Eigner, Larry, 1927-

Larry Eigner letters and poems
1960-1978
(bulk dates 1973-1976)

Abstract: One typed card, one typed letter, and fifteen typed poems written by American poet Larry Eigner.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F824
Creator: Eigner, Larry, 1927-
Title: Larry Eigner letters and poems
Inclusive Dates: 1960-1978
Bulk Dates: 1973-1976
Extent: 32 items (27 pp.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F824, Larry Eigner letters and poems, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 55, F824: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

Source: Purchase, April 2008 and Gift, November 2010.
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Biographical Note

American poet Larry Eigner (Laurence Joel Eigner) was born August 7, 1927 in Lynn, Massachusetts. Although an injury at birth left Eigner palsied, the poet and writer spent his life describing the world around him, first from his glassed-in porch in a small town in Massachusetts and later from his home in Berkeley, California. Although most of his published work is poetry, he has also written a play, short stories and prose.

Sources:

Scope and Content Note

A small collection of typed material written by American poet Larry Eigner. Includes two typed postcards written by Larry Eigner to Leroi Jones (later known as Amiri Baraka) and Robert Hawley, three typed letters written by Eigner to David and Maria Gitin, and ten leaves of typescript numbered poems. Most sheets have multiple poems either on the recto or on the verso, with a total of twenty-four poems. Some poems bear the same number but vary in content and date.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Baraka, Imamu Amiri, 1934-

Gitin, David.

Gitin, Maria.

Hawley, Robert, 1929-

Topical Terms

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

American Poetry--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Letters (correspondence)

Manuscripts.

Poems.

Occupation

Poets.
Arrangement

The letters are in chronological order, followed by the poems in order as numbered.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Larry Eigner postcard to Leroi Jones, 1960 January 29 [Box 55 F824]
1 item (1 leaf)
One typed postcard written by Eigner to poet Leroi Jones regarding "Projective Verse."

Larry Eigner letter to David and Maria Gitin, 1973 February 23 [Box 55 F824]
1 item (3 leaves)
One typed letter written by Eigner to David and Maria Gitin regarding Gitin's book "Guitar Against the Wall," which he is reading, mentions other poets, poetry readings he has attended, putting together a manuscript of his work for John Martin, and concludes with a brief poem #761 (dated Feb 5, 1973).

Larry Eigner letter to David and Maria Gitin, 1974 January 29 [Box 55 F824]
1 item (2 leaves, with envelope)
One typed letter written by Eigner to David and Maria Gitin regarding books he's received, work he's sent out to various periodicals or persons, and what he's reading, and his return from Missouri, includes envelope. Typescript poems #830 to #836 were probably enclosed in this letter.

#830, 1973 December 30 [Box 55 F824]
1 item (1 leaf)
Eigner's typescript poem, "#830" (first line: "cable-car's"). This poem is on the same page with "#831" (First line: "change").

#831, 1974 January 11-14 [Box 55 F824]
1 item (1 leaf)
Eigner's typescript poem, "#831" (first line: "change"). This poem is on the same page with "#830" (First line: "cable-car's").

#832, 1974 January 17-20 [Box 55 F824]
1 item (1 leaf)
Eigner's typescript poem, "#832" (first line: "the pot of society"). This poem is on the same page with "#833" (First line: "Listen the ice sparkles").

#833, 1974 January 18-20 [Box 55 F824]
Eigner's typescript poem, "#833" (first line: "Listen the ice sparkles"). This poem is on the same page with "#832" (First line: "the pot of society").

#834, 1974 January 26 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#834" (first line: "chamber-pot"). This poem is on the same page with "#835" (first line: "how does the clock strike") and "#836" (first line: "gleaming bands around the chimney").

#835, 1974 January 26 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#835" (first line: "how does the clock strike"). This poem is on the same page with "#834" (first line: "chamber-pot") and "#836" (first line: "gleaming bands around the chimney").

#836, 1974 January 27 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#836" (first line: "gleaming bands around the chimney"). This poem is on the same page with "#834" (first line: "chamber-pot") and "#835" (first line: "how does the clock strike").

Larry Eigner letter to David and Maria Gitin, 1974 July 26 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (2 leaves, with envelope)

One typed letter written by Eigner to David and Maria Gitin regarding poems he had previously sent to them, as well as family events, recording his poetry, and mentioning contacts with other poets. Many of poems mentioned in the letter are included in this collection, but it is unclear if these are the same copies sent to the Gitins.

