

# RECTOR, LIAM, 1949-2007.

## Liam Rector papers

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

**Creator:** Rector, Liam, 1949-2007.  
**Title:** Liam Rector papers  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1229  
**Extent:** 15.5 linear ft. (20 boxes), 1 oversized paper (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.

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### Administrative Information

#### Restrictions on Access

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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.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	-	Correspondence [primarily with James Haft]
2	-	Correspondence; personal and professional papers; writings
3	-	Correspondence; printed material; professional papers; writings
4	-	Correspondence; professional papers; writings
5	-	Correspondence; printed material; writings
6	-	Correspondence; personal papers; writings
7	-	Notebooks
8	-	On Frank Bidart: Fastening the Voice to the Page
9	-	On Frank Bidart: Fastening the Voice to the Page; professional papers [primarily from Bennington College]
10	-	Personal papers
11	-	Professional papers [primarily from Bennington College and the National Endowment for the Arts]
12	-	Professional papers [primarily from Bennington College]
13	-	Professional papers [primarily from Bennington College]
14	-	Printed material
15	-	Printed material
16	-	Printed material
17	-	Printed material [clippings]
18	-	Born digital materials
OP1	-	Posters and a calendar
AV1	-	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]
AV1	-	Mix of music and poetry (including Alan Price "Changes" and Mark Strand "The Story of Our Lives"), 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]
AV1	-	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]
AV1	-	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]

- 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 r8rptp][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]
- AV1 - Untitled, performance artists, footage of Washington D.C., New York City, Lee's Mill, 1976 [original: film]  
[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]
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