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Tate, James, Collection, 1943-2004

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James Tate Collection

Collection Number	MS 115
Title	The James Tate Collection
Name and Location of Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas
Dates	1943 - 2004
Collection Size	2.5 linear feet
Creator	The materials of the James Tate Collection were collected by Gene DeGruson, from the early 1960s to 1997, and Randy Roberts, from 1998 to the mid-2000s. Additional materials were donated by Charles Cagle.

Scope and Content James Tate was a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, and an English and literature professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He was an alumnus of the Kansas State College of Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University). Tate's poems were published in numerous books, magazines, pamphlets, and as broadsides during his career. Tate won several awards and honors, including the Pulitzer Prize (Poetry, 1992); the Yale Series of Younger Poets; the National Book Award for Poetry; and in 2004 was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The contents of this collection consists of biographical and autobiographical material, correspondence, bibliographical information (compiled by Gene DeGruson), Tate's poetry, reviews, advertisements, publicity pieces, clippings, literary journals, recordings of interviews, and university catalogs.

Access Restrictions This collection is open for access

Languages English

Biographical Note James Tate was born on December 8, 1943 in Kansas City, Missouri. His father, Vincent Appleby, was a pilot during World War II and was killed in action shortly after Tate was born. After his mother remarried, he took the name of his step-father (Tate). James Tate attended high school at Shawnee Mission East High School, in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. In 1961 he was enrolled at the Kansas State College of Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University) where he majored in geology for a few months, before switching his degree to English with a minor in philosophy. He graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1967. After obtaining his master's degree Tate taught creative writing at the University of California, Berkley and Columbia University before settling at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1971. In 1972, Tate married Liselott Jonsson, and the marriage ended in divorce in 1986.

Tate began writing poetry during his first semester at the Kansas State College of Pittsburg. In 1966, Tate won the Yale Series of Younger Poets for his first collection of poems, *The Lost Pilot*, a series of poems inspired by his father. His first volume of poetry, *Cages*, was published in 1966. Many considered Tate's style as being surreal, ironic, comic, lively, dream-like, bold, and adventurous. Tate won the Poetry Society of America's William Carlos Williams Award in 1991 for his *Selected Poems*, which also won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1992. His collection of poetry, *Worshipful Company of Fletchers*, won the National Book award in 1994. He has also received the Wallace Stevens's award and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowments for the Arts. Tate was married to the poet Dara Wier. He died on July 8, 2015 in his home in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Series The materials are arranged into the following series: **Personal Items and Biographical; Photographs and Art; Poetry; Prose; Reviews and Mentions of Work; Promotional Material and Book Catalogs; Newspaper Clippings; Bibliography of Work; Readings and Workshops; University of Massachusetts – Amherst Catalogs; Recordings; and Miscellaneous.**

Box 1:

Series: Personal Items and Biographical

Personal Documents (Passports; Birth Certificate; Bank Documents)
Autobiographical Material (including a personal journal)
Biographical Material
Correspondence: 1962-1969
Correspondence: 1970-1997
Correspondence- Library and Publishers: 1968-1990
Kansas State College of Pittsburg (Student Days)

Series: Photographs and Artwork.

Photographs of James Tate (3 folders)

Polaroid-

Tate on a tractor (color) c. 1968
Tate on beach (color) c. 1968
Tate seated holding bottle (color) c. 1967
Tate standing among large boulders (color) n.d.
“End of an Era” Tate on a tractor (color) 1968
Tate seated, wearing red blazer (color) 1967
Tate on tractor (side view) (color) n.d.

Black and White:

Tate seated outside, hand on head n.d.
Tate being interviewed by Karen Lord 1967
Tate portrait 1967
Tate portrait 1967

Medium:

