, France, where his father was imprisoned in a concentration camp. Four years

after Mandel's birth, his father died from a liver disease he contracted while incarcerated. His mother later remarried Paul Mandel (1908-1990).

Tom Mandel graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1964. He continued on to a Doctor of Philosophy at the school's John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought but left the program in 1970. His first marriage was to Donna Mandel, with whom he had two daughters: Jessica Mandel and Sarah Mandel. Through the late 1960s and early 1970s, Mandel lived with Linda Schjeldahl, then-wife of art critic Peter Schjeldahl. By this point, he also began writing poetry and befriended the poet David Degener, with whom he would correspond and collaborate over the ensuing decades.

In the late 1970s, Mandel settled in San Francisco, California, and worked with poets including Rae Armantrout, Lyn Hejinian, Phillip Lopate, Ron Padgett, and Stephen Rodefer. In 1977, Mandel published the first issue of *MIAM*, a magazine presenting the works of Steve Benson, David Degener, Bob Perelman, Stephen Rodefer, Ron Silliman, and Geof Young. He also co-curated with Ron Silliman the Grand Piano reading series that was originally founded by Barrett Watten and held at the Grand Piano, a coffee house in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood.

From 1978 to 1979, Mandel served as Director of the Poetry Center at San Francisco State University. He continued publishing his own work through the 1980s. In the 1990s, he was a consultant to The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a technology entrepreneur. He has since continued to consult on new technologies and business models to enterprises.

Mandel is married to the poet Beth Joselow (born 1948); the couple lives in Lewes, Delaware.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, drafts of work, journals, ephemera and photographs, research and administrative files, and computer files by or relating to poet Tom Mandel, as well as works by others, 1962-2022. Collection materials document Mandel's writing process, as well as his discussions of writing and personal life with poets, artists, film makers, family members, and friends including Charles Bernstein, David Degener, Lyn Hejinian, Beth Joselow, Ron Padgett, Ted Pearson, Kit Robinson, Ron Silliman, and Barrett Watten.

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## Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Correspondence, 1962-2022. II. Drafts of Work, 1961-2022. III. Journals, 1964-1994. IV. Ephemera and Photographs, 1966-1993. V. Research and Administrative Files, 1964-1993. VI. Works by Others, 1977-circa 1990s.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1962-2022

Series I contains Tom Mandel's correspondence with more than 250 poets, artists, film makers, family members, and friends. These relationships are documented by more than 1,200 items, including signed manuscript and typescript letters, postcards, and, at times, drafts of work.

These letters provide insights into Mandel's poetic process, relationships in poetry and his personal life, and collaborations on writing and publishing, as well as the development of his correspondents' writing.

Approximately 6 gigabytes of .mbox files represent Mandel's email archive with over 73,000 messages that document his literary work and relationships, presence as a technological entrepreneur in the 2000s, travels, genealogical history, and family life.

Related to his work as a technology entrepreneur and consultant, his email also documents his participation on social networks throughout the 2000s including Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, Vimeo, and Yahoo, as well as beta-testing of other experimental and ephemeral social platforms.

The more than 2,500 correspondents in his email archive include Mandel's literary peers, technology and business colleagues, literary and technology-based listserv participants, family, and friends. His most frequent literary correspondents include Rae Armantrout, Steve Benson, Alan Bernheimer, Arlene Goldbard, Carla Harryman, Lyn Hejinian, Beth Joselow, Ted Pearson, Bob Perelman, Kit Robinson, Ron Silliman, and Barrett Watten, Terrence Winch, along with a significant volume of correspondence related to the writing, editing, production, and administration of the collaboratively-written history of the Grand Piano reading series.

Emails also include over 7,000 attachments, which include drafts of work from Carla Harryman, Ron Silliman, Barrett Watten, the Grand Piano reading series collaborators, and others. Approximately 4,000 of the attachments are images.

Lists of correspondents were created by Granary Books, Inc.

Series I is arranged chronologically. Emails are filed at the end of the series.

b. 1, f. 1-3	1962-1972 Letters by Mandel to his family written during his travels in Europe.	1962-1972
b. 1, f. 4	1970-1972 Letters from Mandel to his parents Rose Kassner Poëller and Paul Mandel, David Degener, and Linda Schjeldahl.	1970-1972
b. 1, f. 5-8	1973 Includes letters to and from Bill Berkson, Keith Cohen, David Degener, Ethan Feinsod, David Gitin, Maxine Groffsky, Elisabeth Landes, Bruce Livingston, Donna Mandel, Jessica Mandel, Sarah Mandel, Harry Mathews, Ron Padgett, Kit Robinson, Don Siegel, Jean Marie Straub, Norma Warner, and Mary Winegarden.	1973
b. 1, f. 9	1974-1976 Includes letters to and from Bill Berkson, Keith Cohen, David Degener, Ethan Feinsod, David Gitin, Maxine Groffsky, Elisabeth Landes, Bruce Livingston, Donna Mandel, Jessica Mandel, Sarah Mandel, Harry Mathews, Ron Padgett, Kit Robinson, Don Siegel, Jean Marie Straub, Norma Warner, Mary Winegarden, and others.	1974-1976

