
Guide to the Ron Loewinsohn Papers Papers, 1953-1976

Collection number: M0856

Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Stanford University Libraries
Stanford, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Loewinsohn, Ron. Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1953-1976

Collection number: M0856

Creator: Loewinsohn, Ron.

Extent: 6 linear ft.

Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.

Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, published and unpublished manuscripts between American poet Ron Loewinsohn and many of the most prominent American authors of the mid-to-late 20th Century.

Language: English

Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Rights

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Provenance

Purchased, 1996.

Preferred Citation:

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Acquisition Information

Purchased, 1996.

Biography

Ron Loewinsohn has been associated with San Francisco poetry since the late 1950s. In the early 1960s he taught at San Francisco State College, and in 1963 he co-edited and published the little magazine *Change* with Richard Brautigan. Loewinsohn's poems first achieved a wide readership by virtue of their inclusion in Donald Allen's anthology, *The New American Poetry*. His first book, *Watermelons*, contains an introduction by Allen Ginsberg and a letter from William Carlos Williams. Loewinsohn acknowledges both writers as his major influences, along with Robert Creeley and Philip Whalen. A later collection of poems, *L'Autre*, was the first full-length publication of the Black Sparrow Press. Loewinsohn's later publications include *Meat Air and Goat Dances*, both of which are collections of poetry. A complete checklist of Loewinsohn's primary publications is included in Gary Lepper's *Bibliographical Introduction to 75 Modern American Authors*. Ronald William Loewinsohn was born December 15, 1937, in Iloilo, Philippines and came to the United States with his parents in 1945. After he graduated from high school in 1955, he traveled around the country and then worked at various printing jobs, before instructing at the San Francisco Poetry Center, 1960-61. He attended San Francisco State College and earned his bachelor's degree from University of California, Berkeley in 1967. Loewinsohn then again instructed poetry at the Center for Adult Education in Cambridge, Mass., in the summer of 1968. He earned his master's and doctorate from Harvard University, in 1969 and 1971, respectively. Loewinsohn returned to Berkeley where he received a professorship in the English Department teaching American literature and creative writing, beginning in 1970. Ron Loewinsohn's awards and honors include the Poets Foundation Award (1963), the Irving Stone Award of the Academy of American Poets (1966), and the Ina Coolbrith Memorial Prize for Poetry (1966).

Scope and Content

The Ron Loewinsohn Papers primarily consist of correspondence collected by Loewinsohn over more than two decades, as well as materials concerning both published and unpublished manuscripts. The primary group of correspondence is from contemporary authors and artists, including Robert Creeley, Denise Levertov, Philip Whalen, and others. Some letters, including those from Allen Ginsberg and William Carlos Williams were not identified in the original listing. Additionally, there is a wealth of correspondence from personal acquaintances, students, and family not directly involved in the San Francisco and New York poetry scenes of the 1960s. Loewinsohn also received a considerable amount of correspondence from universities with which he was affiliated and publishers regarding his works. The materials pertaining to Loewinsohn's published manuscripts concern several major works. These include, *L'Autre*, *Meat Air*, *Goat Dances*, and Loewinsohn's doctoral thesis on the life and influence of William Carlos Williams titled *The Province of a Poem (William Carlos Williams and the Invention of America)*. The unpublished manuscripts series includes many drafts of poems and short stories, and ideas for more of the same. Notebooks kept by Loewinsohn and his second wife, Joanie, have observations and ideas for works, as well as personal notes. Also, a large portion of poetry was found in a series of folders labeled "Hopper," "Master Hopper," "Asleep," "Dead," "Dead and Buried," and so on. These folder titles supply some insight into projects Loewinsohn may have been considering for the future, and other projects he had set aside.

Access Terms

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

Blackburn, Paul.
Brautigan, Richard.
Corso, Gregory.
Creeley, Robert, 1926-
Duerden, Richard.
Irby, Kenneth, 1936-
King, Basil.
Koch, Kenneth, 1925-
Kyger, Joanne.
Levertov, Denise, 1923-
Olson, Charles, 1910-1970.
Palmer, Michael.
Snyder, Gary, 1930-
Stanley, George, 1934-

Wah, Fred, 1939-

Whalen, Philip.

Wieners, John, 1934-

American literature--20th century.