Tate at desk n.d.
Tate with “Under Milkwood” cast 1963

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Tate under statue n.d.
Tate in front of door (Crypt?) with James above n.d.
"North Dakota" Tate reading a book 1967
Tate at Podium "To Gene" 1970
Tate at 15 c. 1958
Tate outside with coat and scarf (2 copies) n.d.
Tate sitting against a wall with writing, coat and scarf n.d.
Tate at 4 c. 1947
Tate at cemetery n.d.
Tate at cemetery among tree branches n.d.
Tate with Virginia Piersol n.d. (2 photos)
Tate with poet Jorge Luis Borges 1970
Robert Lowell with son of (Ale)Xandra Gowrie c. 1967
Tate at 1 c. 1944
Tate at 6 weeks c. 1944
Tate with Rosemary Stark in "The Apple Cart" 1963
Betty Sears n.d.
Tate and Lina Tate 1980
Tate with umbrella 1966
Tate leaning up against "Red Front Buffet" n.d.
Tate leaning against building side, hat in hand n.d.
Tate standing next to "No Loafing" sign n.d.
Tate leaning against a dock n.d.
Negatives
Large:
Student Union Margaret E. Haughawat "Happening" 1969 with DeGruson and Cagle
Tate Speaking at "Happening" 1969 (3 copies)
Tate profile, standing with script in hand at "Happening" 1969
Unidentified woman "Los Gatos" (Robin?) n.d.
Unidentified woman (Robin?) n.d.
Robin n.d.
Tate leaning against door way 1968
Tate standing in front of wood pallets 1968
"Jim Tate in my Flagg St. kitchen, around 1973"
Tate Close-up n.d.
Tate Close-up "To Gene" 1967
Tate in NYC 1969 (2 different photos)
Tate in trees with houses in background n.d.
Tate Close-up "Proof" n.d.
Under Milkwood Cast 1963
Michigan 1969 (Tate on beach) 1969 (2 photos)
Close-up profile of Tate n.d.
Tate speaking to Rebecca Patterson 1969
Tate with Marion ?? 1969
Sheet of 9 small photos of Tate unidentified woman (Kathy?) n.d.
Tate at Laguna Beach 1971

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Tate at Laguna Beach with poem superimposed 1971
Tate reclining 1971
Tate wearing hat n.d.
Tate standing on porch of house, hat in hand n.d.
Tate reading to audience 1972 (2 copies)
Artwork

Series: Poetry

Published in Magazines, Journals and Books

The Abraxas / 5 Anthology (1972)

- The Bent Key

Aldebaran Review No. 2 (1968)

- Paul Came Home from Paris
- He is the Medium

Aldebaran Vol. 1, No. 2 (1972)

- Cabin Fever
- Violet
- A Little Pat on the Ass

Aldebaran Vol. 4, No. 2 (1975)

- In New York
- Rising Absenteeism
- Two for Charles Simic

Amphora No. 7 (1972)

- The Blue Canyon

The Atlantic Vol. 218, No. 3 (Sept. 1966)

- Last Letter from Old Kampoukos (pg. 94)

The Atlantic Vol. 218, No. 5 (Nov. 1966)

- The Lost Pilot (pg. 127)

The Atlantic Vol. 219, No. 1 (January 1967)

- Reapers of the Water (pg. 43)

The Atlantic Vol. 222, No. 3 (Sept. 1968)

- Rape in the Engineering Building (pg. 47)

The Atlantic Vol. 226, No. 1 (July 1970)

- The Professor Waking (pg. 73)

Brown Bag (1971)

- As a Child (pg. 43)
- The Bullwhipped Wrens of Delaware (pg. 44)

Café Solo #3 (Spring 1971)

- To Helen (pg. 38)
- The Gap (pg. 39)

Chicago Tribune Magazine (November 22, 1970)

- Dating Game (pg. 18)

Eureka #1 (Dec. 1972)

- Blond Bombshell Unnerves Squirts (pg. 40)
- Alfonso Lacklustre (pg. 40)
- A Dime in the Snow (pg. 41)