b. 1, f. 10-14	1977 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Rae Armantrout, Alston Beinhorn, David Benedetti, David Degener, Frank Hahn, Lyn Hejinian, Melvin Hill, Phillip Lopate, John Marron, Harry Mathews, Carol Nast, Ted Pearson, Stephen Rodefer, Susan Rother, Joann Sonn, Jean Marie Straub, Holbrook Teeter, Steve Vincent, Norma Warner, and several unidentified authors.	1977
b. 1, f. 15-18	1977 and undated Letters from Lyn Hejinian to Mandel including some drafts of her work.	1977 and undated
b. 1, f. 19-23	1978 Letters to Mandel from Don Adams, Tom Ahearn, Bruce Andrews, Rae Armantrout, Saul Below, Saul Charles Bernstein, Art Biermann, Summer Brenner, David Degener, William Dickey, Lawrence Fixel, Kathleen Fraser, Melvin Freilicher, David Gitin, Marie Gitin, Arlene Goldbard, Ted Greenwald, Lyn Hejinian, Melvin Hill, Peggy Jeffries, Nancy Kosenka, Phillip Lopate, Steve McCaffery, Michael McKeon, Jessica Mandel, Rose Mandel, Sarah Mandel, Harry Mathews, George Mattingly, Charles Russell, Ron Silliman, Warren Sonbert, Geoff Young, the <i>American Book Review</i> , and others.	1978
b. 1, f. 24-26	1979 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Rae Armantrout, Charles Bernstein, Julio Cortazar, Ray DiPalma, Frank Emmett, Kathleen Fraser, Charles Gibson, David Gitin, Artie Gold, Robert Glück, Melvin Hill, Edmond Jabes, Sherrill Jaffe, Frances Jaffer, Andrew Kelly, Michael McClure, Michael McKeon, Jessica Mandel, Sarah Mandel, John Marron, Wolfgang Mohrhenn, Geoffrey Rappaport, Kit Robinson, Andrew Rosenfield, James Sherry, Bernard Welt, Geoff Young, Celia Zukovsky, and others.	1979
b. 1, f. 27-29	1980 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Rae Armantrout, Charles Bernstein, David Degener, Jerry Estrin, Peter Gizzi, Gaelyn Godwin, Arlene Goldbard, John Goveer, Burton Hatlen, Anselm Hollo, Andy Kelly, Jeanne Lance, Michael McKeon, Jessica Mandel, John Marron, Ron Padgett, Lee Sherry, Joey Simas, Keith Waldrop, Rosmarie Waldrop, Norma Warner, Craig Watson, Barrett Watten, Ithaca House, and others.	1980
b. 1, f. 30-31	1981 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Charles Bernstein, Robert Creeley, Raymond Federman, Kathleen Fraser, Gaelyn Godwin, Arlene Goldbard, Lyn Hejinian, Emmanuel Hocquard, Jeanne Lance, Phillip Lopate, Harry Mathews, Mary Oppen, Tom Raworth, Joey Simas, Rosmarie Waldrop, the <i>American Book Review</i> , and others.	1981
b. 2, f. 32	1982 Letters to Mandel from Charles Bernstein, Kathleen Fraser, Frances Jaffer, John Latta, Bernadette Mayer, Laura Moriarity, Nick Piombino, Ron Silliman, Joey Simas, Barrett Watten, Don Wellman, and others.	1982
b. 2, f. 33	1983 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, David Gitin, Robert Glück, Ray Larsen, Jessica Mandel, Joey Simas, Rosmarie Waldrop, Diane Ward, Barrett Watten, Don Wellman, and others.	1983

b. 2, f. 34	1984 Letters to Mandell from Michael Anderson, Bruce Andrews, Charles Bernstein, Rudy Burckhardt, Ben Friedlander, Peter Gurnis, Sandra Meyer, Larry Price, Yvonne Jacqueline, Joey Simas, Rosmarie Waldrop, Barrett Watten, and others.	1984
b. 2, f. 35	1985 Letters to Mandel from Steve Benson, Charles Bernstein, Yvonne Jacqueline, and Joey Simas.	1985
b. 2, f. 36	1986 Letters to Mandel from Charles Bernstein, James Sherry, and Joey Simas.	1986
b. 2, f. 37	1987 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Abigail Child, Michael Davidson, Donna Mandel, Joey Simas, Warren Sonbert, Rosmarie Waldrop, and several unidentified authors.	1987
b. 2, f. 38	1988 Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Charles Bernstein, Rachel Blau du Plessis, Susan Clark, Ben Friedlander, Peter Ganick, David Gansz, Gaelyn Godwin, Lee Heilman, Sarah Mandel, Brad Morrow, Larry Price, Rosmarie Waldrop, and others.	1988
b. 2, f. 39-43	1989 Letters to Mandel from Marianna Benezet, Bill Berkson, Rachel Blau du Plessis, Boris Bresler, Susan Clark, David Degener, Jeff Derksen, Clayton Eshleman, Rob Fitterman, Philip Foss, Peter Ganick, David Gansz, Gaelyn Godwin, Jessica Grim, Lee Heilman, Lyn Hejinian, Lee Hickman, Paul Hoover, Andrew Levy, Jerome McGann, Stephen-Paul Martin, Harry Mathews, Peter Middleton, Brad Morrow, A.L. Neilsen, Larry Price, Claude Royet-Journoud, Sarah Schulman, Spencer Selby, Lawrence R. Smith, Mark Smith, Pat Smith, Rod Smith, Warren Sonbert, Rosmarie Waldrop, Barrett Watten, <i>o•blék: a journal of language arts</i> , <i>Raddle Moon</i> , and others.	1989
b. 2, f. 44	1989-1995 Letters by Mandel to Bruce Campbell, David Degener, Ethan Feinsod, Lyn Hejinian, Beth Joselow, and <i>Raddle Moon</i> .  Included are six letters to Saul Bellow, Alan Bloom, Wendy Doniger, David Grene, Ralph Lerner, and David Tracy about returning to the Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago.	1989-1995
b. 2, f. 45-54	1990 Letters to Mandel from Alice B. Acheson, Etel Adnan, Charles Alexander, Rachel Blau du Plessis, Bruce Campbell, Cydney Chadwick, Patrick J. Comiskey, Bill Corbett, Tina Darragh, Dan Davidson, David Degener, Jeff Derksen, Simone Fahtal, Karen Falkenstrom, Norman Fischer, Ed Foster, William Fuller, Peter Ganick, Peter Gizzi, Arlene Goldbard, Jessica Grim, Carla Harryman, Lee Hickman, Beth Joselow, Ray Larsen, Eva Leviton, Andrew Levy, Connell McGrath, Jessica Mandel, Harry Mathews, Brad Morrow, Gil Ott, Alice Quinn, Lisa Raphals, Kit Robinson, Claude Royet-Journoud, Spencer Selby, James Sherry, Ron Silliman, Joey Simas, Rod Smith, Warren Sonbert, Robin Terra, Rosmarie Waldrop, Barrett Watten, <i>o•blék</i> , and several unidentified authors.	1990
b. 2, f. 55-57	1990-1992 Letters by Beth Joselow to Mandel.	1990-1992



