Gerstler, Amy.

Amy Gerstler letter and postcards to Tom Clark
1982-1988

Abstract: Amy Gerstler (born 1956) is an American poet and writer who won the National Book Critics Circle Award for her volume of poetry, Bitter Angel in 1991. Gerstler sent two postcards and a letter to American poet Tom Clark (1941- ) between 1982 and 1988 in which she provided news, sought his advice on professional matters, and asked after his family.
**Biographical Note**

Amy Gerstler (born 1956) is an American poet and writer who won the National Book Critics Circle Award for her volume of poetry, *Bitter Angel* in 1991. Her poetry book *Medicine* was a finalist for the Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award in 2000.

Gerstler received her Master of Fine Arts in nonfiction from Vermont’s Bennington College in 2000, where she has since intermittently taught in the Bennington Writing Seminars program. She has additionally served on the faculty of various other institutions in professional and creative writing programs. In addition to several poetry volumes and works of fiction, Gerstler has written non-fiction journal articles, art reviews, and book reviews including publications in *Art Forum* and *Los Angeles Times*.

**Sources:**


Scope and Content Note

This small collection consists of two postcards, a letter, and a miniature book from Amy Gerstler to American poet Tom Clark (1941- ) between 1982 and 1988, providing him news about their mutual acquaintances, and asking him about his work and family.

The letters and postcards present Gerstler and Clark’s relationship as friends and fellow poets. Gerstler acknowledges Clark’s having written a quote for her most recent publication and inquires of his wife and daughter. She also mentions she would soon purchase Clark’s biography on Kerouac. In addition to updating Clark on the activities of a mutual publisher acquaintance, Gerstler indicates she is considering teaching a writing seminar for the first time and asks Clark for advice on the matter. Included in the collection is a copy of Gerstler's *Primitive Man*, a miniature book of fiction, which was sent with the 1988 letter to Clark.

Gerstler also mentions small list of poetic and artistic figures with whom the two were familiar, including poets Eileen Myles, James Schuyler, Bob Flanagan, and David Trinidad; writer/musician Jack Skelley; and publisher Michael Sheppard.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names
Gerstler, Amy--Correspondence.
Clark, Tom, 1941- --Correspondence.

Topical Terms
Poets, American--20th century--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms
Postcards.
Correspondence.
Miniature books.

Occupation
Poets.
Authors.

Personal Contributors
Clark, Tom, 1941- , correspondent.

Corporate Contributors
Hanuman Books.

Related Materials in this Repository
This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.
Arrangement

Materials are arranged in chronological order.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Postcard from Gerstler to Clark, 1982 August 7 [Box 66 F955]
One side of postcard contains typed poem "I Remember," by Stevie Smith

Postcard from Gerstler to Clark, 1986 July 6 [Box 66 F955]

Letter from Gerstler to Clark, 1988 [Box 66 F955]
3 items
The two-page letter from Gerstler to Clark includes a copy of Gerstler's miniature book, Primitive Man, and an envelope addressed from Gerstler to Clark.