- Eavesdropper Without a Port, Becoming Small (pg. 42)
- Fine Frenzy* (1972) (Monograph, photocopy)
- The Professor Waking (pg. 361-2)
- First Issue* No. 6 (Fall/Winter 1971-72)
- Tails (pg. 20)
 - To Waste (pg. 20)
 - Ten Years of Poetry (pg. 20)
 - Between the Yes and the No (pg. 21)
 - The Story of the Alligator Left Behind (pg. 22)
 - Bats on Mummy (pg. 22)
- Harrison Street Review* [#1?] (July 1970)
- Failed Tribute to the Stonemason of Tor House, Robinson Jeffers (pg. 12)
- Harrison Street Review* #3 (1972)
- Daisy's Delirium (pg. 14)
 - When It Has Done With Us (pg. 14)
 - Rustin Steel (pg. 14)
 - Snuffing Out a Candle (pg. 15)
 - Scotophobin (pg. 15)
- Hunger Mountain* No. 9 (Fall 2006)
- The Ghost Soldiers (pg. 114)
 - The Reward (pg. 116)
 - Interview with James Tate and Dara Wier (pg. 105)
- Jeopardy*, No. 4 (1968) (Photocopy)
- Urban Affairs (pg. 116)
 - The Cheese Castle (pg. 116-7)
- Kayak* 20 (1969)
- My Girl (pg. 50)
 - The Bottomless Poems (pg. 51)
- The Little Review* Vol. 2, No. 2, Issue 4 (1971)
- The Missing Roller Rink (pg. 15)
 - Seeking Peace (pg. 15)
- Massachusetts Review* Vol. 20, No. 4 (Winter 1979)
- The Rustling of Foliage; The Memory of Caresses:
- Nobody's Business
 - Spring was Begging to be Born
 - Yellow Newspaper and a Wooden Leg
 - The Commune's Storehouse is Bursting with Grain
 - The Flithering Ignominy of Baba Ganoosh
 - Tragedy's Greatest Hits
 - Bluebird Houses
 - Signs of Distress
 - Cook's Voyage
 - On the World's Birthday
 - The Inscrutable Signature
 - The Planet of Rough Edges
 - Nausea, Coincidence

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- A Jangling Yarn
- The Horseshoe
- Matrix* Vol. 3, No. 2 (Spring 1963)
 - The Unraveling (pg. 17)
- Matrix* Vol. 6, No. 1 (Fall 1964)
 - Manford: Boo Fable (pg. 18) (short story)
 - Filipendulous World (pg. 31)
- Matrix* Vol. 6, No. 2 (Spring 1965)
 - My Terra Cotta (pg. 31)
 - No Parade (pg. 31)
 - Blue Flowers (pg. 32)
 - Epithalalmion (pg. 33)
 - Dimensuration (pg. 34)
- Messages: A Thematic Anthology of Poetry* (1973) (Monograph, photocopy)
 - Consumed (pg. 250)
- New Yorker* (August 19, 1967)
 - Coda (pg.85)
- New Yorker* (February 28, 1970)
 - Shadowboxing (pg. 40)
- New Yorker* (September 14, 1992)
 - More Later, Less the Same
- New Yorker* (April 19, 1993)
 - The Early Years (pg. 68)
- New Yorker* (June 14, 1993)
 - A Fox (pg. 54)
- New Yorker* (September 10, 2001) (Photocopy)
 - Cricket Cricket (pg. 65)
- On City Streets: An Anthology of Poetry* (1968) (Monograph, photocopy)
 - Flight (pg. 106)
- Pearl* No. 5 (Spring/Summer 1978)
 - New Wallpaper (pg. 22)
 - The Sun Never Forgets (pg. 23)
 - No, Problem Kissing Inc. (pg. 24)
- Pearl* No. 6 (Fall/Winter 1978)
 - Always New Magdalena (pg. 10)
 - Vallejo (pg. 11)
- Poetry: An Introductory Anthology* (1968) (Monograph, photocopy)
 - How the Friends Met (pg. 377)
- Poetry Now* Vol. 4, No. 1 (1978)
 - Schizophrenic Kiss (pg. 8)
 - The Gentle Beckendorfs (pg. 8)
 - Return (pg. 8)
- Porter Library Bulletin* Vol. 6, No. 2 (Spring 1972)
 - A Dime Found in the Snow (pg. 2)
 - Index to the Publications of James Tate (pg. 3)
 - Preliminary Bibliography (pg. 6)

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Porter Library Bulletin Vol. 9, Nos. 1-2 (Fall/Winter 1974)

- The Poor Little Rich Boy (short story) (pg. 7)

Portland Poetry Festival: Anthology (1975)

- Dreamy Cars Graze on the Dewy Boulevard (pg. 14)
- Poem (I Can't Speak for the Wind) (pg. 27)
- A Voyage from Stockholm to Take Advantage of Lower Prices on the Finnish Island of Aland (pg. 29)
- Read the Great Poets (pg. 35)
- Amherst to Easthampton (pg. 45)