b. 2, f. 58-61	1990-1992 Letters by Mandel to Beth Joselow.	1990-1992
b. 3, f. 62-65	1991 Letters to Mandel from Charles Alexander, Ric Baruch, Saul Bellow, Charles Bernstein, Rachel Blau du Plessis, Laynie Brown, Bruce Campbell, Cydney Chadwick, Susan Clark, Keith Cohen, Alan Davies, David Degener, Jeff Derksen, Karen Falkenstrom, Ed Foster, Ben Friedlander, Phillip Foss, Kathleen Frumkin, Michael Gottlieb, David Grene, Jessica Grim, Carla Harryman, Paul Hoover, Beth Joselow, Ray Larsen, Ann Lauterbach, Thoreau Lovell, Steve McCaffery, Connell McGrath, Karen Mac Cormack, Nate Mackey, Sarah Mandel, Douglas Messerli, Brad Morrow, Kate Moses, Harryette Mullin, Aldon Nielsen, Ted Pearson, Marjorie Perloff, Alice Quinn, Joan Retallack, Jerome Rothenberg, Andrew Schelling, James Sherry, Joey Simas, Margy Sloan, Rod Smith, Warren Sonbert, Rosmarie Waldrop, David Wyatt, o•blék, and several unidentified authors.	1991
b. 3, f. 66	1991-1992 Letters by Beth Joselow to Mandel.	1991-1992
b. 3, f. 67-70	1992 Letters to Mandel from Charles Alexander, Bruce Andrews, Steve Benson, Charles Bernstein, Cynthia Cappello, Cydney Chadwick, Marie Chaix, Susan Clark, Norma Cole, Tina Darragh, Daniel Davidson, Alan Davies, David Degener, Jeff Derksen, Joe Donahue, Ed Foster, Ben Friedlander, Kathleen Frumkin, Drew Gardner, Gaelyn Godwin, Arlene Goldbard, Jessica Grim, Carla Harryman, Kate Hayes, Lyn Hejinian, Paul Hoover, Carolyn Kemp, George Lakoff, Ann Lauterbach, Steve McCaffery, Jerome McGann, Campbell McGrath, Karen Mac Cormack, Rose Mandel, Sarah Mandel, Harry Mathews, Sandra Meyer, David Morowitz, Brad Morrow, Kate Moses, Andrew Mossin, Shauna M. O'Donnell, Michael Palmer, Joan Retallack, Stephen Rodefer, Kim Rosenfield, Spencer Selby, James Sherry, Ron Silliman, Margy Sloan, Mary Truitt, Stephen Vincent, Benjamin Weissman, Geoff Young, the Julie Lazar Museum of Contemporary Art, and others.	1992
b. 3, f. 71-74	1993 Letters to Mandel from Charles Alexander, Steve Benson, Manuel Brito, Steve Carll, Dan Davidson, Jean Day, David Degener, Lisa Domitrovich (Small Press Distribution), José Faur, Kathleen Fraser, Ben Friedlander, Peter Ganick, Susan Gevirtz, Louise Glück, Gaelyn Godwin, Arlene Goldbard, Jessica Grim, Lyn Hejinian, Paul Hoover, Michael Ishe, David Israel, Howard Junker (Zyzzzyva magazine), W. B. Kechler, Ann Lauterbach, Hank Lazer, David Lehman, Erica McConnell, Connell McGrath, Karen Mac Cormack, Nate Mackey, Rose Mandel, Douglas Messerli, Brad Morrow, Kit Robinson, Michael Palmer, Nick Piombino, Jerome Rothenberg, Leonard Schwartz, Margy Sloan, Ariana Smart, Warren Sonbert, Stephen Vincent, the Marian Felgenhauer Committee on Social Thought, and others.	1993
b. 3, f. 76-78	1994 Letters to Mandel from Don Adams, Charles Alexander, Steve Benson, Manuel Brito, David Degener, Ray DiPalma, Gaelyn Godwin, Jessica Mandel, Sarah Mandel, Douglas Messerli, Cynthia Miller, David Morowitz, Tom Raworth, Kristen Rey, Kit Robinson, Beth Saidel, Leslie Scalapino, Spencer Selby, Margy Sloan, Warren Sonbert, Stephen Vincent, Richard Zenith, and others.	1994

