GILBERT, JACK, 1925-2012.
Jack Gilbert papers, 1947-2013

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Gilbert, Jack, 1925-2012.
Title: Jack Gilbert papers, 1947-2013
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1375
Extent: 71 linear feet (71 boxes) 1 oversized bound volume (OBV), and AV Masters: 3 linear feet (3 boxes).
Abstract: The papers of poet and novelist, Jack Gilbert, consisting of bound volumes, correspondence, research on erotica, personal and professional papers, printed material, negatives, photographs, slides, subject files, writings by Gilbert, writings by others, and audiovisual materials, from 1947-2013.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact the Rose Library at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.
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Related Materials in This Repository
Laura Ulewicz papers.

Source
Purchase, 2016

Custodial History
Upon his death, Gilbert left his papers to his ex-partner, executrix, and longtime friend, Linda Gregg. The Rose Library purchased the papers from Gregg in 2016 via book dealer, James Jaffe

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Jack Gilbert papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Arranged and described at the box level by Meaghan O'Riordan, April 2017.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Jack Gilbert, American poet, was born on February 17, 1925, in the East Liberty neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After failing out of Peabody High School, Gilbert sold Fuller brushes door-to-door, worked in steel mills, and accompanied his uncle to fumigate houses. Due to a clerical error, Gilbert was admitted to the University of Pittsburgh, where he met Gerald Stern, who helped to foster Gilbert's interest in poetry and writing. Gilbert earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the university in 1947. After college, Gilbert went to Paris, France, and worked briefly for the *International Herald Tribune* before moving to Italy. He spent several years there and met Gianna Gelmetti, a romantic partner, who appears frequently in his work.

Gilbert then moved to San Francisco, California, where the Beat and Haight-Ashbury countercultures were emerging. He lived in the Bay Area for seven years from 1956 to 1963, during which time he attended San Francisco State University, worked with Ansel Adams, and participated in Jack Spicer's *Poetry is Magic* workshop. Gilbert also knew Laura Ulewicz at this time and dedicated his first book to her: "To Laura Ulewicz, a kind of dragon."

Gilbert's work is distinguished by simple lyricism and straightforward clarity of tone, with much of the content centered on his relationships with women. His first book of poetry, *Views of Jeopardy*, published in 1962, won the Yale Younger Poets Prize and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. After its publication, he lived an isolated life and published books of poetry intermittently, though he continued to contribute to periodicals, such as *The American Poetry Review, Genesis West, The Quarterly, Poetry, Ironwood, The Kenyon Review, and The New Yorker*. He won a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1964 and left for Greece with the poet, Linda Gregg. He met her when she was nineteen and his student in San Francisco. They were in a romantic relationship for six years and remained close friends afterward.

During his time abroad, he also toured 15 countries as a lecturer on American Literature for the United States State Department. In the 1970s, he met and lived with the sculptor, Michiko Nogami, in Japan.

He spent the next several years living intermittently in Northhampton, Massachusetts, San Francisco, California, and Florida. Gilbert’s third book, *The Great Fires*, is constituted largely of love poems inspired by Nogami. It was published in 1994, the same year he won the Lannan Literary Award for Poetry. He was also the 1999-2000 Grace Hazard Conkling writer-in-residence at Smith College (Northhampton, Massachusetts).

Gilbert was a visiting professor and writer-in-residence at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville, Tennessee) and won the National Book Critics Circle Award for *Refusing Heaven* (2005). Gilbert was also interested in erotica and published two erotic novels, *My Mother Taught Me* (2004) and *Forever Ecstasy* (2008), both coauthored with Jean MacLean and published under the pseudonym, Tor Kung.

Gilbert died on November 13, 2012, in Berkeley, California. He was posthumously nominated and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize again in 2013 for *Collected Poems*.


**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Jack Gilbert from 1947-2013 and include bound volumes, correspondence, erotica research, personal and professional papers, printed material, negatives, photographs, slides, subject files, writings by Gilbert, writings by others, and audiovisual materials, from 1947-2013.

Many of the bound volumes are what Gilbert called "life albums," which are comprised of clippings, correspondence, printed material and other ephemera pasted together into albums, like a scrapbook. Most of the printed material and the subject files included in his papers contain more of this material that Gilbert collected but never transformed into albums. Life albums are often centered on the country in which Gilbert was living and/or the woman with whom he had a romantic relationship at the time. The bound volumes also include journals, notebooks and drafts.

