

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# **Guide to the National Book Critics Circle Records**

**YCAL MSS 878**



by Alison Clemens

2014

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

---

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Collection Overview .....                      | 3  |
| Requesting Instructions .....                  | 3  |
| Administrative Information .....               | 3  |
| Conditions Governing Access .....              | 3  |
| Conditions Governing Use .....                 | 3  |
| Preferred Citation .....                       | 4  |
| Processing Information .....                   | 4  |
| Biographical / Historical .....                | 4  |
| Scope and Contents .....                       | 4  |
| Arrangement .....                              | 4  |
| Collection Contents .....                      | 5  |
| 1: August 1992 Acquisition, 1975-1992 .....    | 5  |
| 2: September 1993 Acquisition, 1991-1993 ..... | 7  |
| 3: March 1994 Acquisition, 1987-1994 .....     | 8  |
| 4: May 1994 Acquisition, 1980-1999 .....       | 9  |
| Selected Search Terms .....                    | 10 |

---

## 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 878

**CREATOR:** National Book Critics Circle

**TITLE:** National Book Critics Circle Records

**DATES:** 1975–1999

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.42 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, meeting minutes, financial papers, membership records, and printed material relating to the National Book Critics Circle. The National Book Critics Circle Awards deliberations and programs are especially well documented.

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

---

## 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.bookcritics>.

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

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The National Book Critics Circle Records 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

National Book Critics Circle Records. 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 in 2014, including rehousing and minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, identified by a unique call number and titled according to month and year of acquisition.

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 the call numbers Uncat ZA MS 264, Uncat ZA MS 387, and Uncat ZA MS 392

---

## Biographical / Historical

The National Book Critics Circle (NBCC), founded 1974, is the professional association of American book review editors and critics. The NBCC presents the National Book Critics Circle Awards yearly. Individuals involved in the NBCC include Herbert Leibowitz, Nina King, and Jack Miles.

---

## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, meeting minutes, financial papers, membership records, and printed material relating to the National Book Critics Circle. The National Book Critics Circle Awards deliberations and programs are especially well documented.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into four groupings: August 1992 Acquisition, September 1993 Acquisition, March 1994 Acquisition, and May 1994 Acquisition.

---

## Collection Contents

### 1: August 1992 Acquisition, 1975–1992

2 linear feet (2 boxes)

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 264

This portion of the collection is not arranged in any particular order.

|     |  |                   |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| b.1 | <i>National Book Critics Circle Journal</i> volumes 1-16<br>6 Folders    | 1975–1991         |
| b.1 | <i>National Book Critics Circle Journal</i> assorted volumes             | 1990, 1992        |
| b.1 | <i>National Book Critics Circle Journal</i> correspondence               | 1986–1990         |
| b.1 | Awards meeting   | 1987 January 12   |
| b.1 | Board meeting  | 1987 March 16     |
| b.1 | Meetings   | 1988–1989         |
| b.1 | Board meeting  | 1989 March 10     |
| b.1 | Board meeting  | 1989 September 29 |
| b.1 | Nominations meeting  | 1990 January 8    |
| b.1 | Awards meeting   | 1990 February 12  |
| b.1 | Annual meeting and awards ceremony                                       | 1990 March 8      |
| b.1 | Membership directory   | 1984–1990         |
| b.1 | Toni Morrison brouhaha   | 1988–1988         |
| b.1 | Reviewer's citation  | 1984–1984         |
| b.1 | Reviewer's citation  | 1985–1985         |
| b.1 | Citation finalists   | 1986–1986         |
| b.1 | Citation finalists   | 1987–1987         |
| b.1 | Publicity clippings  | 1985–1990         |
| b.1 | Treasurer's reports and assorted, Larry Swindell and Eliot Fremont-Smith | 1984–1990         |
| b.1 | Conarroe and Times exchange  | 1989–1990         |
| b.1 | Stickers   | 1990–1990         |
| b.1 | Scrolls  | 1985–1990         |
| b.2 | Los Angeles Times issues   | 1991–1992         |
| b.2 | Board correspondence   | 1984–1986         |

