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**Creator:** Corman, Cid

**Title:** Cid Corman Letters to Graham Ackroyd,

**Date (inclusive):** 1973-1977

**Extent:** 17 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 17 typescript letters to the poet and artist Graham Ackroyd, written by Corman, from 1973-1977, while Corman was in Japan. The letters discuss Corman's writing and publishing, references to other poets, and explanations of his life in Japan, 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. Dept. of Special Collections.

Davis, California 95616-5292

**Collection number:** MC151

**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.

His correspondent, Graham Ackroyd, was a poet and artist who resided in the United Kingdom. His works include *Love feast: poems* (1993), *Poems* (1994), and *Everything passes: poem* (1996).

Source:

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

### Scope and Content

The collection contains 17 typescript letters to Graham Ackroyd written by Cid Corman, from 1973-1977, while Corman was in Japan. The letters discuss Corman's writing and publishing, references to other poets, and explanations of his life in Japan, among other subjects.

The letters are arranged chronologically.

### Related Collection

MC013 Cid Corman Letters to Frank Samperi

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

Ackroyd, Graham

Poets, American--20th century

### Access

Collection is open for research.

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**Acquisition Information**

Acquired in 1985.

**Processing Information**

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

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Cid Corman Letters to Graham Ackroyd, MC151, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.

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Box MC151:1 **1973 October 22**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:2 **1973 November 5**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:3 **1973 November 19**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:4 **1973 November 20**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:5 **1974 February 9**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:6 **1974 February 12**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:7 **1974 May 2**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:8 **1974 November 22**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:9 **1975 March 12**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:10 **1975 March 28**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:11 **1975 April 15**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:12 **1975 June 26**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:13 **1976 April 12**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:14 **1976 July 26**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:15 **1977 September 2**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:16 **1977 December 25**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter

Box MC151:17 **undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 letter