b. 4, f. 79	1995	1995
	Letters to Mandel from Bruce Andrews, Manuel Brito, Tina Darragh, David Degener, Kathleen Frumkin, Lyn Hejinian, Erica McConnell, Sarah Mandel, Todd Mandel, Melvin Palmer, Kit Robinson, Rosmarie Waldrop, The Poetry Project, and others.	
b. 4, f. 80-81	1996	1996
	Letters to Mandel from Charles Alexander, Steve Benson, Rachel Blau du Plessis, David Braunstein, Terry Braunstein, Manuel Brito, Larry Cazzalino, Tina Darragh, David Degener, Kathleen Fraser, Jessica Grim, Frederik Hausmann, Lyn Hejinian, Peter Inman, Doug Lang, Hank Lazer, Karen Mac Cormack, Martha Nussbaum, Joan Retallack, Phyllis Rosenzweig, Sandra Rottman, Leslie Scalapino, Margy Sloan, Rebecca Szekely, Mary Truitt, Rosmarie Waldrop, John Zorn, and others.	
b. 4, f. 82	1997	1997
	Letters to Mandel from Charles Alexander, Manuel Brito, Gaelyn Godwin, Kevin Killian, Karen Mac Cormack, Marjorie Perloff, Mark Prejsnar, Patrick Pritchett, Maria Irene Ramalho de Sousa Santos, Tom Raworth, Margy Sloan, and Susan Wheeler.	
b. 4, f. 83	1998	1998
	Letters to Mandel from Lyn Hejinian, Kevin Killian, and Leslie Scalapino.	
	There is also a letter from the French Red Cross about the transportation of Mandel's father's family to Auschwitz.	
b. 4, f. 84-85	Undated	undated
	Letters to Mandel from Don Adams, Charles Alexander, Bruce Andrews, Rae Armantrout, Paul Auster, Graca Copinha, Cid Corman, Mary Cuddihy, Dan Davidson, David Degener, William Dickey, Ben Friedlander, Susan Gevirtz, Maria Gitin, Peter Gizzi, Arlene Goldbard, Carla Harryman, Baxter Hathaway, Burt Hatlin, Lyn Hejinian, Tod Kabza, Thea Joselow, Phillip Lopate, Connell McGrath, Donna Mandel, Jessica Mandel, Todd Mandel, Harry Mathews, Cynthia Miller, Pat Nolan, Spencer Selby, Ron Silliman, Joey Simas, Tom Underberg, Barrett Watten, the <i>American Book Review</i> , and several unidentified authors.	
	Emails	1998-2022
	Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested.	
	Emails <i>1 Computer File (5.97 gigabytes)</i>	1998-2022
	Approximately 6 gigabytes of .mbox files represent Mandel's email archive with over 73,000 messages that document his literary work and relationships, presence as a technological entrepreneur in the 2000s, travels, genealogical history, and family life.	
	Related to his work as a technology entrepreneur and consultant, his email also documents his participation on social networks throughout the 2000s including Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, Vimeo, and Yahoo, as well as beta-testing of other experimental and ephemeral social platforms.	
	The more than 2,500 correspondents in his email archive include Mandel's literary peers, technology and business colleagues, literary and technology-based listserv participants, family, and friends. His most frequent literary correspondents include Rae Armantrout, Steve Benson, Alan Bernheimer, Arlene Goldbard, Carla Harryman, Lyn Hejinian, Beth Joselow, Ted Pearson, Bob Perelman, Kit Robinson, Ron Silliman, and Barrett Watten, Terrence	

Winch, along with a significant volume of correspondence related to the writing, editing, production, and administration of the collaboratively-written history of the Grand Piano reading series.

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## Series II: Drafts of Work, 1961-2022

Series II contains Tom Mandel's manuscript and typescript drafts of poetic works, including books *EncY* (1978), *Ready to Go* (1982), and *Prospect of Release* (1996), as well as drafts of his unpublished novel, *Permanent Wave*, which he worked on while in Paris, France, from 1968 to 1972. Another prose work from 1980, *Realism*, is presented as a side-stapled bookwork, dedicated to Lyn Hejinian and written under the pseudonym of "Oskar Poëllerman."

Also included are drafts of essays written by Mandel during his undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago, as well as drafts of opinion pieces published in the Bicentennial Arts Weekly.

Contains 998 computer files (1.74 gigabytes) of born-digital material by Tom Mandel organized into folders titled "Reference" and "Write," which comprise his working digital files from 1990 to 2022. These files comprise nearly 19,000 pages of material (in mostly Microsoft Word and PDF formats), and are primarily drafts of Mandel's work, as well as some correspondence drafts and reference material.

Files include more than 5,800 pages of drafts of *The Grand Piano*, Mandel's collective autobiography project, including drafts, proofs, and other production materials with works by Rae Armantrout, Carla Harryman, Lyn Hejinian, Kit Robinson, Ron Silliman, and other participants, which includes "track changes" in Microsoft Word documents with back-and-forth discussion on the project.

Folder titles assigned by Tom Mandel have been retained. Supplied titles for folders received without labels are in brackets.