Second Coming Vol. 1, No. 3 (1972)

- Sensitive Ears (pg. 58)
- Between the Yes and the No (pg. 58)
- Mr. Wantling (pg. 59)

Shake the Kaleidoscope: A New Anthology of Modern Poetry (monograph, photocopy) (1973)

- Rape in the Engineering Building (pg. 278)
- Leaving Mother Waiting for Father (pg. 278-9)
- Dark Street (pg. 279)

Spectrum Vol. 5, No. 2 (May 1972)

- Dead Giveaway

Box 2:

Suction Vol. 1, No. 1 (May 1969)

- Though the Odds were in Your Favor (pg. 8)
- The Sail Was Torn to Ribbons (pg. 9)
- They Exist Almost Always (pg. 9)

Wisconsin Review Vol. 2, No. 1 (December 1966)

- Success Comes to Cow Creek (pg. 6)
- The Hermit (pg. 16)

Broadsides, Broadsheets, and Cards (In Oversized Box)

Broadsides and Broadsheets

Between the Yes and the No (signed)
Brotherly Love (2 copies, signed)
Dear Reader (facsimile signature)
Dime Found in the Snow, A (3 copies)
Galley Proofs of Amnesia People
The Lost Pilot (flyer, framed)
Marfa (signed or facsimile signature)
My Nephew's Hotel (Cataloged, in Kansas Collection)
Mystics in Chicago (3 copies, Signed)
Nobody Goes to Visit the Insane Anymore
Poster- James Hendricks/Smith College (Tate blurb)
Shroud of the Gnome (signed, 84/100)
Shroud of the Gnome (signed, Copy V)
Who Gets the Bitterroot (signed, 115/250)

Cards

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Advertisement from Unicorn Press (2 copies)

The Door (2 copies)

Dream of a Prose Poem

The Immortals (3 copies)

In a Motel on Lake Erie

The Plaza

The Prose Poem

James Tate Poems – Manuscript and Signed or Attributed

The Answering Service

The Arsonist as Benefactor

The Blue Booby

Camping in the Valley

Cloud Marauder

Contagion

The Day Lost

Debutante's Birthday

The Destination (2 copies)

Eighteen

Epithalamion for Tyler

The Face of the Waters

Failed Tribute to the Stonemason of the House, Robinson Jeffers

For Bingo

The Glassy Harbor

Glossilalia

The Gorillas' Song

Graveside

A Hero by Chance

Images of Little Compton, Rhode Island

The Indian Undertaker

The Initiation

Late Harvest

Later

Letting Him Go

Manna

Man with Trappings

Nice Day for No Parade (Twenty-two numbered poems)

Nine

Paul Came Home from Paris

Peddler

Pity Ascending with the Fog

Plea Based on a Sentence from a Letter Received by the Indiana State Welfare Department

Poems from the Manuscript "Nice Day for No Parade"

The Poet (2 copies, one handwritten)

A Pretty Girl Like That

Purple Noon

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Radar
Rape in the Engineering Building
Restless Leg Syndrome
The Scarred Lovers' Wailing
The Square at Dawn
Success Comes to Cow Creek
The Torches
The Trust
The Tryst
Twenty-One
Waiting on the Wabash (2 copies)
A Wedding
Wedlock Assemblage

Poems – Manuscript, Unsigned or Non-Attribution

Absences (typed draft of poetry book)
Brotherhood/Shrouded Bridge
The Butcher with Nothing But Bones
Decoy
Conjuring Roethke
Creek Walking
A Dime Found in the Snow
The Distant Orgasm
Dull Melody for a Hot Day: A Card From Gertrude Stein
First Lesson
The Fool
The Gap
A Guide to the Stone Age (for Charles Simic)
The Immortals
An Instance of Innocence
Jim's All Night Diner
The Little Brown Atlantic
My Friend Was Happy
No House
The Pet Deer
Poem
Progress
Ruins Dwarfed by Magnificence of Memory
Shadow Boxing
The Shop Keeper
The Sisters of Charity
Tribute
Up Here
When Kabir Died
Worms and Things
You – I

