Guide to the Papers of
The Chaucer Guild

By Jack James Kabrel Edited by R. Wolk

Archives and Special Collections, Cheng Library
William Paterson University

Descriptive Summary

Creator: The Chaucer Guild

Title: Guide to the Papers of The Chaucer Guild

Dates: 1930 – 2005

Abstract: The Chaucer Guild is the Oldest Poetry Society in New Jersey. This collection is only but a small amount of the material that was produced during seventy-five years of its existence. The material contained in this collection provides a wonderful running narrative of a small group of poets through photographs, letters, newsletters and various collections of poems.

Quantity: 2 folders

Collection No.:
Biographical Sketch

The Chaucer Guild was originally organized as the Mittru Chapter of the Chaucer Guild in 1930 by James Gabelle. A small group of six citizens from Paterson New Jersey met in November 1930 to form what would eventually become the oldest poetry society in New Jersey. Present at the meeting was Gabelle, Louis Ginsberg, Frances Hamilton Archer, Isabelle V. Hayward, Christie Jeffries and John Piekema. The purpose of The Chaucer Guild is to promote the writing of good poetry, appreciate fine poetry and to encourage young upcoming poets.


Scope and Content Note

The photographs in the collection cover the years 1930-1989. The pictures were mostly taken during meetings of the Guild, and are both formal and informal in their content. The news clippings cover the entire span of the Guild’s existence and give a fine narrative of the ongoing events of the poetry society. Printed invitations are an example of the events and activities sponsored by the Guild. They illustrate the range and scope of the organization, and provide a chronology of activities.

Special Note: Included within The Chaucer Guild collection is a series of four photographs of Louis Ginsberg and his family (including Allen Ginsberg). Louis Ginsberg was a founding member of the Chaucer Guild and his son, Allen Ginsberg was a prominent Beat Generation poet during the later half of the Twentieth Century.

Arrangement Note

The photographs, news clippings, invitations, correspondences and schedules of The Chaucer Guild are separated into two folders; one folder is labeled The Chaucer Guild, 1930 - 1969, and the other is labeled The Chaucer Guild, 1970 - 2005. A third folder contains four anthology publications from the Chaucer Guild; Feathers Glittering as Gold, 1981, Pilgrims Passing Through, 1985, Bittersweet: An Anthology of Poetry by
Mildred Farrar Davidson, 1986 and The Chaucer Guild Anthology for 2004 - 2005. The contents of each folder are arranged chronologically.

Name and Subject Index Terms

Personal Names
Archer, Frances Hamilton
Argiroff, Louise
Bloksberg, Bertha
Chaffee (Wood), Eleanor Alletta
Connors, May R.
Constantine, Karen Phillips
Davidson, Mildred Farrar
Demers, Rita
Dercar, Mary Lou
Donahue, Doris
Gabelle, James
Ginsberg, Allen
Ginsberg, Louis
Hall, Lloyd G.
Hayward, Isabelle V.
Haywood, Matilda S.
Haywood, William F.
Holderith, W.J.
Jeffries, Christie
Jones, Dr. George Elwood
Kelley, Bernice C.
Le Schack, Cathy Devereux
Neville, Richard
Piekema, John
Pratt, John Sterling
Quinzer, George
Rood, Marilyn Kingsley
Shubert, Reinold
Stempel, Lillian F.
Tiffany, Marguerite B.
Von Den Deale, Ellen P.
Weiss, Alfred
Wiegel, Evelyn M.
Subjects

Bloomfield College
Chaucer Guild, The
Colleges and Universities - New Jersey
Colleges and Universities - Faculty
Expression, The Garen Magazine
Garen Magazine, The
Literature
New Jersey Poets
Paterson (City)
Paterson State College
Poetry
Poetry - Beat Generation
Ramapo College
Rutgers University
William Paterson College