Series II is arranged chronologically and alphabetically thereafter. Computer media is filed at the end of the series.

b. 5, f. 86	University of Chicago mid-60s	1961-1964
b. 5, f. 87	<i>Permanent Wave</i> 1968-72	1968-1972
b. 5, f. 88	Early work 1968-75	1968-1975
b. 5, f. 89	The Red Desk	circa 1970-1975
b. 5, f. 90	Like a Hunted Mammal	1972-1973
b. 5, f. 91	["Improvisation One," "Two Sketches of a Painter," and "A Dodge at Dawn"]	circa 1975
b. 5, f. 92	[Bicentennial Arts Weekly drafts]	circa 1975
b. 5, f. 93	<i>EncY</i>	1977
b. 5, f. 94	"Encyclopedia"	1977
b. 5, f. 95	5/23/78 Perf.	1977-1978
b. 5, f. 96	A Rival Skill - drafts	circa 1977
b. 5, f. 97	[Poetry Center Newsletter]	1979 March
b. 5, f. 98	[Miscellaneous poems]	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 99	(Paris)	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 100	Poems /mid-70s	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 101	Unfinished, noted, miscellany	circa 1970s

b. 6, f. 102	X-Rains	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 103	Manuscript material Untitled Devices followed by Background Noise 10/80 Drafts of a work combining prose fiction called "Background Noise" with early poems. The project was titled "Untitled Devices" but was not completed.	1980 October
b. 6, f. 104	Untitled Devices + Background Noise	1980
b. 6, f. 105	Manuscript material, <i>Ready to Go</i>	circa 1980
b. 6, f. 106	Typescript: <i>Ready to Go</i>	circa 1980
b. 6, f. 107	[ <i>Ready to Go</i> ]	circa 1980
b. 6, f. 108	<i>Realism?</i>	1981 July
b. 6, f. 109	'81 travels (Europe)	1981
b. 6, f. 110	S/Z: Drafts & Copies 8/15-8/19/82	1982
b. 6, f. 111	[SEMAHOT]	1990 June 6
b. 6, f. 112	[August Sonnets]	1990
b. 6, f. 113	Gleize-Boyer-Risset translations Drafts of translations of French poets, for publication by Rosmarie Waldrop. Also included are reference photocopies of pages of the book from which Mandel was translating.	1990
b. 6, f. 114	Release (drafts)	1990
b. 6, f. 115	[Miscellaneous poems and prose] Typescript drafts of poems typed on the back of broadsides by Mandel and Carol Nast. Also includes manuscript and typescript drafts of poems not clearly grouped within manuscripts, as well as poems faxed by Mandel to himself, and a photocopied typescript of prose with Mandel's recommendations for how to spend time in Paris.	1991, undated
b. 7, f. 116	[Bright Blue Eyes]	1992 November 1
b. 7, f. 117	Ancestral	1995
b. 7, f. 118	Principal Spokesman drafts	1992
b. 7, f. 119	Prospect - proofs	circa 1996
b. 7, f. 120	21 Sonnets Part of an uncompleted project, "21 Sonnets," a retranslation into English of Paul Celan's 21 sonnets of Shakespeare.	undated
b. 7, f. 121	[Communication Through Hints]	undated
b. 7, f. 122	Essay on Shakespeare: Anthony & Cleopatra	undated
b. 7, f. 123	Fist of the Colossus	undated
b. 7, f. 124	Galley of Pictura Poesis	undated

b. 7, f. 125	<p>"Hiob und sein spaetgeborener sohn"</p> <p>Poem written by Mandel's grandfather, Julius Kässner (born 1866), in 1902 in German, along with drafts of poems by Mandel related to Kässner's poetry. Included is Kässner's passport from Austria.</p>	undated
b. 7, f. 126	[Permafrost]	undated
b. 7, f. 127	Politics & poetry	undated
b. 7, f. 128	Some Appearance	undated
b. 7, f. 129	Voloshinov	undated
b. 7, f. 130	Why I Don't Write for LANGUAGE or What I Would Have Written for LANGUAGE	undated
b. 7, f. 131	<p>Writing materials</p> <p>Draft of "The First Levite," which Mandel later included in a different poem.</p>	undated
	<p>Documents</p> <p>998 Computer Files (1.74 gigabytes)</p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p> <p>Computer media was processed and transferred by Tom Mandel to Granary Books, Inc. In 2023, computer media was transferred to the Yale University Digital Accessioning Support Service (DASS) via Box Drive.</p>	1990-2022
	<p>Reference</p> <p>41 Computer Files (29.8 megabytes)</p> <p>Formats include Microsoft Office documents in .doc and .docx formats, as well as documents in PDF format.</p> <p>The majority of these digital files are reference materials kept by Mandel related to translation, such as translated works of Fernando Pessoa, as well as related to Mandel's interest in philosophy, such as an essay by Emmanuel Levinas. Reference materials on topics contemporary to the 2010s are present and include an essay by Roger Berkowitz titled "Why Arendt Matters: Revisiting 'The Origins of Totalitarianism'" (2017) and an essay from <i>New Yorker</i> writer Isaac Chotiner on Donald Trump's approach to the Coronavirus (2020).</p> <p>Files also include drafts of work by Mandel, some poetic, such as poems written for his wife Beth Joselow, but many in prose, such as drafts of letters to poet Barrett Watten relating to a 2019 report in <i>The Chronicle of Higher Education</i> concerning Watten at Wayne State University.</p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p> <p>Files are in original order in a single folder and titled by Mandel. All files were in a directory titled "Reference."</p>	2011-2022
	<p>Write</p> <p>957 Computer Files (1.71 gigabytes)</p> <p>Formats include Microsoft Office documents in .doc, .docx, .txt, .rtf and .xls formats, as well as documents in PDF and WordPerfect format.</p> <p>The bulk of these digital files are drafts of works, including published and unpublished poems and projects, from the 1990s through 2022, with the bulk</p>	1990-2022

approximately 2000 onward. Many files were in the process of editing by Mandel at the time of acquisition.

