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Felice Picano Papers

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 761

CREATOR: Picano, Felice, 1944-

TITLE: Felice Picano papers

DATES: 1970-1991

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11.63 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers contain Felice Picano's writings, journals and diaries, and correspondence with his publishers and his friends, including American author Andrew Holleran.

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

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.picano>.

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.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Felice Picano, 1993.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Felice Picano Papers 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.

Preferred Citation

Felice Picano Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

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 and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former call number: Uncat Za MS 282

Felice Picano (1944-)

Felice Picano, American author, editor, playwright, and activist, was born in New York in 1944; he graduated from Queens College in 1964.

Picano was affiliated with a literary group known as the Violet Quill, whose seven members, as men writing for men, are regarded as one of the strongest collective voices of the gay male experience in the post-Stonewall era. Authors Christopher Cox, Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley, Andrew Holleran, Edmund White, George Whitmore, and Picano met several times in 1979, 1980, and 1981 to read aloud from their works in progress. Also on the agenda were discussions of how they could work together to promote recognition, acceptance, and publication of gay literature beyond the boundaries of their own community. Of the VQ writers, Michael Grumley and Robert Ferro were the first to die from AIDS-related complications, both at age 46 in 1988, Grumley on April 28 and Ferro on July 11; they were followed by Whitmore in 1989 and Cox in 1990.

Scope and Contents

The Felice Picano Papers contain writings, journals and diaries, and correspondence with his publishers and his colleague Andrew Holleran.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Writings, 1982-1987. II. Journals and Notebooks, 1970-1989. III. Correspondence and Financial Records, 1973-1989. IV. Other Papers, 1975-1991.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1982-1987

5 linear feet (5 boxes)

The series contains drafts and finished typescripts of novels, plays, screenplays, and other writings by Picano.

Series I is arranged alphabetically by title of work, with miscellaneous writings at the end.

b. 1	"Amber's Wives," typescript 4 Folders	undated
b. 1	"Ambidextrous," typescript 4 Folders	1985
	"Automatons: a farce" Stored in: Series IV, box 13	undated
b. 1	"The Bombay Trunk," typescript 2 Folders	1987
b. 1	"The Cashmere Coat," typescript 2 Folders	undated
b. 1	"The Deformity Lover and other poems," typescript	undated
b. 1	"Edge Seven," typescript 4 Folders	undated
b. 1	"Eyes," typescript	undated
b. 2	"Eyes," typescript 7 Folders	undated
b. 2	"House of Cards," typescript 4 Folders	1984
b. 2	"Immortal," typescript	1986
b. 2	"Looking-Glass Lives," bound typescript	1982
b. 2	"The Lure," typescript 4 Folders	undated
b. 3	"The Lure," typescript 8 Folders	undated
b. 3	"Lust for Tomorrow," typescript	undated
b. 3	"Men Who Love Me," typescript 7 Folders	undated
b. 3	"The Mesmerist," typescript	undated
b. 4	"The Mesmerist," typescript 3 Folders	undated

b. 4	"Narrative and Curse," typescript <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 4	"One O'clock Jump," typescript	undated
b. 4	"Shadow Master," typescript <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 4	"Slashed to Ribbons," typescript <i>11 Folders</i>	undated
b. 4	"Smart as the Devil," typescript <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 4	"To the Seventh Power," typescript <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 5	A-C, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	C-E, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	F, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	F-I, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	L-M, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	M-P, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	P, miscellaneous typescripts Contains "Point of View," bound typescript	undated
b. 5	P-R, miscellaneous typescripts Contains "Point of View," bound typescript	undated
b. 5	S-T, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	T-V, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	W-Unidentified, miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	Unidentified miscellaneous typescripts	undated
b. 5	"Short Pieces," typescript poems <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 5	"Interviews," typescripts	undated
b. 5	"Reviews," typescripts <i>3 Folders</i>	undated

Series II: Journals and Notebooks, 1970-1989*5.42 linear feet (6 boxes)*

The series contains diaries, notebooks, and journals kept by Picano, some of which have drafts of his writings. The titles cited were assigned by Picano.

