Bukowski, Charles.

"The Life of a Bum": short story typescript
1985 March 18

Abstract: This typescript of 20th-century American poet and writer Charles Bukowski's (1920-1994) short story "The Life of a Bum" bears extensive revisions in Bukowski's hand as well as minor editor's marks.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F307
Creator: Bukowski, Charles.
Title: "The Life of a Bum": short story typescript
Inclusive Dates: 1985 March 18
Extent: 1 item (16 p.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

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Biographical Note

Charles Bukowski (1920-1994) was a 20th-century American poet and author known for his overtly masculine themes of drinking, gambling, and womanizing, and his concise, blunt writing style that carried through several novels, short story collections, and poetry collections.

Bukowski was born in Germany and immigrated to Los Angeles with his family in 1922. In 1939, Bukowski began attending Los Angeles City College, but dropped out and moved to New York to be a writer. After having little success, Bukowski gave up his dream and embarked on a ten-year, nearly fatal alcohol binge. After being hospitalized for an ulcer, Bukowski cut back on drinking and took up writing again. His first collection of poetry, *Flower, Fist and Bestial Wall*, was published in 1960.

Bukowski also wrote a weekly column for the Los Angeles alternative newspaper *Open City* and later for the Los Angeles *Free Press* in which he combined journalism, fiction, and philosophy in a non-traditional style. During the 1970s Bukowski began writing semi-autobiographical novels featuring the first-person narrator Henry Chinaski. Over the course of his career, Bukowski published many collections of poetry and short stories and he earned a National Endowment for the Arts Grant (1974), a Loujon Press Award, a Silver Reel Award, and the San Francisco Festival of the Arts Prize for documentary film.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note


The typescript bears extensive autographed revisions by Bukowski in pen, correcting word choice and editing for cohesion and concision. Editor marks are in red and include minor formatting changes. Signed and dated with Bukowski's doodle of a man smoking and a bottle, possibly a self-portrait.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Bukowski, Charles.

Topical Terms

Authors, American--20th century--Fiction.

Form/Genre Terms

Manuscripts.

Short Stories.

Occupation

Authors.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 099, F758, Charles Bukowski poems and letter

MSS 099, F308, "Action": short story typescript
Detailed Description of the Collection

"The Life of a Bum": short story typescript, 1985 March 18 [Box 16 F307]

1 item (16 p.)