

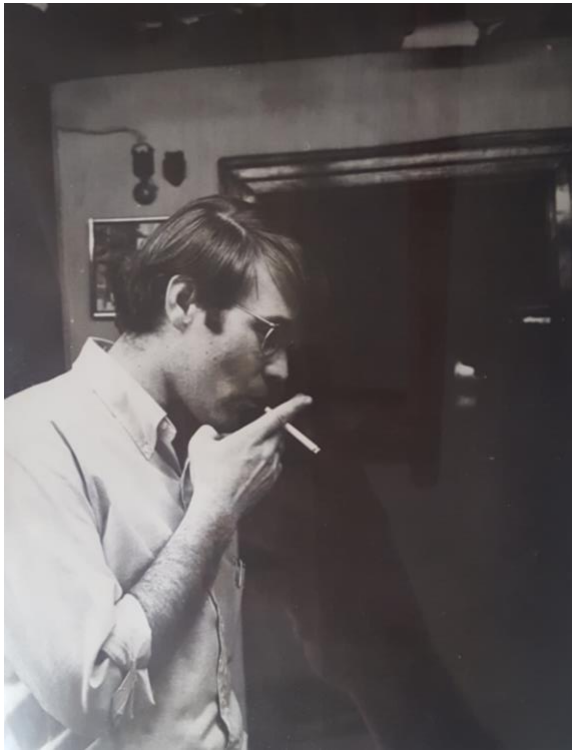


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RESTAU / MARK NUNNELEE ARCHIVE



Extent: Approx. 2 bankers boxes / 2 linear feet of correspondence, drafts of works (mostly manuscript and typescript), photographs, and several oversized artworks.

Date: ca. 1960s–1990s.

[Photograph of Nunnelee by Ammiel Alcalay]

ABOUT RESTAU: In 1969, John Mark Nunnelee had just returned from Vietnam and sought to become a bookdealer and publisher. In 1970, he published the sole issue of *Restau: A Journal of Passages*, drawing upon work by his friends and correspondents including Diane di Prima, Gerrit Lansing, Thomas Meyer, Jack Myers, Richard Grossinger, Charles Stein, Robert Kelly, Stephen Jonas, Carol Weston, David Schaff, and others. Notably, *Restau* featured an ambitious thirty-page excerpt by Diane di Prima of what would later become known as *Spring and Autumn Annals*, only recently published in 2021 by City Lights Books.

Beyond the magazine, Restau Press published a pamphlet by Stephen Jonas and several poetry broadsides by Gerrit Lansing, Stephen Jonas, John Wieners, and Larry Eigner.

OVERVIEW OF ARCHIVE: Though short-lived, Restau Press occurred at a critical point in the life of its editor and many of the authors within. As such, this compact archive testifies to this crucial span of years from the late 1960s to the early 1970s, centered on the Boston/Cambridge/Gloucester poetry scene. Correspondence with or about each of the contributors to *Restau* is well-documented in the archive, along with colleagues from the era, including much discussion of John Wieners and Stephen Jonas, as well as letters from Gerard Malanga, Bill Corbett, Clayton Eshleman, Kenneth Irby, and many others. In particular, significant correspondence with Diane di Prima (for whom he served as an amanuensis in the early 1970s) during the beginning of her *Loba* poems and teaching in Wyoming (“heavy vibes from wasted earth”), decades-long correspondence with Gerrit Lansing, and intense letters with Thomas Meyer reveal Nunnelee’s role as a surprising center of creative energy in postwar American poetics. In a July 3, 1970 typescript letter, Meyer writes: “Your letters to me have proved to be some of the most valuable sources, I

am most grateful for them.” Reflecting on his relationships, in a typescript diary entry dated Nov. 20, 1971, Nunnelee writes:

“How do I know so many gifted people? Diane, Gerrit, Tom. I feel myself possessed of no genes [sic] or remarkable ability. Yet I feel I somehow do fit within this remarkable circle of friends and often feel as tho I’m being groomed for some insight or role now unknown to me.”¹

Altogether, Nunnelee’s appearance within the world of twentieth-century poetry was brief. He published his own work in *Restau*, but to our knowledge, never elsewhere, though he continued to write his own poetry. His archive contains several folders of holograph, typescript, and computer draft printouts of poems, including his vision for a book-length work titled “The Tree-Greening of Blue-Deep Nature,” with dedication “for Sharon [his wife] / & for all roots, stems, stalks, & leafs / for Gerrit & Diane, the huntress wolf, & for friends / byward & wayward (some now gone-ward) / as we, all of one, bless’d loved / one another: / for Steve [Jonas] / for Becki / for Boston movie nights / ... / for Robert Creeley / for Love / P.S. for John Wieners too.”

After returning to school in 1973, Nunnelee drew away from the world of poetry; many later letters from friends inquire about his whereabouts and his health. In the 1980s, he became a corporate performance management workshop leader (drawing on his work with intuition, individuation, and other topics that appear in his letters), and his correspondence only persisted with Lansing. He passed away in 2001.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The archive documents the production of *Restau* magazine, Nunnelee’s friendships with dozens of correspondents, the Boston/New England poetry scene around the early 1970s, Nunnelee’s work as a young bookseller, and Nunnelee’s own writings and research notes.