Files include work for publications *Absence Sensorium* (1997), *Ancestral Cave* (1997), *Central Europe* (1985), *To the Cognoscenti* (2006), *EncY* (1978), *Erat* (1981), *Four Strange Books* (1990), *Letter to Poetry* (2022), *Letters of the Law* (1944), *Prospect of Release* (1996), *Ready to Go* (1981), *Realism* (1991), *Some Appearances* (1987), and *Some Epigrams of Palladas* (2011), as well as *The Grand Piano* parts 8, 9, and 10 (2009-2010).

Folders titled "An archive of writings," "A Hindered Hand," "simple syrup," and "Untiled Urn" contain additional drafts of works by Mandel, as well as folders titled "to organize," "Translations," and "use."

A folder of correspondence includes email and letter drafts from the 1990s with correspondents including Bruce Andrews, Lyn Hejinian, Joan Retallack, Leslie Scalapino, John Zorn, and others.

Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Files are in original order, with some grouped into project folders with titles by Mandel. All files were in a directory titled "Write."

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**Series III: Journals, 1964-1994**

Series III contains 14 journals that document Tom Mandel's travels, friendships, and writings. Journals chiefly contain prose, poems, and addresses.

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 8, f. 132	1964 Contains Mandel's notes on dialectics.	1964
b. 8, f. 133	1973 Contains a conversation Mandel had with Erich Leinsdorf about Thaddeus Poëller (Mandel's biological father).	1973
b. 8, f. 134	1979-1990	1979-1990
b. 8, f. 135	1980 Contains entries documenting Mandel's transcontinental drive across the United States.	1980
b. 8, f. 136	1981-1983	1981-1983
b. 8, f. 137	1982-1985	1982-1985
b. 8, f. 138	1986-1988	1986-1988
b. 8, f. 139	1990-1991	1990-1991
b. 8, f. 140	1994	1994
b. 8, f. 141	Undated	undated
b. 8, f. 142	Undated	undated
b. 9, f. 143	Undated	undated
b. 9, f. 144	Undated	undated



## Series IV: Ephemera and Photographs, 1966-1993

Series IV contains material documenting the activities of the Grand Piano reading series, with appearances from poets including Kathy Acker, Phillip Lopate, and Steve McCaffery. Included are flyers, gallery announcements, and postcards announcing works and appearances by Tom Mandel, Etel Adnan, Alan Bernheimer, Abigail Child, Peter Ganick, Lyn Hejinian, Beth Joselow, Hank Lazer, Michael Palmer, and Ron Silliman, as well as CHAX Press, the Grand Piano, Hot Bird Mfg. Co., *MIAM*, Moving Letters Press, and the Poets Theater.

Photographs are of Mandel, family and friends, and other individuals. Steve Beson, Lyn Hejinian, and Ron Silliman are among those depicted.

Also present are photographs of African American families at the 57th Beach in Chicago, Illinois, ahead of the Chicago Freedom March; the Anti-War movement; and jazz musician Jackie McLean.

Photographs are chiefly contact sheets and negatives.

Series IV is arranged by format and chronologically thereafter.

b. 10, f. 145-148	Ephemera	1979-1993, undated
b. 10, f. 149	Photographs	1966 March 3
b. 10, f. 150	Photographs	1966 March 3; 1967 March 6
b. 10, f. 151	Photographs	1966 July 4
b. 10, f. 152	Photographs	1966 December 30
b. 10, f. 153-154	Photographs	1966
b. 10, f. 155	Photographs	1966-1967
b. 10, f. 156	Photographs	1967 February-1968 December
b. 10, f. 157	Photographs	1967 March 6
b. 10, f. 158	Photographs	1967 May 22-29
b. 10, f. 159	Photographs	1967 July 5
b. 10, f. 160	Photographs	1967 August 14
b. 10, f. 161	Photographs	1967 September 25
b. 10, f. 162	Photographs	1967 October 31
b. 10, f. 163	Photographs	1967
b. 11, f. 164	Photographs	1968 June 4
b. 11, f. 165	Photographs	circa 1970s

b. 11, f. 166	Photographs	circa 1977
b. 11, f. 167-169	Photographs	undated
b. 11, f. 170	Negatives	undated

## Series V: Research and Administrative Files, 1964-1993

Series V contains Tom Mandel's research and administrative files, which document his interests ranging from Jewish theology to Shakespeare to studies of Paul Celan's verse.

Included is documentation from his time as a student at the University of Chicago. This material correlates to several instances of outgoing correspondence as Mandel explored the possibility of returning to complete his doctoral work at the school's John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought.

Also present is Mandel's thesis proposal, "Chant & Change: Rabbinic Commentary as Poetics," which contains his manuscript corrections, along with several essays from his bachelor's program

Other material includes a contract with Sun & Moon Press for *Letters of the Law*, research materials related to Mandel's interest in Paul Celan, and Mandel's notes on Victor Serge and his book *Men in Prison*, as well as other assorted notes related to Russian poetry and general poetics.

See also: [Reference](#).

Folder titles assigned by Tom Mandel have been retained. Supplied titles for folders received without labels are in brackets.

Series V is arranged chronologically and alphabetically thereafter.

b. 12, f. 171	[French 101-2-3]	1964
b. 12, f. 172	Miscellaneous Photocopies of essay "Non-Euclidean Narrative Combustion" by Joan Retallack, made by Retallack for Mandel, and short plays by Jean Cocteau.	1991
b. 12, f. 173	University of Chicago, '91	circa 1991
b. 12, f. 174	[Notes on the Talmud]	1992
b. 12, f. 175	Sun & Moon contract	1993
b. 12, f. 176	Celan	undated
b. 12, f. 177	Celan on Mandelstam	undated
b. 12, f. 178	Criticism (Bakhtin, Todorov, et. al.)	undated
b. 12, f. 179	Jewish theology	undated
b. 12, f. 180	José Faur	undated
b. 12, f. 181	Notes from reading: Our actions pass within us	undated
b. 12, f. 182	Picabia Unique Eunuque	undated

**Series VI: Works by Others, 1977-circa 1990s**

Series VI contains manuscript and typescript works by others.