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Poetry Anthology (various poets)- Manuscript

Series: James Tate Prose

Manuscript Prose

Bless My Soul

Lethal Dust

The Poor Little Rich Boy

The Safety Rope

The Zoo Club

Two handwritten, untitled short works

Published Prose

The Boston Eagle No. 3 (November 1974)

- Bring Them Back Alive (pp. 39-47)

Boxspring No. 2 (Spring 1975)

- Home and Garden (pp. 32-33)

-

Series: Reviews and Mentions of Work (In Oversize)

American Poetry Review; New York Review; Los Angeles Times Book Review; New York Times Book Review; Chicago Tribune Magazine

Series: Promotional Material

Catalogs and Other Promotional Material

Series: Newspaper Clippings

Various Clippings

Series: Bibliography of Work (by Gene DeGruson)

List of Poems

Poems by Journals

Title Pages

Books, Pamphlets and Broadsides (2 folders)

Broadsides and Post Card Reproductions

Periodicals Containing Contributions

Books Containing First Appearance of Contributions

Anthologies Reprinting Poems

Promotional Comments and Miscellanea

Criticism and Reviews

Miscellaneous (4 folders)

Series: Workshops and Readings

Saint Mary College Poetry Workshop (1969)

Readings and Workshops

Series: University of Massachusetts-Amherst

University Catalog 1972-1973; 1975-1976

University Catalog 1977-1979

Series: Recordings

Interview with James Tate, Spring 1967 (Reel-to-Reel)

Untitled Reel

Series: Miscellaneous

James Tate Books in Special Collections

Cages (Shepherds Press, 1966) (31 of 45 copies)

The Lost Pilot (Ecco Press, 1982; AMS Press, 1976; Yale University Press, 1967)

The Destination (Pym-Randall Press, 1967)

Notes of Woe: Poems (Stone Wall Press, 1968)

Row with your Hair: Poems (Kayak Books, 1969)

Shepherds of the Mist (Black Sparrow Press, 1969)

Deaf Girl Playing (Pym-Randall Press, 1970)

Amnesia People (Little Balkans Press, 1970)

Are You Ready, Mary Baker Eddy? (with Bill Knott) (Cloud Marauder Press, 1970)

Coming Down Cleveland Avenue (William F. Highberger, 1970)

Wrong Songs (H. Ferguson, 1970)

The Torches (Unicorn Press, 1968, 1971)

Apology for Eating Geoffrey Movius' Hyacinth (Unicorn Press, 1972)

Hottentot Ossuary (Temple Bar Bookshop, 1974)

Viper Jazz (Wesleyan University Press, 1976)

Lucky Darryl, with Bill Knott (Release Press, 1977- lacking cover)

Riven Doggeries (Ecco Press, 1979)

If It Would All Please Hurry (Shanachie Press, 1980)

Land of Little Sticks (Metacom Press, 1981; Hally Ferguson, 1971)

Hints to Pilgrims (University of Massachusetts Press, 1982)

Constant Defender: Poems (Ecco Press, 1983)

The Oblivion Ha-Ha: Sixty Poems (Unicorn Press, 1984; Little, Brown, 1970)

Just Shades: Poems (Parallel Editions, 1985)

Reckoner (Harper & Row, 1986)

Neighbors (University of Arizona, 1987)

Dear Reader (Christian Brothers College, 1989)

Bewitched (Embers Handpress; Windhover Press, 1989)

Absences (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 1990; Little, Brown, 1972)

Distance from Loved Ones (University Press of New England, 1990)

Worshipful Company of Fletchers: Poems (Ecco Press, 1994)

Selected Poems (Carcenet, 1997)

Shroud of the Gnome: Poems (Ecco Press, 1997)

Police Story (Rain Taxi, 1999)

The Route as Briefed (University of Michigan, 1999)

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Memoir of the Hawk: Poems (Ecco Press, 2001)

Dreams of a Robot Dancing Bee: 44 Stories (Verse Press, 2002)

Lost River (Sarabande, 2003)

Return to the City of the White Donkeys: Poems (Ecco, 2004)

Ghost Soldiers (Ecco, 2008)

The Zoo Club (Rain Taxi, 2011)

Dome of the Hidden Pavilion (Ecco, 2015)