
David Bromige Correspondence

Mandeville Special Collections Library

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Bromige, David

Title: David Bromige Correspondence,

Date (inclusive): 1966-1970

Extent: 0.20 linear feet(1 archives box)

Abstract: The correspondence of David Bromige, poet, playwright, and educator. He is associated with the Black Mountain School of poetry, particularly with his two mentors, Robert Creeley and Robert Duncan. The collection includes materials from Ted Berrigan, Richard Brautigan, Robert Creeley, Robert Duncan, Clayton Eshleman, Denise Levertov, George Oppen, and Gary Snyder.

Repository: University of California, San Diego. Geisel Library. Mandeville Special Collections Library.

La Jolla, California 92093-0175

Collection number: MSS 0006

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information

Not Available

Preferred Citation

David Bromige Correspondence, MSS 0006. Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD.

Publication Rights

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Biography

David Bromige, now a resident of the Bay Area, is often associated with the Black Mountain School via the Vancouver nexus of poets centered around the magazine *Tish*.

He was born to Harold and Ada Bromige on 22 October 1935 in London, England, where his father was a director of documentary films. Until he settled in the Bay Area in the early '70s, Bromige led a peripatetic life: he travelled, held various jobs, and received an education in Europe, Canada, and the United States.

After attending prep school at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys in London, Bromige worked, from 1950 to 1953, as a cowman on dairy farms in England, Sweden, and Canada. During the '50s he also supported himself as an attendant in mental hospitals in Canada and as an elementary school teacher in England and Vancouver, British Columbia. In the early 1960s he served as a free lance critic for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Vancouver.

It was during his years in Vancouver that Bromige began gaining a reputation for his writing. In 1961 he won the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Playwriting Prize for "The Cobalt Poet," and in 1962 he won the KVOS TV Playwriting Prize for "Save What You Can." In 1961 Bromige divorced his wife of four years, actress Ann Livingston, and married Joan Peacock, with whom he had a son Christopher.

Bromige received his B.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1962. That same year he began working toward his Master's Degree at the University of California, Berkeley. Two years later he received his degree from Berkeley and returned to the University of British Columbia, where he worked as an instructor in English for a short time. Bromige then returned to Berkeley where he continued his studies and taught from 1964-1970. In 1965 he published his first book, *The Gathering*, and he wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the poetry of Robert Creeley and Robert Duncan -- Duncan having been particularly influential to Bromige's own work. In 1970 Bromige married the writer Sherril Jaffe, and he began teaching English at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California -- a position he still holds.

Much of Bromige's influence on contemporary poetry has been the result of his association with various journals. He was poetry editor of the *Northwest Review* (1963-64), and editor of *Raven* (1960-62), *R.C. Lion* (1966-67), and *Open Reading* (1972-76).

Starting with his earliest work, Bromige's poetry has been centered on the page, not in the "real" world. He describes his writing as an exploration process, saying, "I am interested in poetry as speech arising from dumb desire and passion and arousing further word clusters until constellations emerge I had previously no knowledge were within me." Bromige's publications include: *The Gathering* (Sumbooks, 1965), *Please, Like Me* (Black Sparrow Press, 1968), *The Ends of the Earth* (Black Sparrow Press, 1968), *The Quivering Roadway* (Archangel Press, 1969), *In His Image* (Twybyl Press, 1970), *Threads* (Black Sparrow Press, 1970), *The Fact So of Itself* (1971), *They Are Eyes* (Panjandrum Press, 1972), *Birds of the West* (Coach House Press, 1973), *Ten Years in the Making: Selected Poems, Songs, and Stories 1961-1970* (Vancouver Community Press, 1973), *Tight Corners and What's Around Them* (Black Sparrow Press, 1974), *Spells and Blessings* (Talon Press, 1974), *Out of My Hands* (Black Sparrow Press, 1974), *Credences of Winter*, (Black Sparrow Press, 1976), *My Poetry* (The Figures, 1980), *Red Hats* (Tonsure Press, 1986), and *Desire: Selected Poems* (Black Sparrow Press, 1988).

Scope and Content of Collection

The David Bromige Correspondence includes exchanges with such noted American writers as Ted Berrigan, Robert Bly, Richard Brautigan, Robert Creeley, Robert Duncan, Clayton Eshleman, Denise Levertov, George Oppen, and Gary Snyder. The collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The materials cover the period from approximately 1966 to 1970 and include copies of written materials and often detailed exchanges concerning publishing and readings.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Bromige, David, -- Archives

American poetry -- 20th century

Contributors

Berrigan, Ted, -- correspondent

Bly, Robert, -- correspondent

Brautigan, Richard, -- correspondent

Corman, Cid, -- correspondent

Creeley, Robert, 1926- -- correspondent

Duncan, Robert Edward, 1919- -- correspondent

Eshleman, Clayton, -- correspondent

Levertov, Denise, 1923- -- correspondent

Oppen, George, -- correspondent

Snyder, Gary, 1930- -- correspondent

Wakoski, Diane, -- correspondent

CORRESPONDENCE

box 1, folder 1	Berrigan, Ted Note 3 TScs, including the poems "Bolingbroke," "Ikonostassis," "Sunlight in Jungle Land," and "Dick Gallup (Birthday)."
box 1, folder 2	Bly, Robert Note 1 ALs
box 1, folder 3	Brautigan, Richard 1966 - 1966 Note 1 Tsa, "The Pretty Office" (1966)
box 1, folder 4	Corman, Cid Note 2 TLs
box 1, folder 5	Creeley, Robert Note 3 ALs, 6 TLs, 2 TLc, 1 TPC, 2 APC, TSc ("The Finger"); xerox announcement of Creeley reading.

box 1, folder 6

Duncan, Robert

Note

8 ALs, 2 APCs; copy of CENTRAL COUNTY CLARION, 12 May 1970, showing picture of Duncan reading; 19 TS, 1 TSc ("Concert Reading Version of ADAM'S WAY Prologue," including narrative bridge).

box 1, folder 7

Eshleman, Clayton

Note

6 ALs, 16 TLs, 7 APCs, 9 TSs, 39 TSc

box 1, folder 8

Levertov, Denise

Note

3 ALs, 4 APCs, 39 TSc, including xeroxed selections from ENTR'ACTE, and xeroxed sections from "Europe after 10 years, England after 20 years, Summer of 1970."

box 1, folder 9

Oppen, George

Note

1 ANs, 1 TNs

box 1, folder 10

Snyder, Gary

Note

3 TS, including the poems "The Six Hells of the Engine Room," "The Wiper's Secret," and "rectify in Accord with the Thought of Chairman Mao."

box 1, folder 11

Wakoski, Diane

Note

6 TLs, 1 APCS