Complete list of contributors of works by others includes: Don Adams, Charles Alexander, Rae Armantrout, Saul Bellow, Steve Carll, Abigail Child, Norma Cole, Daniel Davidson, Alan Davies, David Degener, Kathleen Fraser, Paul Friedrich, Peter Ganick, Arlene Goldbard, Jessica Grim, Carla Harryman, Katherine N. Hayles, Lyn Hejinian, David Highsmith, Kevin Killian, Hank Lazar, Joseph Lease, Eva Levitan, Colleen Lookingbill, Carmen Lupton, Mary Margaret Sloan, Sandra Meyer, Peter Middleton, A.L. Nielsen, Ted Pearson, Thaddeus Poëller, Stephen Rodefer, Marianna Sauber (Benezet), Spencer Selby, Ron Silliman, Rod Smith, Cheng Tcheng, George Tsongas, Stephen Vincent, Terence Winch, and several instances of authors whose identifying information is not present.

See also: [Reference](#).

Folder titles assigned by Tom Mandel have been retained. Supplied titles for folders received without labels are in brackets.

Lists of contents were created by Granary Books, Inc.

Series VI is arranged chronologically and alphabetically thereafter.

b. 13, f. 183	TCHENG Prose works, poems, and notes in Chinese and English given to Mandel in the Spring of 1973 by his teacher, Cheng Tcheng, in Paris, France.	1973
b. 13, f. 184	<i>MIAM</i> #1 - COPY Typescripts of "Safety," Stephen Rodefer's work published in <i>MIAM</i> no. 1 with manuscript notes, along with photocopied pages from a text on Ancient Greece used by Rodefer for reference and to illustrate <i>MIAM</i> no. 1.	1977
b. 13, f. 185	<i>MIAM</i> 2 - COPY Typescripts of poems by David Degener based on works by Mallarmé, with manuscript annotations, for publication in <i>MIAM</i> no. 2, along with photocopied reference material.	1977
b. 13, f. 186	[Works by others] Includes printed typescript of Craig Dworkin's "The Pine-Woods Notebook"; signed printed typescript of Barrett Watten's poem "Plan B"; photocopied typescript of "The Horizon" by Ron Silliman; printed typescript of "Anomie" by Daniel Davidson, inscribed to Mandel; and photocopied typescript of "Strett" by Ben Friedlander with manuscript corrections.  Also includes typescript of "An Impression of Its Wedge" by Bruce Andrews, inscribed to Mandel; typescript of untitled prose by Michael Amnasan; photocopied typescript of poem "Close Up" by Keith Shen, inscribed to Mandel and housed in envelope stamped "Election Day"; photocopied typescript with prose by Ron Padgett, "Dream of 8/22/83"; and several photocopied typescript drafts by unidentified authors.	1983, undated
b. 13, f. 187	Others - 87-92? Includes printed typescript by "Terrel" [Hale], signed; printed typescript by Peter Middleton with note by Middleton to Mandel attached; <i>Furnitures</i> no. 9, sent to Mandel by editor Mark Nowak with an autograph letter, signed, by Nowak attached; printed typescript of poems by Carmen Lupton with an autograph letter, signed, attached; and printed typescript of poems by Daniel Davidson.	1987-1992

b. 13, f. 188	<p>[Works/documents by others]</p> <p>1989-1993</p> <p>Includes printed typescript of poetry by Kim Rosenfield including a typescript letter, signed, and photocopied collage; photocopied typescript draft of poem by A.L. Nielsen, signed; printed typescript draft of memoir by Arlene Goldbard identified on back page as "Peachy" in an autograph letter, signed, to Goldbard from Mandel; typescript manuscript of essay by Carla Harryman; and photocopied poem by George Tsongas with an autograph letter from unidentified sender.</p> <p>Also includes printed typescript of sonnets by an unidentified poet; photocopied typescript draft of essay by Kathleen Fraser, an autograph letter, signed, on title page, and autograph letter, signed, stapled to title page; photocopied typescript draft of an essay by Abigail Child with a typescript letter, signed, attached; photocopied typescript draft of work by David Highsmith; photocopied typescript of an essay by Kathleen Fraser; and photocopied typescript drafts of poems by unidentified poets.</p>
b. 13, f. 189	<p>Essay(s)</p> <p>circa 1990s</p> <p>Essays on Mandel's works by others. Includes typescript for two unattributed essays, "Part &amp; Heart Hold Concert of a World" and "In Syntagmatic Opposition to God"; printed typescript of review for "Four Strange Books" and "Realism" for Gaz Press, unattributed; and photocopy of a review by A.L. Nielsen in the "Washington Review," photocopied by Rosmarie Waldrop and sent to Mandel with manuscript note from Waldrop on the reverse.</p>
b. 13, f. 190-191	<p>[Works by others]</p> <p>circa 1990s</p> <p>Includes printed typescript, signed, from Charles Alexander's "Balboa"; printed typescript of an essay by N. Katherine Hayles with autograph annotations by Mandel; three-part printed typescript excerpt of Arlene Goldbard's memoir with autograph letter, signed, attached; photocopy of essay by Mariana Sauber (Benizet) with highlighting by Mandel; and printed card for Mandel by Stephen Vincent and signed by Vincent.</p> <p>Also includes printed typescript of Mary Margaret Sloan's "Vernacular Remnants"; photocopied drafts of poems by Kathleen Fraser with manuscript summary on back; printed typescript of poem by Steve Vincent signed by Vincent on final page; several typescript poems by unidentified authors, and printed typescript by Carla Harryman for viewing of Warren Sonbert films at San Francisco Cinematheque, June 1995.</p> <p>Also present are unidentified typescript of poem "LONG LINES for T.M."; unidentified typescript of "POEM"; printed typescript manuscript for Joseph Lease book <i>Human Rights</i>, sent to Mandel with printed typescript letter; and printed typescript poem "#2/Oppositions" by Stephen Vincent, signed by Vincent.</p>

