
John Wieners holograph poetry notebook
1962-1965

Abstract: This holograph poetry notebook was kept by twentieth-century American poet and activist John Wieners (1934-2002), who was associated with the Beat movement and the Black Mountain School. The notebook contains several unpublished poems as well as prose writings and lists kept between 1962 and 1965.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F0479
Title: John Wieners holograph poetry notebook
Inclusive Dates: 1962-1965
Extent: 1 volume (26 p.) ; (26 x 20.5 cm.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F479, John Wieners holograph poetry notebook, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 28, F479: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes.

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Biographical Note

American poet John Wieners (1934-2002) is identified with both the Black Mountain School as well as the Beats. His poetry contains themes of drug abuse and mental illness, as well as a concern for women's rights, gay rights, and other social issues.

Sources:


This holograph poetry notebook was kept by twentieth-century American poet and activist John Wieners (1934-2002), who was associated with the Beat movement and the Black Mountain School. The notebook contains several unpublished poems as well as prose writings and lists kept between 1962 and 1965. During this time, Wieners was living in New York City with American Beat poet Herbert Huncke (1915-1996) until 1963, when he moved back to live with his parents in Boston until 1965.


"The Magic of this Summer" appeared in Selected Poems (1972) dated June 23, 1963, but the version in the present notebook bears little resemblance to the published piece. The remaining poems appear to be unpublished work.

The notebook also contains two lists: one Wieners titled "My Friends" and another "Names of participants and audience at reading." The list of friends contains almost exclusively names of women including, among others, people known from work at "Howard, Micro. Photography, and Jordan's," "the girls of Poet's Theatre" and "the female poets." The list includes American poets May Sarton (1912-1995), May Swenson (1913-1989), and Jean Garrigue (1914-1972).

"Diary of a Breakdown" is prose writing or a prose poem, as is another, untitled work on the same page as the beginning of the "My Friends" list. This work mentions Charles Olson, Wieners's mentor and teacher at the Black Mountain School whom he met in 1954 and an essay by Olson titled "Against Wisdom as Such." Also mentioned are Herbert Huncke and "Cisco," perhaps a shortened version of San Francisco, a major center of the Beat movement in the mid-to-late 1950s and home to Wieners from 1958-1960.

All of the writings contain extensive editing and some marginalia.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names


Topical Terms

Poets, American--History--20th century.

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

Beat generation--New York (State)--New York.

Beat generation--Poetry.

Geographic Names

Boston (Mass.)

New York (New York)

Form/Genre Terms

Notebooks.

Poems.

Lists (document genres)

Occupation

Poets.

Related Materials in this Repository

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

MSS 138, John Wieners papers

MSS 555, Robert A. Wilson John Wieners collection

MSS 626, David Haselwood John Wieners publisher's files for The Hotel Wentley Poems
Detailed Description of the Collection

John Wieners holograph poetry notebook, 1962-1965 [Box 28 F479]

1 vol.