

Felice Picano Papers

YCAL MSS 761



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