



Guide to the Ken Wainio Papers, 1970-2006

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Ken Wainio papers, 1970-2012

Creator:

Wainio, Ken, 1952-2006

Abstract:

Ken Wainio (1952-2006) was an American surrealist author and poet based in San Francisco, California. Collection includes manuscripts and drafts of many of Wainio's poems and writings, including his novel, Starfuck. Also includes his journals and diaries, published poetry and printed materials, some correspondence, snapshots, and other biographical information.

Extent:

9.9 Linear Feet

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01335

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/wainioken/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ken Wainio Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The majority of the collection consists of drafts or manuscripts of Wainio's writings, which ranged from poetry to short stories to novels to plays. The condition of the drafts is fairly good, although many are incomplete or only

excerpts of the text. There are many draft versions of *Amorfos*, *Letters from Al-Kemi*, and *The Spiral Canyon*, which was later published by New Native Press as *Starfuck*, Wainio's first novel. Small amounts of material exist for several poems, short stories, and plays.

The remainder of the Writings, Manuscripts, and Drafts series includes some of Wainio's published works, present in both broadside form as well as in journals or other serials. Of note are the several issues of *Beatitude*, edited by Wainio at one point, as well as two issues of *Vanishing Cab*, his own publication. Also in the series is a small amount of Wainio's artwork.

There are over 30 journals present in the Journals series and they include diary entries, travel plans and notes, drafts of writings and poems, as well as sketches and artwork. They offer insight into Wainio's thought process as an author, as well as his methods of writing.

The remainder of the collection contains correspondence, including a series of correspondence between Wainio and Thomas Rain Crowe; personal materials, including obituary information, some of Wainio's college papers, and other miscellaneous materials; and photographs, which are largely undated snapshots taken by Wainio during his travels through Greece and the United States.

Biographical/Historical

Ken Wainio was born in Ukiah, California, about two hours north of San Francisco, in 1952. He began to write at age fifteen--having been influenced by the writings of the French poets Lautreamont, Rimbaud, and Nerval. He moved to San Francisco at the beginning of the 1970s to study at San Francisco State University with the Greek surrealist poet Nanos Valaoritis, and met the American surrealist poets Philip Lamantia and Stephen Schwartz. A couple of years later, in an informal "poetry class" being conducted in the home of Harold Norse, he met Thomas Rain Crowe, Neeli Cherkovski and Luke Breit--along with whom he would later help to resurrect *Beatitude* magazine. Wainio was co-editor of issue No. 26 which appeared in 1977. During the 1970s, his poems were regularly published in Bay area literary magazines. With Jerry Estrin, Wainio was a founding editor of the surrealist publication *Vanishing Cab*. After driving a taxicab for the entire decade of the 1980s, he moved to Glenhaven, California. His travels took him to Greece and Egypt, where he spent considerable time in the 1980s and 1990s. His poems and fiction were published both in America and abroad in such journals as *Nexus*, *Asheville Poetry Review*, *Litterature en Marche* and *Gregas in Montpellier*, France. His books included *Crossroads of the Other* (written in the 1970s and published in 1994), *Letters to Al-Kemi*, *Starfuck* (a novel published on computer disk in 1996) and *Automatic Antiquity* (a collection of poetry published in 2004). Wainio died on January 26, 2006.

Biographical note source: *The Baby Beats & The 2nd San Francisco Renaissance*. New Native Press, 2005.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Electronic records in this collection have been migrated to a library server and digital use copies can only be accessed onsite in the Rubenstein Library Reading Room.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Ken Wainio Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2011.

Additions to the Ken Wainio Papers were transferred from Thomas Rain Crowe in 2013, 2017, and 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, February 2011

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, February 2011

Updated by Laurin Penland, May 2017.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2011-0003, 2017-0073, 2018-0181.

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Ken Wainio was a friend of Thomas Rain Crowe, whose papers are also held by Duke Univeristy.

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Names and Subjects

- Poems
- Surrealism -- Authors
- American poets -- History and criticism
- Surrealism (Literature)
- Surrealism -- Poetry
- Diaries
- Drafts (documents)
- Crowe, Thomas Rain
- Wainio, Ken, 1952-2006

Collection Inventory

Writings, Manuscripts, and Drafts, 1970s-2005

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Includes handwritten and typescript drafts of Wainio's poetry, prose, and plays. The largest amount of material is from his work on Starfuck and Amorfos. Also includes a small amount of his artwork; published versions of his poetry and prose; as well as some works published by others.

Access Restrictions:

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The Spiral Canyon Box 1

Scope and Contents note

The Sprial Canyon was renamed to Starfuck. It is a novel published by New Native Press.

Outline Box 1

Debris Box 1

Draft No. 1, 1993 Box 1

Physical Description: 4 folders

First draft, undated Box 1

Physical Description: 4 folders

Draft, 1996 Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Draft, copy 2, 1996 Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Draft, 1997 Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Starfuck, 1995 Box 6

Starfuck digital media, 1996 (online item available) Box 6

Physical Description: Disk image derived from one 3.5" floppy disk.

Digital Object: [Starfuck: a cyber novel by Ken Wainio](#)

Access Restrictions:

Electronic records have been migrated to a library server and digital use copies can only be accessed onsite in the Rubenstein Library Reading Room.

