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Wheeler, Ray, Collection, 1963-1979

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Ray Wheeler Collection

Collection Number: MS 119
Title: The Ray Wheeler Collection
Name and Location of Repository: Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas
Dates: 1963 – 1979
Collection Size: 1 linear foot

Scope and Content: Ray Wheeler was a poet, playwright, and author of short stories and novels. The materials in this collection pertain to Wheeler’s relationship with James Tate, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, and alumnus of Pittsburg State University. This includes correspondence, biographical articles, clippings, programs, poems, manuscripts, publicity material, photographs, and sketches.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for access
Languages: English

Biographical Note: L. Ray Wheeler was born in Kansas City, Kansas on June 24, 1940. He received his bachelor’s degree from Kansas State College of Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University) in 1963, and his Ph.D from the University of North Dakota. Wheeler taught composition, philosophy, and creative writing at Dickinson State College (now University) in Dickinson, North Dakota for 46 years. Dr. Wheeler passed away in Dickinson, North Dakota on November 27, 2018.

Series: The collection is divided into eight series: Correspondence, Biographical; Clippings; Programs; Poems by James Tate; Manuscripts by James Tate; Publicity for James Tate; and Photographs and Drawings. All of the series are arranged chronologically.

The Correspondence Series includes letters from Tate to Wheeler.
The Biographical series consists of a brief biography on Tate, and two short biographies on Douglass Mellor and Dale Reipe.
The Clipping series contains biographical articles over Tate and his works.
The Programs series contains two programs for two of Wheeler’s plays.
The Poems by James Tate series consists of Tate’s poetry.
The Manuscripts by James Tate series contains two rough drafts for “A Nice Day for No Parade.”
The Publicity for James Tate Series consists of an advertisement for a reading and an interview he gave for The Matrix.
The **Photographs and Drawings** series contains a photograph of James Tate, a photograph of downtown Pittsburg, and several sketches of Tate.

**Folder List**

**Correspondence**
- f. 1 1963-1964
- f. 2 1965
- f. 3 1966
- f. 4 1966
- f. 5 1967
- f. 6 1968-1969
- f. 7 1970-1973
- f. 8 1974
- f. 9 1975-1979

**Biographical**
- f. 10 Biography of James Tate
  - Biography of Douglass Mellor and Dale Reipe

**Clippings**
- f. 11 1963-1967

**Programs**
- f. 12 “Prairie Humoresque” (undated)
  - “Dakota III” (undated)

**Poems by James Tate**
- f. 13 1965-1967
- f. 14 Undated
- f. 15 Undated

**Manuscript by James Tate**
- f. 16 Rough draft of “A Nice Day for No Parade” (2x)

**Publicity for James Tate**
- f. 17 Public Reading (1966)
  - Interview of Tate for *The Matrix* (1967)

**Photographs and Drawings**
- f. 18 Photograph of James Tate
  - Photograph of downtown Pittsburg by Bruce Daniel
  - Sketches of James Tate