
Creator: Corman, Cid

Title: Cid Corman Letters to Frank Samperi,

Date (inclusive): 1972-1975

Extent: 120 letters; 0.2 linear feet

Abstract: Cid Corman (1924-2004) poet, editor, and translator, was the founder of the poetry magazine *Origin* and the Origin Press. This collection contains 120 typescript letters to the poet Frank Samperi written by Corman, from 1972 to 1975, while Corman was in Japan. The letters discuss poetry journals and presses as well as the demands of writing and editing for publication, and specific works of Corman's, among other subjects.

Physical location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored offsite.

Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Department of Special Collections.

Davis, California 95616-5292

Collection number: MC013

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Biography

Cid Corman was born on June 29, 1924 in Boston, Massachusetts and graduated from Tufts University in 1945. He did graduate work at the University of Michigan, where he won the Hopwood Prize for poetry in 1947, and also at the University of North Carolina. In 1948, Corman returned to Boston where he started a radio program on WMEX. During this program the works of writers were read without commercial interruption.

He founded the poetry magazine *Origin* and Origin Press in 1951, featuring the works of Robert Duncan and Denise Levertov, among others. Corman was known for helping other poets get their works published through Origin Press and was an influential figure among the Beat and Black Mountain poets. In 1958, Corman moved to Kyoto, Japan where he continued his work with Origin Press. The following year, Gary Snyder's first book, *Riprap*, was published, printed in Kyoto by Corman and distributed through City Lights Books.

Corman was a prolific poet himself and his works include: *The Precious* (1955) *Sun rock man* (1970), *So Far* (1973), *For the Asking* (1976), *Identities* (1981), *And the Word* (1987), *How Now: Poems* (1995), and *For Crying Out Loud* (2002). He also translated the works of the Japanese poets Matsuo Basho and Shimpei Kusano.

Corman passed away on March 12, 2004, in Kyoto, Japan.

Frank Samperi (1933-1991), also a poet, was the author of *Lumen glorie; poems* (1974), *The prefiguration; poems* (1971), *Quadrifariam; poems* (1973).

Source:

"Sidney Corman Obituary Notice," in *Contemporary Authors*, v. 225. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2004.

Scope and Content

The collection contains 120 typescript letters to Frank Samperi written by Cid Corman, from 1972 to 1975, while Corman was in Japan.

The letters discuss poetry journals and presses as well as the demands of writing and editing for publication. Also described are Corman's philosophy, support for Samperi, comments upon the works both were reading at the time, and upon current events, such as Nixon and the Vietnam War. Specific works of Corman's are also mentioned including his essay, *Prefiguration*, and *The Gist of Origin, 1951-1971: an anthology*, edited by Corman.

The letters are arranged chronologically.

Related Collection

D-050 Gary Snyder Papers

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Corman, Cid--Correspondence

Samperi, Frank

Poets, American--20th century

Access

Collection is open for research.

Processing Information

Sara Gunasekara processed these papers and created and encoded this finding aid.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Cid Corman Letters to Frank Samperi, MC013, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.

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Box MC013:1 **1972 May 8**

Physical Description: 1 letter

Box MC013:2 **1972 May 18-1972 June 19**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:3 **1972 June 26-1972 August 2**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:4 **1972 September 8-1972 October 16**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:5 **1972 October 25-1972 November 30**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:6 **1972 December 12-1973 January 13**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:7 **1973 January 20-1973 February 27**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:8 **1973 March 9-1973 April 11**

Physical Description: 5 letters

- Box MC013:9 **1973 April 19-1973 May 21**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:10 **1973 May 22-1973 June 20**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:11 **1973 June 27-1973 August 2**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:12 **1973 September 12-1973 October 20**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:13 **1973 October 29-1973 December 12**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:14 **1973 December 25-1974 February 1**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:15 **1974 February 11-1974 March 27**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:16 **1974 April 6**
Physical Description: 1 letter
- Box MC013:17 **1974 April 16-20 May 1974**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:18 **1974 May 29-1974 July 4**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:19 **1974 July 15-1974 September 4**
Physical Description: 5 letters
- Box MC013:20 **1974 September 9-1974 October 22**
Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:21 **1974 November 5-1974 December 13**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:22 **1974 December 24-1975 March 7**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:23 **1975 March 24-1975 May 29**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:24 **1975 June 9-1975 July 21**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:25 **1975 July 31-1975 September 29**

Physical Description: 5 letters

Box MC013:26 **1975 October 10-1975 November 3**

Physical Description: 3 letters