Series 1. Personal Correspondence (1953-74)

Scope and Content Note

includes letters from noteworthy acquaintances

Box 1, Folder 1	Blackburn, Paul (1965-70)
Box 1, Folder 2	Brautigan, Richard (1967-68)
Box 1, Folder 3	Corso, Gregory (1958)
Box 1, Folder 4	Creeley, Robert (1956-69)
Box 1, Folder 5	Duerden, Richard (1963-68)
Box 1, Folder 6	Ginsberg, Allen (1971-72)
Box 1, Folder 7	Irby, Ken (1963-64)
Box 1, Folder 8	King, Basil (1958-59)
Box 1, Folder 9	King, Basil (1960-65)
Box 1, Folder 10	King, Basil (1966-67)
Box 1, Folder 11	King, Basil (1968-70)
Box 1, Folder 12	King, Basil (n.d.)
Box 1, Folder 13	Koch, Kenneth (1965, 1969)
Box 1, Folder 14	Kyger, Joanne - also Joanne Kyger Boyce (1965-69)
Box 2, Folder 1	Levertov, Denise - also Denise Levertov Goodman (1964-70)
Box 2, Folder 2	Olson, Charles (1963, 1968)
Box 2, Folder 3	Palmer, Michael (1969-75)
Box 2, Folder 4	Snyder, Gary (1966-74)
Box 2, Folder 5	Stanley, George (1959-61)
Box 2, Folder 6	Wah, Fred (1963-66)
Box 2, Folder 7	Whalen, Philip (1958-68)
Box 2, Folder 8	Wieners, John (1957)
Box 2, Folder 9	Williams, William Carlos (1953)

Series 2. General Correspondence from Individuals (1959-76)

Scope and Content Note

includes letters from acquaintances and friends including authors, students, friends, etc.

Box 2, Folder 10 **Allen, Donald (1968-71)**
Box 2, Folder 11 **Allen, John (1969-70)**
Box 2, Folder 12 **André, Michael (1972-73)**
Box 2, Folder 13 **Berrigan, Daniel and the Catsonville 9 (1968)**
Box 2, Folder 14 **Bromige, David (1967-74)**
Box 2, Folder 15 **Byrd, Max (1970-73)**
Box 2, Folder 16 **Carpenter, Don (1967-69)**
Box 2, Folder 17 **Carr, Sue Loewinsohn (1967-69)**
Box 3, Folder 1 **Coleman, Victor(1965-70)**
Box 3, Folder 2 **Collom, Jack (1968-76)**
Box 3, Folder 3 **Contoski, Victor (1970)**
Box 3, Folder 4 **Corbett, Bill (n.d.)**
Box 3, Folder 5 **Crozier, Andrew (1964, 1968)**
Box 3, Folder 6 **Davidson, Michael (1968-75)**
Box 3, Folder 7 **Enslin, Theodore (1976)**
Box 3, Folder 8 **Flanagan, Thomas (1973-75)**
Box 3, Folder 9 **Gartrell, Yvonne (1975)**
Box 3, Folder 10 **Gelpi, Albert (1972-73)**
Box 3, Folder 11 **Gerber, Dan (1971-72)**
Box 3, Folder 12 **Goldfarb, Sydney (1971, 1975)**
Box 3, Folder 13 **Goodman, Mitch (1967, 1971)**
Box 3, Folder 14 **Gore, Patty (1970-74)**
Box 3, Folder 15 **Graham, Theodora (1975-76)**
Box 3, Folder 16 **Hartman, Chuck (1970-72)**
Box 3, Folder 17 **Harvey, Emily Wallace (1970-72)**
Box 3, Folder 18 **Hass, Bob (1969-70)**
Box 3, Folder 19 **Hoekzema, Loren (1969)**
Box 3, Folder 20 **Hogg, Bob (1966-70)**
Box 3, Folder 21 **James, Tom (1971-74)**
Box 3, Folder 22 **Jusawalla, Feroza (1974-75)**
Box 3, Folder 23 **Keller, James(1971-72)**
Box 3, Folder 24 **L'Heureux (1970)**
Box 3, Folder 25 **Longvilles, Tim (1972)**
Box 3, Folder 26 **Matlin, David (1972-73)**
Box 4, Folder 1 **Martin, John/Black Sparrow Press (11/66-5/67)**
Box 4, Folder 2 **Martin, John/Black Sparrow Press (6/67-2/68)**
Box 4, Folder 3 **Martin, John/Black Sparrow Press (3/68-12/68)**
Box 4, Folder 4 **Martin, John/Black Sparrow Press (1969-71)**
Box 4, Folder 5 **Martin, John/Black Sparrow Press (1972-74)**
Box 4, Folder 6 **Martin, John/Black Sparrow Press (1975-76)**
Box 4, Folder 7 **McClung, Bill - UC Berkeley Press (1974-75)**
Box 4, Folder 8 **Menasche, Samuel (1975-76)**
Box 4, Folder 9 **Nichols, James (1970)**
Box 4, Folder 10 **Parkinson, Thomas (1969-72)**
Box 4, Folder 11 **Parrott, Jerry - Rain (1971)**
Box 4, Folder 12 **Porte, Joel (1970-71)**
Box 4, Folder 13 **Reed, Iva (1971-73)**
Box 4, Folder 14 **Rosenthal, Les (1971)**
Box 4, Folder 15 **Rowan, Luis (1966-69)**
Box 4, Folder 16 **Sage, Peter (1970-71)**
Box 4, Folder 17 **Scalopino, Leslie (1972-74)**
Box 4, Folder 18 **Shideler, Ross (1967-68)**

