Liam Rector papers

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Liam Rector papers
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1229
Extent: 15.5 linear feet (20 boxes), 1 oversized papers box (OP), and AV Masters: 1 linear foot (3 boxes)
Abstract: Papers of American poet and educator Liam Rector, including correspondence; drafts of poems and other writings by Rector; writings by others collected by Rector; professional papers; personal papers; and printed material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance for access to unprocessed born digital materials in this collection. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library’s ability to provide access to unprocessed born digital materials.

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Source
Gift, 2012.

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

Processing
Unprocessed collection.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Liam Rector (1949-2007), American poet and educator, was born Ronald Edward Rector in Washington, D.C., on November 21, 1949. He attended several colleges, but never received an undergraduate degree. He did, however, earn a master's degree from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University and an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He was the director of the Writing Seminars at Bennington College in Bennington, Vermont, and taught at Columbia University and Emerson College, among others. He also administered literary programs for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Academy of American Poets.

Rector was the author of three volumes of poetry: *The Sorrow of Architecture* (1984), *American Prodigal* (1994), and *The Executive Director of the Fallen World* (2006). At the time of his death, he was married to poet Tree Swenson and had one daughter from a previous marriage. Facing failing health, Rector committed suicide in his New York City apartment on August 15, 2007.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of American poet and educator Liam Rector. The collection includes correspondence; drafts of poems and other writings by Rector; writings by others collected by Rector; professional papers relating to Bennington College, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Folger Shakespeare Library; personal papers; printed material; and a small quantity of born digital materials.

Arrangement Note
Unprocessed collection.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence [primarily with James Haft]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence; personal and professional papers; writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence; printed material; professional papers; writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence; professional papers; writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence; printed material; writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence; personal papers; writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Notebooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>On Frank Bidart: Fastening the Voice to the Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>On Frank Bidart: Fastening the Voice to the Page; professional papers [primarily from Bennington College]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Personal papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional papers [primarily from Bennington College and the National Endowment for the Arts]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional papers [primarily from Bennington College]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional papers [primarily from Bennington College]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Printed material</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Printed material</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Printed material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Printed material [clippings]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Born digital materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Posters and a calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acoustic guitar music and singing, undated [Side A]; Acoustic guitar music, singing, and a few conversations, undated [Side B] [original: open reel tape] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r8pq8][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r8prd]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mix of music and poetry (including Alan Price &quot;Changes&quot; and Mark Strand &quot;The Story of Our Lives&quot;), undated [original: open reel tape] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r9tqr][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r9tpm]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Recording of pre-produced songs by various artists (Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, etc.), undated [Side A]; Various songs recorded live with acoustic guitar, some discussion, undated [Side B] [original: open reel tape] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r8kqz][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r8kpt]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ron and Elizabeth goofing, undated [original: open reel tape] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r9kr5][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r9knr]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AV1 - Ron talking and reading "Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock" and other poems on tape (for Elizabeth), undated [original: open reel tape]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r8ptp][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r8pvt]

AV1 - Woman reading poetry and providing commentary on tape for her mother, undated [original: open reel tape]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r9trw][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id r9tng]

AV1 - Highway - New Orleans, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32q3]

AV1 - Ocean stuff in Maryland, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32jd]

AV1 - Rectortown and Eating Poetry, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32kj]

AV1 - Ron Rector, Baby Face at Julie's Party, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32h8]

AV2 - The Story of Our Lives, a Film by Ron Rector, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32vn]

AV3 - Untitled, footage of people reading poetry, aerial shots, travel, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32ws]

AV2 - Untitled, performance art/poetry, undated [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32th]

AV1 - Lee's Mill and New York, Out Cuts, 1976 [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32mp]

AV1 - Untitled, footage of New York City, 1976 [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32pz]

[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32nt]

AV1 - Untitled, footage of Washington D.C., protest involving WGTB college radio station, 1976 [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32sc]

AV1 - Untitled, footage of Washington D.C., 1976 [original: film]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32r7]

AV1 - Baltimore Reading, Bruce Duffy and Liam Rector, November 8, 1984 [original: Betamax]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id s32xx]