Series II is arranged roughly chronologically.

b. 6	Diary Vol. 1	1970
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 2	1970-1971
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 3	1971-1972
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 4 Contains a loose sheet of character descriptions.	1972-1973
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 5	1973-1974
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 6	1974
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 7	1974-1975
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 8	1975
b. 6	Diary, Vol 9	1975-1976
b. 6	Diary, extension of Vol 10	1976
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 10	1976-1977
b. 6	"The Diary of an Alchemist," Vol 11	1977-1978
b. 6	"The Journal of an Alchemist," Vol 12	1978-1979
b. 6	Diary, Vol 13	1979-1980
b. 6	Diary, Vol 14	1979-1980
b. 7	Diary, Vol 15	1980-1982
b. 7	Journals, Vol 16	1982-1983
b. 7	Diary, Vol 16	1982
b. 7	"The Cashmere Coat / 1. the Pillar of Ice / 2. The Two Tailors / Outline," notebook	1984
b. 7	"Outline for Edge Seven / The Cashmere Coat / 2. The Two Tailors," notebook	1984
b. 7	"Outline - Edge 7 / Men Who Loved Me pt.1," notebook	1985
b. 7	"EDGE 7 Chp3 / Mirror Without a Heart," notebook	1986
b. 7	"The Cashmere Coat," notebook	circa 1976
b. 7	"The Bombay Trunk Act II," notebook Contains journal entries.	circa 1980
b. 7	Journals, Vol 17	1983-1984

b. 7	"Amber's Wives / Book One / Review: A Kingdom in their Heads", notebook	1982-1983
b. 7	"Ambidextrous pt. 1 + prologue / The Cashmere Coat / These Men Speak to Me," notebook Contains journal entries.	1983
b. 7	"Ambidextrous pt.2 A Valentine / Reviews," notebook	1983-1984
b. 7	"Novel: Ambidextrous pt 3 The Effect of Mirrors / Pillar of Ice / Trainor," notebook	1984
b. 7	Journal (unlabeled volume)	circa 1984
b. 7	Journals, Vol 18	1985
b. 8	"Journals, Vol _"	1985-1986
b. 8	Journals, Vol 20	1986-1988
b. 8	Journals, Vol 21	1988-1989
b. 8	Poetry, notebook	1973
b. 8	"Reviews / Novel - Confidence - Outline / Poetry," notebook	1981-1982
b. 8	"Professor from Peru," notebook	undated
b. 8	"Narrative and Curse / II", notebook	undated
b. 8	Essay, Novel, TV Play and Poems, notebook	undated
b. 8	Essay, Novel and Story, notebook	undated
b. 8	"Men Who Loved Me pt 1," notebook	undated
b. 8	"The Lure," notebook Contains newspaper clipping	undated
b. 8	"Poetry / Story: One Way Out," notebook Contains bills and prescription.	undated
b. 8	Poetry, notebook Also contains lists of music and composers.	undated
b. 8	Poetry, notebook	1973
b. 8	"Singles / Blind Man's Bluff," notebook Lists of books and authors	1975
b. 8	Stories, Novella, Review, Novel and a Story, notebook	undated
b. 8	"Play: Penthouse / Essay: Function of Criticism", notebook	undated
b. 9	Reviews, Short Stories and Essays, notebook	1981
b. 9	Essay/Lecture, Poems, Short Fiction and Novel, notebook	1980
b. 9	Journal, Revisions, Poems and a Letter, notebook	undated