Series 2. General Correspondence from Individuals (1959-76)

Box 4, Folder 19 **Skolnick, Paul (1974-75)**
Box 4, Folder 20 **Sorrentino, Gilbert (1959-74)**
Box 4, Folder 21 **Torrance, Bob (1969)**
Box 5, Folder 1 **Vas Dias, Robert (1969-74)**
Box 5, Folder 2 **Wachtel, Andi (1972)**
Box 5, Folder 3 **Webster, Tom - Spectrum (1970-71)**
Box 5, Folder 4 **Williams, Florence - Mrs. William Carlos Williams (1963, 1970)**
Box 5, Folder 5 **Winner, Ellen (1971)**
Box 5, Folder 6 **Wittig, Susan (1968-69)**
Box 5, Folder 7 **Zimmerman, Elaine (n.d.)**
Box 5, Folder 8 **Zimmerman, Gerry (1963)**
Box 5, Folder 9 **Zimmerman, Jo (1969-76)**
Box 5, Folder 10 **correspondence from Ron Loewinsohn w/ poems (1970, 1972)**

Series 3. General Correspondence from Organizations

Scope and Content Note

includes universities, publishers, bookstores, etc.

Box 5, Folder 11	Arizona State University
Box 5, Folder 12	Aspen Leaves
Box 5, Folder 13	Bureau Hungrois Pour la Protection des Droits D'Auteur
Box 5, Folder 14	Chicago Review
Box 5, Folder 15	City Lights Bookstore
Box 5, Folder 16	Danforth Foundation
Box 5, Folder 17	Scott Foresman & Co.
Box 5, Folder 18	Foruming Press
Box 5, Folder 19	Franconia
Box 5, Folder 20	Fybate Lecture Notes
Box 5, Folder 21	Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
Box 5, Folder 22	Harcourt, Brace and World
Box 6, Folder 1	Harvard University
Box 6, Folder 2	Haverford College
Box 6, Folder 3	New Directions
Box 6, Folder 4	Ohio Review
Box 6, Folder 5	Phoenix Book Shop
Box 6, Folder 6	Poetry
Box 6, Folder 7	Resist
Box 6, Folder 8	San Francisco Foundation Awards Office
Box 6, Folder 9	Sumac Press
Box 6, Folder 10	Tri-Quarterly
Box 6, Folder 11	Unicorn Press
Box 6, Folder 12	University of California at Berkeley
Box 6, Folder 13	University of California Committee on Prizes
Box 6, Folder 14	University of California at Davis: Committee for Arts and Lectures

Series 4. Miscellaneous Correspondence (1962-76)

Scope and Content Note

all correspondence which was not included in the prior series (solitary letters from unknown individuals, etc.)

Box 7, Folder 1	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1962-66
Box 7, Folder 2	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1967-68
Box 7, Folder 3	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1969-70
Box 7, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1971
Box 7, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1972
Box 7, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1973-74
Box 7, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1976
Box 7, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1976
Box 7, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Correspondence n.d.
Box 7, Folder 10	envelopes without letters

