

WHALEN PAPERS

PHILIP WHALEN PAPERS

- Provenance:** The Philip Whalen Collection was donated to Reed College Library by Philip Whalen. A few other documents and some correspondence have been added, notably by Richard Kennedy.
- Ownership:** Reed College Library claims physical ownership of the Philip Whalen Collection. The literary rights to the items in the collection belong to various individuals and estates. It is the responsibility of the researcher using the collection to contact the holders of the literary rights.
- Access:** Please consult the Special Collections Librarian for further information.
- Size:** The collection is housed in 7 manuscript boxes, or 3 linear feet.
- Processed by:** Mark Kuestner
- Date:** March 2003

Biography

Philip Glenn Whalen was born on October 20, 1923 in Portland, Oregon, and grew up in The Dalles. After serving in the Army Air Forces, he attended Reed College on the GI Bill. Among his classmates were fellow poets Gary Snyder and Lew Welch.

After graduating in 1951, he moved to San Francisco, meeting Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg soon after. On October 6, 1955, Whalen joined Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Michael McClure, Philip Lamantia, and Gary Snyder for the historic Six Gallery reading. The poets became instant celebrities, and the "San Francisco Renaissance" (as it came to be known) was in full swing. Whalen's work began appearing in print with regularity thereafter, and was included in Donald Allen's epochal anthology *The New American Poetry* in 1959.

From 1958 to 1971, Whalen lived mostly in Japan. In 1959, his first book, *Self Portrait, from Another Direction*, was published by Auerhahn Press in San Francisco. *Memoirs of an Interglacial Age* and another volume of poems, *Like I Say*, appeared in 1960. More than twenty books, including three novels, followed during Whalen's life. Whalen eventually returned to San Francisco and the Hartford Street Zen Center, where he spent

most of the rest of his life. He was ordained a Zen Buddhist monk in 1973, and later became Abbot.

In his last days, Whalen maintained his wit and self-deprecating style; when asked by a friend if he wanted a milkshake, he replied, "No, I'd like what they gave Socrates," and discussing his funeral with friends whom he thought were treating the subject too morbidly, he said: "I'd like to be laid on a bed of frozen raspberries."

Philip Whalen died June 26, 2002, in San Francisco.

[From: the Reed College Chapel service, Sunday October 20, 2002, sponsored by Spare Room and the Reed College Alumni Association.]

Scope and Content

The Philip Whalen Collection consists of extensive correspondence from friends and literary acquaintances. In addition, there are transcripts of interviews from newspaper stories, including a cassette tape, as well as newspaper clippings covering Philip Whalen's career. There are also various manuscripts of poetry works, some art work, and notices of poetry readings.

Box Index

BOX 1

- 1:1 Biographical information (memorials, etc.)
- 1:2 Correspondence, miscellaneous, A-L
- 1:3 Correspondence, miscellaneous, M-Z
- 1:4 Correspondence, miscellaneous, author unknown
- 1:5 Correspondence (photocopies), from Philip Whalen to David Ray, 1965-66

BOX 2

- 2:1 Newspaper clippings of poetry readings, Beat Poets, and P. Whalen
- 2:2 Ephemera: poetry reading announcements
- 2:3 Miscellaneous: manuscript of "Adelaide Crapsey-Oswald Spengler Admiration Poetaster's Society"; correspondence about L.J. Reynolds *Festschrift*
- 2:4 Manuscripts by Gerard Malanga, Richard Brautigan, Michael McClure, Jack Kerouac, Susan R. Loewinsohn, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, etc.
- 2:5 Interviews of Philip Whalen b: Reed student, Matthew Jeschke
- 2:6 Photographs, by Rob Lee (his permission required for use)
- 2:7 Reviews by Philip Whalen (newspaper clippings, along with handwritten notes, publisher's comments, etc.)

BOX 3 (Now in 3-Ring Binders)

