
James T. Farrell letters to William F. Claire
1969

Abstract: American novelist James T. Farrell (1904-1979) wrote to William F. Claire (1935- ), the editor and publisher of the literary magazine, Voyager, regarding the publication of an excerpt from his unpublished novel, The Vast Present.
## Descriptive Summary

**Identification:** MSS 099, F925

**Creator:** Farrell, James T. (James Thomas), 1904-1979.

**Title:** James T. Farrell letters to William F. Claire

**Inclusive Dates:** 1969

**Extent:** 8 items (28 p.)

**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

## Administrative Information

**Citation:** MSS 099, F925, James T. Farrell letters to William F. Claire, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

**Shelving Summary:** Box 63, F925: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes

**Location:** Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware

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Biographical Notes

James T. Farrell

American novelist James T. Farrell (1904-1979) was best known for his Studs Lonigan trilogy.

Much of American novelist James T. Farrell's fiction is set in his hometown of Chicago and addresses issues of the city's working class. Farrell published more than twenty-five novels during his lifetime, as well as numerous collections of stories and works of criticism. In addition to his best known Studs Lonigan trilogy, he wrote a series of five novels centered around the character Danny O'Neill.

Farrell was also active in contemporary politics and is generally associated with writers of the American left who emerged during the 1930s and 1940s. In his later years, Farrell devoted much of his writing to a cycle of novels titled *A Universe of Time*, which he began writing in the early 1960s and which he projected to include approximately thirty titles.

William F. Claire

American writer and editor William F. Claire (1935- ) was founding editor and publisher of *Voyages*, a national literary magazine published in Washington, D.C. during the 1960s and 1970s.

Additionally Claire has edited and published books relating to Alan Swallow, Mark Van Doren, the poetry of Michelangelo, and physicians as writers. He is also the author of several books of poetry, *From a Southern France Notebook* (1974), *The Strange Coherence of Our Dreams: Poems* (1973) and *Poems: a Selection* (2004).

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

American novelist James T. Farrell (1904-1979) wrote to William F. Claire (1935- ), the editor and publisher of the literary magazine, *Voyager*, regarding the publication of an excerpt from his unpublished novel, *The Vast Present*.

Farrell's correspondence with Claire began with a letter written on February 3, 1969, in which he enclosed a manuscript of an excerpt from his novel in progress, *The Vast Present* for publication in *Voyager*. In the letters which followed Farrell confirmed permission to publish this piece, discussed ideas in the excerpt, provided a detailed bibliography of his publications, mentioned his latest publications, and expressed his appreciation for the issue of *Voyager* which included his work. The final letter in the collection, written on July 31, 1969, listed the names and addresses of individuals and institutions which Claire might contact to offer subscriptions to *Voyager*.

The collection also includes a cancelled check for $21.00, which was payment for Farrell's excerpt, and a set of galley proofs for the piece. The proofs were corrected and initialed by Farrell.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Farrell, James T. (James Thomas), 1904-1979--Correspondence.

Topical Terms

Novelists, American--History--20th century--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Galley proofs.

Personal Contributors

Claire, William F., correspondent.

Related Materials in this Repository

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

MSS 214, James T. Farrell Papers

MSS 368, Gene Phillips Collection of James T. Farrell Papers

MSS 548, Barry Wallenstein - James T. Farrell collection
Arrangement

Arranged in chronological order.
Detailed Description of the Collection

James T. Farrell autograph signed letter to William F. Claire, 1969 February 3 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (2 p.)

James T. Farrell autograph signed letter to William F. Claire, 1969 February 6 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (1 p.)

James T. Farrell autograph signed letter to William F. Claire, 1969 February 27 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (1 p.)

James T. Farrell autograph signed letter to William F. Claire, 1969 February 28 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (8 p.)
Also includes a carbon copy of the first page of the letter.

Galley proofs of an excerpt from The Vast Present, [1969 February] [Box 63 F925]
1 item (4 p.)

Galley proofs for an excerpt published in Voyages (volume II, number IV), which is initialed by Farrell and has a brief note by Claire attached to the galleys, plus an envelope.

James T. Farrell autograph signed letter to William F. Claire, 1969 May 28 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (4 p.)

Cancelled check written by Claire and endorsed by Farrell, 1969 July 19 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (1 p.)

James T. Farrell autograph signed letter to William F. Claire, 1969 July 31 [Box 63 F925]
1 item (6 p.)