b. 9	"Re-Fitting," notebook	undated
b. 9	Stories, Novel, Essays and Poems, notebook	1979
b. 9	"The Lure," notebooks <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 9	Screenplay for "Eyes," notebook	undated
b. 9	"The Cable Experience / Book One: Testing, Testing," notebook	undated
b. 9	"The Cable Experience / Book Two: Refitting," notebook	undated
b. 9	"The Cable Experience outline" and Poems, notebook	undated
b. 9	"Story: Spinning / Novel: Late in the Season," notebook	1980
b. 9	"Confidence, a novel", Story and Reviews, notebook	1981
b. 9	"The Mesmerist," notebook	1975
b. 9	Novel, Preface and Reviews, notebook	1982
b. 9	"Novel: House of Cards pt 2 / Essay: Re-assessing Baudelaire," notebook Contains a magazine clipping.	1982
b. 9	"EDGE 7," notebooks <i>3 Folders</i>	circa 1986
b. 9	Poems, notebook	undated
b. 9	Poetry, notebook	1974
b. 9	"The Guest in the Little Red-Brick House," notebook	undated
b. 10	Ficto-Essay, Reviews, Stories, Novel and Poems, notebook	1980
b. 10	"Singles," notebook	undated
b. 10	Stories and Essays, notebook	1978
b. 10	Poems, notebook	1973
b. 10	Poems, Essays and Short Stories, notebook	undated
b. 10	"Hypnotism: Some Notes / A Very American Day," notebook	undated
b. 10	Unidentified revisions, notebook	undated
b. 10	Unidentified Story and Journal entries, notebook	circa 1985
b. 10	Reviews, Story and Poems, notebook	1980
b. 10	Reviews and Story, notebook	undated
b. 10	"Singles," notebook	undated
b. 10	"Point of View," notebook	undated

b. 10	"The Cable Experience - outline," loose pages	undated
b. 10	Unidentified Writings, notebook	undated
b. 10	Essay, Novels, Reviews and Poetry, notebook	1981
b. 10	"The Commandant Comes to Tea," notebook	undated
b. 10	Poetry, notebook	undated
b. 10	Unidentified Writings, loose pages	undated
b. 10	Poetry, notebook	undated
b. 10	"Play: Gone with the Titanic," notebook	undated
b. 10	"Betrothal at Usk," notebook	undated
b. 10	Poetry, notebook	1973
b. 10	Stories and Reviews, notebook	1983
b. 10	"The Mesmerist," notebook	undated
b. 10	Unidentified writings, notebook	undated
b. 11	Essays, Reviews, Short Stories and Novel, notebook	1981
b. 11	"Confidence, a novel," notebook	1981-1982
b. 11	Poetry, notebook	1981
b. 11	"The Final Flowering of Thomas Wydeslade," notebook	undated
b. 11	Poems, notebook	circa 1973
b. 11	"Wydeslade / Price of a Watercolor," notebook	undated
b. 11	Poems, loose pages, typed	undated

Series III: Correspondence and Financial Records, 1973-1989

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

The series primarily contains correspondence between Picano and his publishers, his friends Andrew Holleran and Jean Harris, and his agent Jane Rotrosen.

Series III is arranged alphabetically, with financial records at the end.

b. 12	General correspondence, A-Z	1976-1989
b. 12	Arbor House	1974-1977
b. 12	Delacorte Press	1976-1980
b. 12	Dell Books	1976-1979
b. 12	Harris, Jean	1979-1981
b. 12	Holleran, Andrew	1979-1988
b. 12	Rotrosen, Jane	1973-1977
b. 12	First names (otherwise unidentified)	1975-1981
b. 12	Financial records, notebook	1985

Series IV: Other Papers, 1975-1991*1 linear foot (1 box)*

Series IV primarily contains issues of magazines kept by Picano. Also present is a small scrapbook with composed pages of clippings, photographs, and printed ephemera.

b. 13	Magazines, titles C-S	1980-1982
b. 13	<i>Blueboy</i> magazines	1980-1981
b. 13	<i>Christopher Street</i> magazines 2 Folders	1979-1981
b. 13	<i>Mandate</i> magazines	1980-1981
b. 13	Publishers' catalogs and advertisements	1975-1980
b. 13	Articles and reviews	1975-1991
b. 13	Miscellaneous typed and handwritten material	1980-1991
b. 13	Scrapbook Contains a typescript of "Automatons: a farce"	undated

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 fiction -- 20th Century
American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Gay men's writings, American
Gay men -- Fiction
Gay men -- United States
LGBTQ resource
Male homosexuality -- Fiction
Violet Quill (Group of writers)

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Holleran, Andrew
Picano, Felice, 1944-