

Telegraph Books collection

Ms. Coll. 999

Finding aid prepared by Samuel Sfirri.

Last updated on April 14, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2014 June 18

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Bockris, Victor, 1949-
Title	Telegraph Books collection
Call number	Ms. Coll. 999
Date [inclusive]	1970-1972
Extent	1.6 linear feet (four containers and one oversize folder)
Language	English
Language Note	English
Abstract	Telegraph Books (circa 1970-1972) was a publishing company founded by Victor Bockris, a poet, editor, and biographer of artists, authors, and musicians, poet Aram Saroyan, and literary agent Andrew Wylie. The Telegraph Books collection, dating from 1970 through 1972, documents the activities and functions of Telegraph Books publications in addition to the activities of Victor Bockris at that time, including audio recordings of interviews and conversations with colleagues and workshop materials.

Cite as:

Telegraph Books collection, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Telegraph Books (circa 1970-1972) was a publishing company founded by Victor Bockris, a poet, editor, and biographer of artists, authors, and musicians, poet Aram Saroyan, and literary agent Andrew Wylie. The company published poetry and prose and is heralded for having published some of Patti Smith's early work, *Seventh Heaven* and *Kodak* being two shining examples.

Born in Sussex, England in 1949, Bockris and his parents moved to Philadelphia when he was four years old. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. During his tenure at the university, he founded Telegraph Books. In a relatively short period of time, the company saw publications by writers of poetry and prose including Tom Clark, Gerard Malanga, and fellow Philadelphian "Godmother of Punk," Patti Smith, in addition to work by Bockris, Saroyan, and Wylie.

Telegraph Books appears to have been in production from around 1970 to 1972. In 1973, Bockris and Wylie moved to New York City to focus on larger biographical writing projects on such luminaries as Lou Reed (and the Velvet Underground), Andy Warhol, Keith Richards, William S. Burroughs, Terry Southern, Blondie, Patti Smith, and Muhammad Ali.

Scope and Contents

The Telegraph Books collection, dating from 1970 through 1972, documents the activities and functions of Telegraph Books publications in addition to the activities of Victor Bockris, Aram Saroyan, and Andrew Wylie. The collection includes audio recordings of interviews and conversations with colleagues and workshop materials. The bulk of the collection is comprised of Telegraph Books publications and related materials, arranged by author. The related materials for these publications generally include correspondence between the author and Bockris, drafts, mock-ups, photographs, sketches, and published copies of the work. There are also a number of audiocassettes that contain interviews and conversations between Bockris and many of the authors published by Telegraph Books conducted between 1970 and the end of 1972. This audio content may enhance the contextual environment surrounding the publications, undoubtedly delving into the personal relationships between Bockris and his colleagues.

The collection also contains incoming and outgoing correspondence with regard to the distribution and publicity of Telegraph Books publications and readings between Bockris and poets, booksellers, publishers, distributors, and poetry societies, as well as examples of publicity materials such as broadsheets, photographs, and newspapers.

Finally, the collection includes some materials from the Mignon Poetry Workshop, led by Bockris, in a school setting for 5th and 6th grade students. In these records, it is evident that Bockris led the students through the assembly of publications from start to finish, having the students write, compile, and print poetic work.

Taken as a whole, this collection provides researchers with an insight into the activities of Victor Bockris with particular regard for his work as a publishing agent for poets during the early 1970s in the

Philadelphia and New York area.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Access Restrictions

The bulk of this collection is open for research use; however, access to original audio/visual materials and computer files is restricted. The Kislak Center will provide access to the information on these materials from duplicate master files. If the original does not already have a copy, it will be sent to an outside vendor for copying. Patrons are financially responsible for the cost. The turnaround time from request to delivery of digital items is about two weeks for up to five items and three to seven weeks for more than five items. Please contact Reprographic Services (reprogr@upenn.edu) for cost estimates and ordering. Once digital items are received, researchers will have access to the files on a dedicated computer in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. Researchers should be aware of specifics of copyright law and act accordingly.

If interested in seeing the hand-painted sign, please ask for help from reference staff.

Use Restrictions

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Custodial History note

Purchased from Victor Bockris in 1972.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

At the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin: Victor Bockris and Andrew Wylie

Collection, 1965-2003 (bulk: 1972-1976)

At the University of Pennsylvania, Rare Book and Manuscript Library: Victor Bockris papers, 1970-1973,
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Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Telegraph Books (Firm).