Series 5. Dated and Published Manuscripts

Scope and Content Note

includes TS, MS, proofs, etc. of 9 major works

Box 8, Folder 1	The World of the Lie (1963) - TS, dupes & notes
Box 8, Folder 2	L'Autre (1967) - notes, poetry, & prose; TS & MS from folder labeled "L'Autre"
Box 8, Folder 3	L'Autre (1967) - incomplete TS from folder labeled "Carbons & Dupes"
Box 8, Folder 4	L'Autre (1967) - incomplete TS w/ corrections
Box 8, Folder 5	The Step - TS w/ corrections
Box 8, Folder 6	The Step - TS w/ corrections
Box 8, Folder 7	The Step - carbon TS
Box 8, Folder 8	The Province of a Poem (1957-69) - pp.i-41
Box 8, Folder 9	The Province of a Poem (1957-69) - pp.42-83
Box 8, Folder 10	The Province of a Poem (1957-69) - pp.84-124
Box 8, Folder 11	The Province of the Poem (different version) - intro to book on William Carlos Williams
Box 8, Folder 12	William Carlos Williams and the Invention of America - "Tracking William Carlos Williams' Early Development," TS, 29pp.
Box 8, Folder 13	WCW. . . - TS & MS notes
Box 8, Folder 14	WCW. . . - draft, chapter titled "Kora in Hell"
Box 8, Folder 15	WCW. . . - Chapt. 1, pp.1-43 - earliest draft
Box 8, Folder 16	WCW. . . - Chapt. 2, "Williams as Keats," pp.1-30 - earliest draft
Box 8, Folder 17	WCW. . . - Chapt. 3, "Williams as Pound," pp.1-33 - earliest draft
Box 8, Folder 18	WCW. . . - Chapt. 4, "Williams as Walt Whitman," pp.1-47 - earliest draft plus notes
Box 9, Folder 1	WCW. . . - "Kora in Hell," MS & heavily corrected TS, limited organization
Box 9, Folder 2	WCW. . . - from folder labeled "Kora (RAW)," TS & MS, heavily corrected, in several different stages without organization
Box 9, Folder 3	WCW. . . - random pages of TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 4	WCW. . . - notes, drafts of Preface, MS & TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 5	WCW. . . - Chapt. 1, "WCW and the Invention of America," pp.1-40, TS w/ corrections, MS sources
Box 9, Folder 6	WCW. . . - Chapt. 2, "Williams as John Keats," pp.1-28, TS w/ corrections, MS sources
Box 9, Folder 7	WCW. . . - Chapt. 3, "Williams as Ezra Pound," pp.1-30, TS w/ corrections, MS sources
Box 9, Folder 8	WCW. . . - Chapt. 4, "Williams as Walt Whitman," pp.1-46, TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 9	WCW. . . - Chapt. 5, "Williams and the Religion of Art," pp.1-20, TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 10	William Carlos Williams and the Invention of America - Chapt. 6, "Williams as Kora," pp.1-64, TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 11	WCW. . . - Chapt. 7, "Williams as Nobody," pp.1-34, TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 12	WCW. . . - Chapt. 8, "Williams as WCW," pp.1-58, TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 13	WCW. . . - Chapt. 9, "The Province of the Poem," pp.1-23, and Bibliography, pp.241-246, both TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 14	WCW. . . - Preface, pp.i-vi, TS w/ corrections
Box 9, Folder 15	WCW. . . - Chapt. 1, "WCW and the Invention of America," pp.1-43, TS w/o corrections
Box 9, Folder 16	WCW. . . - Chapt. 2, "Williams as John Keats," pp.1-30, TS w/o corrections
Box 9, Folder 17	WCW. . . - Chapt. 3, "Williams as Ezra Pound," pp.1-33, TS w/o corrections
Box 9, Folder 18	WCW. . . - Chapt. 4, "Williams as Walt Whitman," pp.139, TS w/o corrections
Box 9, Folder 19	WCW. . . - beginning of Chapt. 5, "Williams as Kora," pp.1-7, TS w/o corrections
Box 9, Folder 20	WCW. . . - notebooks with MS drafts of chapters
Box 9, Folder 21	WCW. . . - draft of chapter titled "Sour Grapes," pp.1-34, TS heavily corrected
Box 10, Folder 1	WCW. . . - Chapt. 1, "WCW and the Invention of America," pp.1-42, TS w/ corrections
Box 10, Folder 2	WCW. . . - Chapt. 2, "Poems, 1909," pp.1-27, TS heavily corrected
Box 10, Folder 3	WCW. . . - Chapt. 3, "The Tempers," pp.1-30, TS heavily corrected
Box 10, Folder 4	WCW. . . - Chapt. 4, "Al Que Quiere," pp.1-42, TS heavily corrected
Box 10, Folder 5	WCW. . . - Chapt. 1, "WCW and the Invention of America," pp.1-42, TS lightly corrected (best version)
Box 10, Folder 6	WCW. . . - Chapt. 2, "Poems, 1909," pp.43-63, TS lightly corrected (best)
Box 10, Folder 7	WCW. . . - Chapt. 3, "The Tempers," pp.64-92, TS lightly corrected (best)
Box 10, Folder 8	WCW. . . - Chapt. 4, "Al Que Quiere," pp.93-137, TS lightly corrected (best)
Box 10, Folder 9	WCW. . . - Chapt. 5, "Sour Grapes," pp.138-171, TS lightly corrected (best)
Box 10, Folder 10	WCW. . . - Chapt. 6, "Spring and All," pp.172-222, TS lightly corrected (best)
Box 10, Folder 11	Melville and the Greeks (1967) - TS w/ corrections, 49pp.