#863, 1974 June 1 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#863" (first line: "here it"). This poem is on the verso of a sheet, on the front is "#868" (First line: "to strain against the wall").

#868, 1974 June 9-10 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#868" (First line: "to strain against the wall"). This poem is on the front of a sheet, on the verso is "#863" (first line: "here it").
#869, 1974 June 11-13 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#869" (first line: "whatever's entered").

#870, 1974 June 17-22 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#870" (first line: "3/4 time"). On the same sheet are three other poems, "#871" (first line: "Renoir"), "#872" (first line: "therefore"), and on the verso, "#873" (first line: man how a").

#871, 1974 June 22 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "871" (first line: "Renoir"). On the same sheet are three other poems, "#870" (first line: "3/4 time"), "#872" (first line: "therefore"), and on the verso, "#873" (first line: man how a").

#872, 1974 June 22-23 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#872" (first line: "therefore"). On the same sheet are three other poems, "#870" (first line: "3/4 time"), "#872" (first line: "therefore"), and on the verso, "#873" (first line: man how a").

#873, 1974 July 2 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#873" (first line: man how a"). On the verso of the same sheet are three other poems, "#870" (first line: "3/4 time"), "871" (first line: "Renoir"), and "#872" (first line: "therefore").

#873, 1974 July 5-8 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#873" (first line: "outpouring"), varies from poem #873 dated July 2, 1974. On the same sheet with a second poem, "#874" (first line: "antenna").

#874, 1974 July 7-9 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#874" (first line: "antenna"). On the same sheet with a second poem, "#873" (first line: "outpouring").
#874, 1974 July 9 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#874" (first line: "tall buildings"), varies from poem #874 dated July 7-9. On the same sheet with the two other poems, "#875" (first line: "rightside up and upside down") and "876" (first line: "faucet").

#875, 1974 July 9-11 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#875" (first line: "rightside up and upside down"). On the same sheet with the two other poems, "#874" (first line: "tall buildings") and "876" (first line: "faucet").

#876, 1974 July 10-11 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "876" (first line: "faucet"). On the same sheet with the two other poems, "#874" (first line: "tall buildings") and "#875" (first line: "rightside up and upside down").

#877, 1974 July 17-23 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "877" (first line: "To keep going"). On the same sheet with the two other poems, "#878" (first line: "insect") and on the verso, "#879" (first line: "lands").

#878, 1974 July 24 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#878" (first line: "insect"). On the same sheet with the two other poems, "877" (first line: "To keep going") and on the verso, "#879" (first line: "lands").

#879, 1974 July 24-25 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem, "#879" (first line: "lands"). On the verso of the same sheet are two other poems, "877" (first line: "To keep going") and "#878" (first line: "insect").

Unnumbered poem, 1976 October 21 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)
Eigner's unnumbered typescript poem with the first line: "there go the books." This poem is on the verso of a sheet with two other poems: "#98(7?)" (first line: "all the things") and "#98(8?)" (first line: "faces faces faces"). The sheet also includes autograph notes about the poems made by Eigner and his signature.

#98(7?), 1976 October 19 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem with the first line: "all the things." This poem is on a sheet with two other poems: the first is unnumbered with the first line: "there go the books") and the second is poem #98(8?) (first line: "faces faces faces"). The sheet also includes autograph notes about the poems made by Eigner and his signature.

#98 (8?), 1976 October [Box 55 F824]

1 item (1 leaf)

Eigner's typescript poem #98(8?) with the first line: "faces faces faces all the things." This poem is on a sheet with two other poems: the first is unnumbered with the first line: "there go the books") and the second is poem #98(7?) (first line: "all the things"). The sheet also includes autograph notes about the poems made by Eigner and his signature.

Larry Eigner postcard to Robert Hawley, 1978 August 3 [Box 55 F824]

1 item (2 pp.)

One typed postcard written by Eigner to Robert Hawley thanking him for the recently received books, mentioning his father's death and his move to a commune in Berkeley.

Two miniature watercolor paintings, [1970s] [Box 55 F824]

21 items (2 pp.)

Two miniature watercolor painting on small slips of paper, one of sail boats on the water (with the autograph note: "Wed. 6:00 p.m.") and a second of a house by a body of water. The relationship of these two items to Eigner is unknown, as is the painter.