|     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| b.2 | Awards correspondence                               | 1985-1990 |
| b.2 | Awards  | 1986-1987 |
| b.2 | Board meeting minutes                               | 1984-1986 |
| b.2 | Council of Writers Organizations                    | 1984-1986 |
| b.2 | Invitation to join the National Book Critics Circle | undated   |
| b.2 | Journal correspondence                              | 1984-1986 |
| b.2 | Insurance for members                               | 1985-1986 |
| b.2 | Awards ceremonies                                   | 1984-1985 |
| b.2 | New-York Historical Society                         | 1984-1985 |
| b.2 | Presidential election                               | 1986-1986 |
| b.2 | Ethics survey                                       | 1987-1987 |
| b.2 | Bylaws  | 1984-1984 |
| b.2 | Awards lists  | 1985-1987 |
| b.2 | Presidential letters                                | 1990-1992 |
| b.2 | Letters to the president                            | 1990-1992 |
| b.2 | Correspondence over incident involving Tom Disch    | 1991-1991 |
| b.2 | Jack Miles memos to the board                       | 1990-1992 |
| b.2 | Board elections, candidates, and resignations       | 1984-1989 |
| b.2 | Nina King and presidential correspondence           | 1986-1990 |

## 2: September 1993 Acquisition, 1991–1993

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 264

This portion of the collection is arranged alphabetically by file title.

|     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| b.3 | Election ballots for the board, reviewer's citation, and best books | 1991–1991 |
| b.3 | Organizational history  | 1992–1993 |
| b.3 | Reviewer's citation   | 1991–1991 |

**3: March 1994 Acquisition, 1987–1994***1 linear foot (1 box)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 387

This portion of the collection is not arranged in any particular order.

|      |   |                 |
|------|---|-----------------|
| b. 4 | Awards  | 1991–1991       |
| b. 4 | Winners   | 1992–1992       |
| b. 4 | Board award   | 1988–1990       |
| b. 4 | Printing for the National Book Critics Circle Journal           | 1991–1991       |
| b. 4 | David Lehman  | 1989–1991       |
| b. 4 | Reviewer's citation   | 1988–1992       |
| b. 4 | Herb Leibowitz presidential columns                             | 1992–1993       |
| b. 4 | Membership  | 1987–1994       |
| b. 4 | Catering and venues   | 1991–1994       |
| b. 4 | Awards ceremony   | 1993–1993       |
| b. 4 | Memos   | 1988–1993       |
| b. 4 | Dan Moldea affair   | 1992–1993       |
| b. 4 | Jack Miles  | 1991–1992       |
| b. 4 | Harriet Blacker   | 1993–1993       |
| b. 4 | Deborah Zaik charges against Jack Marshall                      |                 |
| b. 4 | Correspondence  | 1991–1993       |
| b. 4 | Alan Ryan   | 1992–1994       |
| b. 4 | Josh Rubins   | 1992–1993       |
| b. 4 | Board correspondence  | 1992–1994       |
| b. 4 | Miscellaneous to do   | undated         |
| b. 4 | Meeting agenda  | 1994 January 14 |
| b. 4 | Afternoon forum   | 1994–1994       |
| b. 4 | Nona Balakian reviewer's citation entries not chosen for finals | 1993–1993       |
| b. 4 | Publicity   | 1993–1993       |



**4: May 1994 Acquisition, 1980–1999***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 392

This portion of the collection is arranged alphabetically by file title.

|      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| b. 5 | Awards<br><i>5 Folders</i>                     | 1986–1991 |
| b. 5 | Awards nominees                                | 1992–1992 |
| b. 5 | Ethics survey                                  | 1988–1988 |
| b. 5 | Press releases                                 | 1980–1989 |
| b. 5 | Programs                                       | 1992–1992 |
| b. 5 | Publicity<br><i>2 Folders</i>                  | 1981–1990 |
| b. 5 | “Writers of the Future” award panel discussion | 1987–1999 |

## **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  
Critics -- United States  
Editors -- United States  
Literary prizes -- United States

### **Occupations**

Critics -- United States -- 20th Century  
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

King, Nina, 1941-2010  
Leibowitz, Herbert A.  
Miles, Jack, 1942-

### **Corporate Body**

National Book Critics Circle