- 3:1 Correspondence, Stanley Brakehage (3 pieces, 1962-1963)
- 3:2 Correspondence, Bill Brown (17 pieces, 1962-1965)
- 3:3 Correspondence, Bruce Conner (14 pieces, 1958-1963)
- 3:4 Correspondence, Clark Coolidge (40 pieces, 1958-1964)
- 3:5 Correspondence, Cid Corman (20 pieces, 1958-1961)
- 3:6 Correspondence, Gregory Corso (15 pieces, 1956-1958)
- 3:7 Correspondence, Gregory Corso (photocopies of 15 pieces, 1956-1958)
- 3:8 Correspondence, Bill Deemer (7 pieces, 1966-1968)
- 3:9 Correspondence, Diane DiPrema (10 pieces, 1964-1965)
- 3:10 Correspondence, Elsa Dorfman (65 pieces, 1959-1962)
- 3:11 Correspondence, Richard Duerden (21 pieces, 1961-1964)
- 3:12 Correspondence, Allen Ginsberg (80 pieces, 1954-1964, includes some poems)
- 3:13 Correspondence, Robert Creeley (12 pieces, 1957-1963)
- 3:14 Correspondence, LeRoi Jones (28 pieces, 1958-1961)
- 3:15 Correspondence, Richard Kennedy, (13 pieces from PW to RK, 1966-1968)
- 3:16 Correspondence, Jack Kerouac (70 pieces, 1956-1965)
- 3:17 Correspondence, Jack Kerouac (Photocopies of 70 pieces, 1956-1965)
- 3:18 Correspondence, Jack Kerouac (Photocopies of fragile letters, 1956-1965)
- 3:19 Correspondence, James Koller (10 pieces, 1964, includes poems)
- 3:20 Correspondence, Robert LaVigne (27 pieces, 1958-1964)
- 3:21 Correspondence, Charles Leong (8 pieces, 1964-1965)
- 3:22 Correspondence, Ron Loewinsohn (13 pieces, 1958-1962)

BOX 4 (Now in 3-Ring Binders)

- 4:1 Correspondence, Michael McClure (90 pieces-1956-1964, includes drawings)
- 4:2 Correspondence, Charles Olson (22 pieces, 1957-1965)
- 4:3 Correspondence, Thomas Parkinson (26 pieces, 1969-1964)
- 4:4 Correspondence, Fernanda Pivano (25 pieces, 1962-1965)
- 4:5 Correspondence, David Ray (2 pieces, 1965)
- 4:6 Correspondence, Lloyd J. Reynolds (19 pieces, 1959-1964)
- 4:7 Correspondence, Irving Rosenthal (19 pieces, 1958-1960)
- 4:8 Correspondence, Robert Ross (14 pieces, 1963-1965)
- 4:8a Correspondence, Michael Rothenberg (13 items mostly about MR publications)
- 4:9 Correspondence, Ed Sanders (10 pieces, 1963-1965)
- 4:10 Correspondence, Aram Saroyan (15 pieces, 1963-1965)
- 4:11 Correspondence, Gary Snyder (123 pieces, 1953-1965)
- 4:12 Correspondence, Gary Snyder (77 pieces, 1953-1965)
- 4:13 Correspondence, Joanne Kyger Snyder (50 pieces, 1959-1964)
- 4:14 Correspondence, Edward VanAelstyn (21 pieces, 1963-1965)
- 4:15 Correspondence, Lewis Welch (60 pieces, 1957-1965)

- 4:16 Correspondence, John Wieners (15 pieces, 1957-1962)
- 4:17 Correspondence, Ted Wilentz (7 pieces, 1960-1963)
- 4:18 Correspondence, Henry Wenning (3 pieces, 1964)

BOX 5

- 5:1 Books and manuscripts: published items: *Highgrade*, *Memoirs of an Interglacial Age*, *Like I Say*, *Monday in the Evening* and *Every Day*—all inscribed by Philip Whalen to “Reed College Library”
- 5:2 Books and manuscripts: “The Calendar: a Book of Poems”, Sept. 1950—April 1951, worksheets, etc. for Reed B.A. thesis
- 5:3 Books and manuscripts: Auerhahn Press publications and press releases, including works by Philip Whalen, John Wieners, Edward Marshall
- 5:4 Books and manuscripts: manuscript of “Highgrade: doodles, poems”, 1965-66 including holographs, some paste-ups

BOX 6

- 6:1 Books and manuscripts: manuscript of “Memoirs of an Interglacial Age”, 1958-59 with holographs, worksheets, typescript
- 6:2 Books and manuscripts: manuscript of “Every Day”, poems, 1964: holographs and worksheets
- 6:3 Books and manuscripts: manuscript of “Like I Say”, 1950-58, holographs, worksheets, typescript

BOX 7

- 7:1 Books and manuscripts: manuscript of “The Diamond Noodle, 1956-65 with pencil illustrations, typescript
- 7:2 Books and manuscripts: manuscript of “You Didn’t Even Try,” alias: “Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow”, carbon and original typescript with author’s corrections, 1963 (first published in 1967)