b. 14, f. 192-193	<p>[Works by others]</p> <p>Includes printed typescript of <i>Deathwatch for My Father</i> by Charles Lazer, with cover inscription to Mandel from Lazer; printed typescript of "Berlin Poems" by Eva Levitan; photocopied typescript of "If It Were Christa Wolf," an essay by Norma Cole; printed typescript manuscript of poems by Rod Smith and Gretchen Smith; and printed typescript review of Norma Cole's translation of Danielle Collobert's <i>It then</i>, by Daniel Davidson.</p> <p>Also includes printed typescript of poems by Colleen Lookingbill sent to Mandel by Daniel Davidson with typescript letter, signed, from Davidson included; photocopied typescript of unattributed poetry manuscript "The Reading Seas"; and photocopied typescript draft of "Partial Local Coherence" by Kathleen Fraser with autograph letter, signed, to Mandel on front page and her manuscript corrections photocopied throughout.</p> <p>Also present is typescript manuscript of poems by Sandra Meyer and Alan Davies; photocopied typescript manuscript of Ron Silliman's "Red Branch;" typescript poem by unidentified poet; and printed and bound typescript draft of Daniel Davidson's <i>Culture</i>.</p>	circa 1990s
b. 14, f. 194	<p>4 Poems by Rae A.</p> <p>Three typescript drafts of poems by Rae Armantrout.</p>	undated
b. 14, f. 195	<p>David Degener's pieces</p> <p>Includes photocopied typescript of an untitled essay about the post office; photocopied typescript of "The Eyes of Laura Mars;" photocopied typescript of a proposal for a collection of the music and dance reviews of Theophile Gautier with manuscript corrections throughout; a copy of <i>Kinopraxis</i> no. 0; newspaper clipping film reviews; photocopied typescript letter from Degener to Harry Mathews; typescript letter from Degener to Bill Berkson; and two typescript poems.</p>	undated
b. 14, f. 196	<p>[Lyn Hejinian]</p> <p>Typescript and photocopied typescript drafts of prose and poetic works by Lyn Hejinian, with notes from Hejinian to Mandel.</p>	undated
b. 14, f. 197	<p>[Thaddeus Poëller]</p> <p>Story written by Mandel's father.</p>	undated
b. 14, f. 198	<p>[Writing by/about Mandel]</p> <p>Includes printed typescript blurb by Ron Silliman for <i>Prospect of Release</i>; printed typescript review of <i>Letters of the Law</i>; original artwork, sketches, and manuscript text by David Degener for unrealized co-publication project Train Station; printed typescript for wedding ceremony; autograph poem in French; newspaper clippings with articles by Mandel on the politics of art; and proof for a broadside of Mandel's poem "Left of the Flood".</p>	undated

b. 14, f. 199-200 [Works by others] undated

Includes photocopied typescript of "Wittgensteiniana" by Charles Bernstein; typescript letter from David Bedell with photocopied typescript poems; photocopied typescript manuscript by Larry Eigner possibly titled "Just the indentings came;" typescript manuscript for "The Careens," poems by David Gitin, inscribed to Mandel; and photocopied booklet of poetry titled "return ticket: for Rae Armantrout" with contributors including Lyn Hejinian, Bob Perelman, Barrett Watten, Carla Harryman, and Mandel, among others.

Also includes photocopied typescript of "Sunset Debris" by Ron Silliman with inscription from Silliman to "Stephen"; photocopied typescript of "Disappearance of the Word, Appearance of the Word" by Ron Silliman; printed typescript of "Poetics = Ways of Making," a lecture given by Jackson Mac Low with autograph notations and letter from Mandel on the back to Mac Low; and several unattributed manuscripts including photocopied typescript of a play titled "Creative Floors," printed typescript titled "Notes Written While Reading E(manual) L(evinas)" and inscribed to Mandel.

Also present are photocopied typescript essay titled "Protection," photocopied printed typescript of prose and poetry in French, and photocopied review of Walter Benjamin's essay "Kleine Geschichte der Photographie."

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## 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 poetry -- 20th Century  
American poetry -- 21st century  
Poets, American -- 20th Century  
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Poets, American -- 21st century  
Poets, American -- 21st century -- Archives

### Occupations

Poets -- United States -- 20th Century  
Poets -- United States -- 21st century

### Genres / Formats

Born digital  
Contact sheets  
Electronic documents  
Electronic mail  
Negatives  
Photographs

### Names

Bernstein, Charles, 1950-  
Degener, David C.  
Hejinian, Lyn  
Joselow, Beth  
Padgett, Ron, 1942-  
Pearson, Ted  
Robinson, Kit, 1949-  
Silliman, Ronald, 1946-  
Watten, Barrett

### Acquired From

Granary Books, Inc.