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Audiovisual materials
- Broadsides (notices)
- Correspondence
- Drafts (documents)
- Interviews
- Photographs
- Poems
- Publications (document genre)

SUBJECT(S)

- Authors
- Authors and publishers
- Poetry
- Poets
- Publishers and publishing

Collection Inventory

I. AUTHORS' PUBLICATIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS, 1970-1972.

	Box	Folder
Berrigan, Ted; Clark, Tom; Padgett, Ron (and Saroyan, Aram): <i>Back in Boston Again</i> , drafts and published work, correspondence, circa 1972.	1	1
Bluford, Kenneth: Correspondence and poems, 1970-1972.	1	2
Bockris, Victor: Interview, circa 1970-1972.	4	1
Bockris, Victor: Publication and poem, circa 1972.	1	3
Bockris, Victor: 3-inch magnetic tape recording [RESTRICTED], undated.	4	1
Harwood, Lee: Correspondence and poems, 1970-1972.	1	4
Harwood, Lee: Interview, circa 1970-1972.	4	2
Malanga, Gerard: <i>Poetry on Film</i> , mock-ups, published works, correspondence, 1970-1972.	1	5
Montgomery, Stuart: Interview, circa 1970-1972.	4	3
Pickard, Connie; Butler, Bill; Bockris, Victor; Pickard, Tom: Conversation, 1972 July 19.	4	4
Polk, Brigid: <i>Scars</i> , published volumes, correspondence, 1972.	1	6
	Box	Folder
Polk, Brigid: <i>Scars</i> , mock-up, 1972.	50	7

	Box	Folder
Saroyan, Aram: Interview by Victor Bockris, drafts and publications, correspondence, 1971-1972.	1	7
Saroyan, Aram: Interview 1, circa 1970-1972.	4	5
Saroyan, Aram: Interview 2, circa 1970-1972.	4	6
Saroyan, Aram: <i>The Rest</i> , mock-up, 1971.	1	8
Saroyan, Aram: <i>The Rest</i> , publications, 1971.	2	1
Schjeldahl, Peter: Interview, 1972 September 14.	4	7
Smith, Patti and Hamill, Janet: Interviews, 1972 August 15.	4	8
Smith, Patti: <i>Seventh Heaven</i> , mock-up, contract, notes, photographs, article, magazine, circa 1972.	2	2
Weatherly, Tom: <i>Thumbprint</i> , mock-up, draft, publications, correspondence, 1971.	2	3
Wieners, John: Essay drafts, interview, circa 1970.	2	4
Wylie, Andrew: Interview, 1970 November 30.	4	9
Wylie, Andrew: Interview by Victor Bockris, drafts and publications, circa 1970-1971.	2	5
Wylie, Andrew: Correspondence, poems, circa 1970-1972.	2	6
Wylie, Andrew: <i>Special Issue</i> , publications and poems, circa 1970-1972.	2	7
Wylie, Andrew: <i>Tenderloin</i> , mock-up, publications, circa 1971.	3	1
Wylie, Andrew: Reading of <i>Tenderloin</i> , audiotape ("C-Slot" reel, 7-inch) [RESTRICTED], 1971-1972.	3	2

(unmarked audiocassette) [RESTRICTED], undated.	4	10
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II. TELEGRAPH BOOKS CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICITY.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence: Letters from Telegraph Books/Victor Bockris, circa 1971.	3	3
Correspondence: Letters to Telegraph Books/Victor Bockris from American poets, booksellers, and publishers, 1971-1972.	3	4
Correspondence: Letters to Telegraph Books/Victor Bockris from British publishers, distributors, poetry societies, 1970-1972.	3	5
Photographs, contact sheets, and negatives: by Aram Saroyan and Gerard Malanga of Victor Bockris, Andrew Wylie, Patti Smith, Robert Mapplethorpe, and others, circa 1972.	3	6
Telegraph Books: Publicity and ephemera, circa 1972.	3	7
Telegraph Books hand-painted sign, circa 1970-1972.		
	Box	Folder
"Great Incredible Poetry Marathon Bonanza!", 1971.	50	1
Artaud/Andrew Wylie: Broadsheet for <i>Tenderloin</i> (5 copies), 1971.	50	2-6

III. MIGNON POETRY WORKSHOP.

	Box	Folder
Chaos, A magazine of poetry, edited by Bockris, circa 1970-1972.	3	8
Little Sculptures notebook and drafts of poetry, circa 1970-1972.	3	9
Notebook by Gail Landes, circa 1970-1972.	3	10
Poetry drafts by 5th and 6th graders, circa 1970-1972.	3	11
Poetry drafts on Ezra Pound, circa 1970-1972.	3	12