

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Jan Erik Bouman Collection of James Purdy

YCAL MSS 1510



by Beinecke staff, Brooke McManus

2019. Revised: May 2022

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1510

**CREATOR:** Bouman, Jan Erik , collector

**TITLE:** Jan Erik Bouman collection of James Purdy

**DATES:** 1977-2006

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.21 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English, with a small amount of material in Dutch.

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains writings of American author James Purdy, correspondence of Purdy and Dutch printer Jan Erik Bouman, photographs, drawings and a sketchbook by Purdy, ephemera, printed material, and computer media. Writings include typescript drafts of poems, novels, plays, and shorter works by Purdy, as well as published versions of Purdy's poems issued by Bouman's Utrecht-based press Hugin & Munin.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.boumanpurdy>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.boumanpurdy>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Rene Hesselink, 2011.

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 3 (DVD): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Jan Erik Bouman Collection of James Purdy is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Jan Erik Bouman Collection of James Purdy. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Jan Erik Bouman (1947-2010)

Jan Erik Bouman was a Dutch printer and friend of American writer James Purdy. He operated the small press Hugin & Munin in Utrecht, Netherlands, from 1995 until his death. Bouman printed several works by Purdy.

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## James Purdy (1914-2009)

James Purdy was an American author, poet, translator, and playwright. His early works include the short story collections *63: Dream Palace* (1956) and *Color of Darkness* (1961), and the novels *Malcolm* (1959), which was adapted for the stage by Edward Albee in 1966, and *Eustace Chisholm and the Works* (1967). As a playwright, Purdy's best-known work is *Cracks*, produced Off-Broadway in 1963. His later works include *Collected Poems* (1990), *Out with the Stars* (1992), and *Moe's Villa and Other Stories* (2000, 2005).

## **Scope and Contents**

This collection contains writings of American author James Purdy, correspondence of Purdy and Dutch printer Jan Erik Bouman, photographs, drawings and a sketchbook by Purdy, ephemera, printed material, and computer media. Writings include typescript drafts of poems, novels, plays, and shorter works by Purdy, as well as published versions of Purdy's poems issued by Bouman's Utrecht-based press Hugin & Munin.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into three series: I. James Purdy Writings, 1977-2004. II. Correspondence, 1984-2006, undated. III. Computer Media, 2004.

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## Collection Contents

### James Purdy Writings, 1977-2004

1 linear foot (1 box)

This series primarily contains typescript and photocopied drafts of poems, plays, novels, and shorter works by James Purdy, including *Collected Poems*, "Moe's Villa," and *Foment*, as well as correspondence, ephemera, reviews, agreements with Jan Erik Bouman, and poems of Purdy printed by Hugin & Munin.

Associated materials: Writings can also be found in Series II. Correspondence.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b.1	<i>Are You in the Wintertree</i> , with related correspondence and other documents 1 Folder	1985-1987
b.1	<i>The Blue House: Forbidden Poems</i> , with letters from Purdy to Bouman 1 Folder	2000-2004
b.1	"Brawith" 1 Folder	1993
b.1	<i>Collected Poems</i> 1 Folder	1987
b.1	Works by James Purdy in Dutch 1 Folder	1984, undated
b.1	"Enduring Zeal" 1 Folder	1990
b.1	<i>Foment</i> 1 Folder	1990
b.1	<i>Foment</i> , bound typescript 1 Folder	1990
b.1	<i>Garments the Living Wear</i> 1 Folder	1987
b.1	<i>In the Night of Time</i> 1 Folder	1991
b.1	"Moe's Villa" 1 Folder	1997
b.1	<i>The Paradise Circus</i> 1 Folder	1991 April 1
b.1	"Plays" 2 Folders	1980s
b.1	"James Purdy poems and stories," with photocopied reviews 1 Folder	1977-2000
b.1	<i>The Rivalry of Dolls</i> , bound typescript 1 Folder	1990

b.1	<i>Ruthiana Elder</i> , with autograph dedication 1 Folder	1989, 1991 April 8
b.1	<i>Running the Sun</i> 1 Folder	1990
b.1	Untitled 1 Folder	1993 February 20-1994 February 3
b.1	"The White Blackbird," "Mi Chiecle Sepre," and Dutch newspaper clipping 1 Folder	1980s-1990s
b.1	<i>Out with the Stars</i> , photocopied proof 1 Folder	1992
b.1	<i>Where Quentin Goes</i> , "copy 2" 1 Folder	1991

**Correspondence, 1984-2006, undated***1 linear foot (1 box)*

This series contains correspondence between James Purdy and Jan Erik Bouman, as well as writings and artwork by Purdy, photographs, clippings, and ephemera. Included are copies of satirical sketches and mock press releases, letters, and news stories composed by Purdy.

Associated materials: Correspondence can also be found in Series I. James Purdy Writings.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, with empty envelopes filed at the end of the sequence.

b. 2	Bouman to Purdy <i>1 Folder</i>	1992-2006
b. 2	Purdy to Bouman <i>1 Folder</i>	1984-1988
b. 2	Purdy to Bouman <i>1 Folder</i>	1989-1992
b. 2	Purdy to Bouman <i>1 Folder</i>	1993-1999
b. 2	Purdy - "documents, drawings, photographs [sic], correspondence (not dated)" <i>2 Folders</i>	1985-2000
b. 2	Envelopes (empty) to Bouman <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1984-1988
b. 2	Envelopes (empty) to Bouman <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1989-2002
b. 2	Envelopes (empty) to Bouman <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1993-2000
b. 2	Small envelopes (empty) to Bouman <i>1 Folder</i>	circa 1990-2000
b. 2	Large envelopes (empty) to Bouman <i>1 Folder</i>	circa 1985-2004





## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

American literature -- 20th Century  
American poetry -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Born digital  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Dramatists -- United States -- 20th Century  
Novelists -- United States -- 20th Century  
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century  
Printers -- Netherlands -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Bouman, Jan Erik  
Purdy, James, 1914-2009

### **Corporate Body**

Hugin & Munin (Firm)