Starfuck, 1997	Box 1
California memoir manuscript, undated Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 1
Amorfos, 1987 Physical Description: 6 folders Scope and Contents Drafts and outlines	Box 2
Amorfos draft, 1987	Box 8
Poetry	
Early poetry and other writings, undated	Box 2
Unfinished and first drafts, Summer 1976	Box 2
Poems, undated	Box 2
Copies of poems, 1970s and undated Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 2
Early poems, unfinished poems, and other writings Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 2
Poetry, 1974-1978 and undated	Box 3
Poems, 1980s Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 3
Copies of poems, undated	Box 3
Dead file (poetry), undated	Box 3
Poem originals, 1993	Box 3
Egypt poems, undated Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 3

Prize Hog and early poems, 1970s and undated	Box 8
Automatic Antiquity (poem), undated	Box 3
Essays and poems, 1990s	Box 3
Miscellaneous drafts and manuscripts, undated	Box 3
Old stuff, undated	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Voyeur One, undated	Box 3
Sasquatch, undated	Box 3
Maldorer--Adaptation of Comte de Lauremont's Les Chants de Maldorer, 1974	Box 3
Two Children Menaced by a Nightingale (play), undated	Box 3
Short stories, 1999	Box 3
Close Quarters, undated	Box 3
Public Enema, undated	Box 3
Vancouver to Paris, undated	Box 3
Vancouver to Athens, undated	Box 3
Eyes of the Night, undated	Box 3
Free Milk, undated	Box 3
Hawk Eggs, 1987 and 2001	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Jacking Off, 1987	Box 3
The Loon, undated	Box 3
Hoop Snakes, 1987	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	

Crossroads of the Other (poem), undated	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Fountain of Wolves, 1990s	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Child of the Sun (book in progress)	Box 3
Child of the Sun, undated	Box 8
Letters from a Future Ancestor, undated	Box 3
Scene of the Crime, 2005	Box 3
Apocalypse Rave: A Coda, 2002	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Book in Progress, 1980	Box 3
Rock Bottom (play), undated	Box 3
Necropolis, undated	Box 3
Necropolis poems, misc. others, 1991-2006	Box 8
Slab Window, undated	Box 3
Cameroon, undated	Box 3
Inn of Dreams, undated	Box 3
The Island Where Homer Died, undated	Box 3
Pink Olympics, undated	Box 3
The Ugliest Woman in the World, undated	Box 3
Letters from Al-Kemi, 1980-1981 and undated	Box 4 Box 9
Physical Description: 7 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Includes drafts, proofs, published version, Egypt materials and paraphenalia, and materials from Upper Egypt and Cairo.	
Computer art by Wainio, undated	Box 4

Original artwork, 1978 and undated	Box 4
Posters and promotional materials	Box 4
Printed poetry, broadsides, 1977-1996	Box 4
Beatitude issues 21-26, 31, 33, dated 1975-1985	Box 4
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Crow issues 1-4, 6, dated 1985-1986	Box 4
Vanishing Cab issues 1, 3, dated 1975	Box 4
Published artwork, 2001	Box 4
Published poetry	Box 4
Published prose	Box 4
The Baby Beats and 2nd San Francisco Renaissance, 2004-2005	Box 4
Printed works by others	Box 4
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Oversize poetry and draft	Oversize-folder 1
The Abomunist Experiments, 2004	Box 8
Physical Description: 2 folders	
The Acropolis Rave, 1999-2001	Box 8
The Greek Book of Non-fiction, undated	Box 9
Bourgeoisie, 1976	Box 9
Fountain of the Wolves, undated (1990s?)	Box 9
Scene of the Crime: Confessions of a Baby Beat (proof/draft with corrections)	Box 9
Poetry (unpublished drafts and published copies), 1970s-2000s	Box 9

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Journals, 1970s-1990s

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Wainio's personal journals: bound volumes with his diaries, drafts, and artwork.

Journals	Box 5
Journals	Box 6

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Correspondence, 1970s-2006 and undated

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Majority of the correspondence consists of letters from Thomas Rain Crowe. Also includes miscellaneous incoming correspondence dating from the 1970s to the 1990s, as well as correspondence between Crowe and Wainio's friends and family following his death in 2006.

Incoming correspondence from Thomas Rain Crowe, 1970s-1990s	Box 6
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Emails, 2004-2005	Box 6
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Incoming correspondence, miscellaneous, 1970s-1990s	Box 6
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Outgoing correspondence from Cairo, 1979	Box 6
Copies of outgoing correspondence, 2000 and undated	Box 6
Correspondence regarding Wainio's death, 2006	Box 6
Literary Estate, 2009-2011	Box 6

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Personal Materials and Miscellany, 1973-2006

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Includes obituary information, Wainio's numerology chart, some college papers, a statement on poetries, and other miscellaneous materials.

Biographical information and obituary materials, 2006-2012 and undated	Box 6
Surrealism history essay by Steve Schwart, undated	Box 6
Publishing history	Box 6
College papers, 1973 and undated	Box 6
Letters of recommendation	Box 6
Statement on poetries	Box 6
Numerology chart	Box 6
Portraits of Wainio	Box 6

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Photographs, undated

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Color snapshots of Wainio or by Wainio, including portraits, scenery from various vacations and travels, and pictures of his friends and colleagues. Most are unlabelled and undated.

Photographs	Box 7
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