Correspondence includes letters, mostly personal with some relating to his publications. Many of the envelopes, particularly from Sue Lawrence and Jean MacLean, include artwork created by them.

The erotica research is comprised primarily of printed material cut out from works that Gilbert read and collected. Gilbert would compile these clippings into envelopes, seal them, and then provide context on the outside of the envelope: title, author, publication year, notes about the plot and then his own review, often with a letter grade assigned. There are also paperbacks of erotica included in this material, most of which have been altered in some way by Gilbert.
Personal and professional papers include material relating to Gilbert's time as a student and a teacher, such as notes for classes both taught and taken and papers he wrote for class assignments. There are also financial records.

Negatives, photographs, and slides are almost exclusively made up of amateur pornography created by Gilbert and his friends, with the few exceptions including shots of everyday life and of trips that Gilbert took around the world. Audiovisual materials are more diverse, including audio of poetry readings by Gilbert and others, but still include some film of amateur pornography.

Writings include drafts, notes and typescripts of poems and poem collections, both published and unpublished, by Gilbert. Writings by others includes work by students and friends of Gilbert, including Jean MacLean.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged by record type in the order in which the material was received.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Erotica research, journals, one life album, and theses on Gilbert, circa 1965-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Journals and two life albums, circa 1984-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Journals, circa 1960-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Drafts, three life albums, circa 1960-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Drafts, circa 1989-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Journals, circa 1961-2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Drafts, erotica research, and journals, circa 1972-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Dismantled life album(s), circa 1941-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Ezra Pound research and three life albums, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Four life albums, circa 1947-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Four life albums, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Correspondence, journals, Ezra Pound research, and six life books, circa 1992-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Five life albums, circa 1978-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Four life albums, journals and notebooks, circa 1990-1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Four life albums, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Four life albums, circa 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bound volumes: Journals and notebooks, circa 1947-1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Chimena Kabasenche, letters and poems, circa 2006-2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, Sue Lawrence and others, circa 1959-1987</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, circa 1975-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, circa 1950-2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, circa 1963-1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Correspondence, circa 1961-1985</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>Correspondence, circa 1966-1984</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>Correspondence, circa 1956-1993</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, circa 1964-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, Jean MacLean and others, circa 1962-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, family, Jean MacLean, Yale prize notification and others, circa 1955-1979</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, circa 1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Correspondence, Sue Lawrence and others, circa 1962-1966</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ephemera, primarily drawings and other artwork, undated</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Erotica research, envelopes, circa 1962-1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Erotica research, envelopes and books, circa 1961-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Erotica research, envelopes and books, circa 1972-1981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
35 - Erotica research, index cards, undated
OBV1 - Journal, circa 1940s
36 - Personal and professional papers, circa 1985-1988
37 - Personal and professional papers, circa 2012-2013
38 - Personal and professional papers, includes Ezra Pound research, circa 1974-1979
39 - Printed material, circa 2009-2011
40 - Printed material, undated
41 - Printed material, circa 1996-2007
42 - Printed material, circa 1977-1983
43 - Photograph albums, undated
44 - Negatives, photographs, and slides, undated [1]
45 - Negatives, photographs, and slides, undated [2]
46 - Negatives, photographs, and slides, undated [3]
47 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1951-1979
48 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1961-1975
49 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1956-1987
50 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1951-1969
51 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1970-1979
52 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1964-1979
53 - Subject files, alphabetical, circa 1994-2007
54 - Subject files, chronological, circa 1943-1988
55 - Subject files, chronological, circa 1949-1979
56 - Writings, undated [1]
57 - Writings, undated [2]
58 - Writings, undated [3]
59 - Writings, undated [4]
60 - Writings, undated [5]
61 - Writings, undated [6]
62 - Writings, undated [7]
63 - Writings, undated [8]
64 - Writings, undated [9]
65 - Writings, undated [10]
66 - Writings, undated [11]
67 - Writings by others, undated [1]
68 - Writings by others, undated [2]
AV1 - Unprocessed audiovisual materials [1]
AV2 - Unprocessed audiovisual materials [2]
AV3 - Unprocessed audiovisual materials [3]