



Hawley, Robert, 1929-

**Robert Hawley letters to David Meltzer
1964-1966**

Abstract: These letters, written by American publisher Robert Hawley to poet and musician David Meltzer between 1964 and 1966, reflect their book and poetry interests, their friendship, and the business of Oyez Press.

Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F897
Creator: Hawley, Robert, 1929-
Title: Robert Hawley letters to David Meltzer
Inclusive Dates: 1964-1966
Extent: 26 items (26 p.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F897, Robert Hawley letters to David Meltzer, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 62, F897: 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, March 2011.

Processing: Processed and encoded by Anita Wellner, September 2011.

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Biographical Notes

Robert Hawley

Robert Hawley and Stevens van Strum started the Oyez Press in Berkeley, California, 1964.

Robert Hawley was born in 1929 in Stockbridge, Wisconsin. He was a student at Black Mountain College in 1956, shortly before that institution closed its doors. By 1957, Hawley was working as a bookseller specializing in Western Americana at the Holmes Book Company, in Berkeley, California.

Through Oyez Press, Robert Hawley and Stevens van Strum published numerous American poets, initially producing a series of broadsides. A poem by David Meltzer, *The Blackest Rose*, was one of the earliest broadsides published by Oyez, and Meltzer's *The Process* (1965) was the first book published by Oyez Press.

David Meltzer

American poet and musician David Meltzer was born February 17, 1937, in Rochester, New York.

In 1957, Meltzer moved to San Francisco and became part of a circle of writers based around Jack Spicer and Robert Duncan. Meltzer's poetry was included in the anthology, *The New American Poetry 1945-1960*. Considered a poet of the Beat generation, Meltzer is also a jazz guitarist, and the author of more than fifty books of poetry and prose, many of which have been published by small presses, such as Robert Hawley's Oyez Press.

Sources:

Oyez Press Records. Archives and Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut Libraries. <http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/findaids/Oyez/MSS19980208.html> (accessed September 2011).

"David Meltzer." Contemporary Authors Online (reproduced in Biography Resource Center). <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioR> (accessed September 2011).

"David Meltzer." Wikipedia. [Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Meltzer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Meltzer) (accessed September 2011).

Scope and Content Note

These letters, written by American publisher Robert Hawley to poet and musician David Meltzer between 1964 and 1966, reflect their book and poetry interests, their friendship, and the business of Oyez Press.

In his initial letters Hawley replied to Meltzer's requests for books from the Holmes Book Company sending information about the availability of material and the cost. Likewise, Hawley inquired about books, magazines, and other printed material which he wanted to acquire, particularly new Beat magazines. Some letters announced future mailings of printed material or accompanied material sent to Meltzer, occasionally with an invoice included.

Hawley's personal interest in poetry, particularly work by Beat poets, soon led to the mention of poets, such as Michel McClure, Gary Snyder, Charles Olson. The conversation about poets and their publications grew as Oyez Press began publishing its series of poetry broadsides, and as Hawley began to receive manuscripts from numerous poets, including Michael McClure, Josephine Miles, Jack Spicer, Robert Duncan, Gary Snyder, Charles Olson, William Everson, Denise Levertov, and Mary Fabilli. Hawley mentioned some of the poetry he had received and occasionally offered his thoughts on particular work. For example, in an early letter Hawley expressed his great anticipation at publication of the first Oyez Press broadside, a poem by Michael McClure, titled *Two For Bruce Connor*.

In a letter conveying his serious interest in publishing Meltzer's work, Hawley explained his feeling that: "most publications of new writing by small presses (or smaller publisher) suffered by not being properly produced, not being widely publicized and distributed and, above all, did not result in a proper payment to the writer." Hawley was convinced that "those three faults can be corrected." Ultimately Hawley published work by Meltzer. In several letters Hawley discussed business matters surrounding the Oyez publication of a Meltzer broadside, *The Blackest Rose*, particularly his decision to print the original version of the poem rather than a later revision which Meltzer would have preferred. The letters also discuss the 1965 Oyez publication of Meltzer's book of poems, *The Process*.

Reflecting their friendship, the letters also mention family matters such as the birth of children; travels, such as a visit to Charles Olson; and plans for get-togethers or attendance at special events, such as a 1966 Rolling Stones concert.

Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Hawley, Robert, 1929- --Correspondence.

Meltzer, David--Correspondence.

Corporate Names

Oyez (Firm)

Topical Terms

American poetry--History--20th century--Correspondence.

Beat generation--History--20th century--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Postcards.

Clippings (information artifacts)

Occupation

Poets.

Personal Contributors

Meltzer, David, correspondent.

Related Materials in this Repository

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

Arrangement

Arranged in chronological order.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer , 1964 March 30 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

A clipping regarding two new Beat magazines is taped to the letter.

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope , 1964 April 7 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard signed to David Meltzer , 1964 April 26 [Box 62 F902]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1964 May 2 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1964 August 15 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard to David Meltzer , 1964 November 3 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1964 November 11 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1964 November 14 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard signed to David Meltzer , 1965 January 11 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard signed to David Meltzer , [1965] [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer , 1965 January 25 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard to David Meltzer , 1965 January 26 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley autograph note signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 April 13 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley autograph letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 May 7 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 May 15 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

"American poetry is in trouble" flyer , 1965 June 1 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

A flyer originally sent by John Snyder to Holmes Book Company which Hawley is forwarding to Meltzer.

Robert Hawley typed postcard signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 June 3 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 June 26 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley autograph letter to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 July 6 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard to David Meltzer, 1965 July 16 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed note signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1965 August 15 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard to David Meltzer, 1965 November 22 [**Box 62 F897**]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed postcard to David Meltzer, 1965 November 23 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer, [1965] [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1966 January 25 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)

Robert Hawley typed letter signed to David Meltzer with envelope, 1966 March 2 [Box 62 F897]

1 item (1 p.)