Series 5. Dated and Published Manuscripts

Box 10, Folder 12 **Record Book (1968-74) - MS, drafts of poems, w/ insertions**
Box 10, Folder 13 **Meat Air (1970) - TS heavily corrected, pp.i-41**
Box 10, Folder 14 **Meat Air - TS heavily corrected, pp.42-83**
Box 10, Folder 15 **Meat Air - TS heavily corrected, pp.84-124**
Box 11, Folder 1 **Meat Air (1970) - proofs, marked set**
Box 11, Folder 2 **Meat Air - galleys, w/ corrections**
Box 11, Folder 3 **Meat Air - proofs (later version) w/o corrections**
Box 11, Folder 4 **Meat Air - bound edition, labeled "Advance Uncorrected Proofs"**
Box 11, Folder 5 **Goat Dances (1976) - bound, photocopied TS, 116pp.**

Series 6. Unpublished Manuscripts

Scope and Content Note

includes TS, MS, notes, short stories, and poetry

- Box 11, Folder 6 **Personal Statement**
- Box 11, Folder 7 **The Truck - scenario, corrected TS, about 100pp.**
- Box 11, Folder 8 **Notebook (1966-68)**
- Box 11, Folder 9 **Notebook (n.d.) - possibly including both Ron and Joanie Loewinsohn's handwriting**
- Box 11, Folder 10 **The World Series - TS story w/ few corrections, 25pp.**
- Box 11, Folder 11 **Dementia (1956-57) - TS & MS, poetry and prose**
- Box 11, Folder 12 **The Snow - TS short story found in folder labeled "The Cooker"**
- Box 11, Folder 13 **Poetry - TS & MS w/ corrections found in folder labeled "Master Hopper"**
- Box 11, Folder 14 **Poetry - TS & MS w/ corrections found in folder labeled "Hopper"**
- Box 11, Folder 15 **Poetry - TS & MS w/ corrections found in folder labeled "Asleep"**
- Box 12, Folder 1 **Poetry and prose - TS found in folder labeled "Dead"**
- Box 12, Folder 2 **After the (Mimeograph) Revolution - TS story found in folder labeled "Dead"**
- Box 12, Folder 3 **Poetry "to Raymond DiPalma" found in folder labeled "Dead"**
- Box 12, Folder 4 **Poetry and prose - TS & MS found in folder labeled "Dead and Buried"**
- Box 12, Folder 5 **Poetry, prose, notes, etc. - TS & MS from folder labeled "Notes & Stuff"**
- Box 12, Folder 6 **Poetry, prose, etc. - TS found in folder labeled "Carbons - Dupes"**
- Box 12, Folder 7 **2 Poems with note "to Ellie" & 1 poem, alone**
- Box 12, Folder 8 **Poetry, prose, notes, etc. - TS & MS w/o any organization**
- Box 12, Folder 9 **Poetry, prose, notes, etc. - TS & MS w/o any organization**
- Box 12, Folder 10 **Limekiln Creek - TS draft with lots MS notes/corrections on reverse**
- Box 12, Folder 11 **Limekiln Creek - pp.1-37, TS w/ corrections**
- Box 12, Folder 12 **Limekiln Creek - pp.38-74, TS w/ corrections**
- Box 12, Folder 13 **Limekiln Creek - pp.75-111, TS w/ corrections**
- Box 12, Folder 14 **Limekiln Creek - pp.112-148, TS w/ corrections**
- Box 12, Folder 15 **Limekiln Creek - pp.149-185, TS w/ corrections**
- Box 12, Folder 16 **The Leaves [10] - poetry, TS w/ corrections, 3pp.**
- Box 12, Folder 17 **In the Library - story, TS w/ corrections, 9pp.**
- Box 12, Folder 18 **Number 10 - story, 2 very different drafts, both TS**
- Box 12, Folder 19 **Food for Thought - script, 2 copies, both TS, one with comments**
- Box 12, Folder 20 **"The Glamour of the Real, The Commodious Adjective" - paper written and submitted by Ramon Fernandez for the Helen Choate Bell Prize - probably reviewed by Loewinsohn as member of Prize Committee**