Highlights include:

- **Correspondence** (approx. 1 linear foot), with significant letters from Gerrit Lansing (approx. 72 items), Diane di Prima (approx. 32 items), and Thomas Meyer (approx. 21 items), as well as several others including Robert Whitener (35 items), Allen Sutterfield (24 items), Louis Rowan (18 items). Non-correspondence materials in this section include typescripts of works by others (Diane di Prima, Thomas Meyer), and Nunnelee’s bookseller lists. Common themes among correspondents include discussion of books and little magazines, *Restau*, publishing projects for the work of John Wieners and Stephen Jonas, and other poetry-related business and observations.

For significant correspondents, most of the letters are 1–2 pp. autograph or typescript letters, many with significant and personal information. Examples of themes in the Lansing letters alone include: family, drugs, arrests, mutual friends, Diane di Prima, gardening, witchcraft, reading notes, Nunnelee’s search for a job, John Wieners, Robert Creeley (who spoke positively about JMN after meeting him in Bolinas, according to Lansing), Nunnelee’s poetry, Lansing’s work on *Analytical Psychology* for the Institute of the Curriculum of the Soul, Christmas greetings, astrology, Kenneth Irby, comparisons between Annapolis and Gloucester, racism, sexual adventures, Lansing’s sobriety, Lansing’s bookstore (Abraxas), Lansing’s new house, mushroom foraging, and an autograph recipe for

¹ He continues, perhaps humorously: “Diane recognized this anomalous situation too and only could say Gerrit in particular is ‘grooming’ me but couldn’t be specific of what.”

muesli. The letters with Diane di Prima are of particular interest for those studying the development of the *Loba* poems, the establishment of her life in San Francisco, and her marriage to Grant Fisher in 1972.

- **Submissions and production materials** for the first and only issue of *Restau*, including work by Bill Little, Gerrit Lansing, Carol Weston, Stephen Jonas, David Schaff, Raffael de Gruttola, Chuck Stein, Jack Myers, Robert Kelly, Richard Grossinger, and others. Includes also pasteups of front matter, and frequent mention of *Restau* in other correspondence files, and artwork that shows the development of the cover of *Morphogenesis*.
- **Drafts of works by Nunnelee**, including 2 linear inches and hundreds of leaves of autograph and typescript manuscripts of his poetry, accompanied by reading notes, diary entries, and additional notes across several notebooks and folders.

ARTWORKS & PRINTED MATERIAL

This archive also makes available some printed material, including inscribed and association copies, little magazines, *Restau* Press broadsides and related works, and publications on esoteric/mystical/occult topics.

There are also associated artworks, mostly inscribed to Nunnelee, which include the work of Josie Grant, Diane di Prima, and Thomas Meyer.

INVENTORY

Throughout, Mark Nunnelee is abbreviated to JMN. Numbers of items or leaves are approximate, leaves and pages are intermittently noted.

BOX# 1

Correspondence and Restau Materials

Folder: "A – C"

- Alisch, Jim. ALS, Feb. 13, 1991. 2 leaves in envelope.
- Allen, Janis. ANS, Oct. 31, 1988; APC Sept. 19, 1988; ANS (birthday card in envelope with Michael McCarty, postmarked Sept. 13, 1993).
- Aubrey Daniels & Associates (JMN's employer, ca. 1980s and beyond). Signed commemorative award, and signed thank you card from multiple employees. N.d.
- Bertholf, Robert. Typed postcard signed, Dec. 13, 1977, regarding *Credences* and invitation to participate; TLS, Dec. 30, 1977 in envelope on *Credences* stationary with mention of goings-on of Gerrit Lansing and Robert Duncan.
- Berton, Tamara A. ANS with change of address, in envelope postmarked June 3, 1985.
- Blalock, Nat. TLS, Dec. 8, 1969. 3 leaves in envelope. A letter from an old friend and former military colleague.
- Corbett, Bill. ALS, June 3, 1969, 2 pp. (one leaf) which discuss Nunnelee's poems and Corbett's desire to publish them, but lack of funds to do so.

Folder: "di Prima, Diane"

di Prima, Diane. 32 items, including 3 leaves of copied typescript with biographical and bibliographical statement about di Prima removed from letter that references these documents. The correspondence is concentrated around 1972, and includes many references to di Prima's work during this critical point in her poetry (*Loba*, *Revolutionary Letters*, and other projects were coalescing around this time). The notes include many offers by di Prima for bookseller jobs for JMN in San Francisco.

Many of the APC are undated, and are generally short requests for books or indications she will write at greater length later. By the later 1970s, most of the correspondence consists of short Solstice greetings, and mentions that she has heard news of JMN through Gerrit Lansing. In approximate chronological order:

- 8 APC, n.y. Includes mentions of "heavy vibes from wasted earth" in Wyoming, Anne Waldman, book requests, Gerrit Lansing, and other goings-on. Includes also a Frank O'Hara poem clipping in unmailed envelope, addressed.
- APC in envelope, postmarked Feb 12, 1971. Di Prima indicates she is sick after Wyoming, but has much to tell JMN. Asks if he has Eliphaz Levi paperbacks at his bookstore (this was the beginning of her writing of *Loba*).
- TLS in envelope, postmarked Feb. 1971. Extensive letter, with updates on John Wieners and Poets' Press, di Prima's publishing (*Kerhonkson Journal* from Oyez Press and a forthcoming *Revolutionary Letters* from City Lights), the possibilities of purchasing land in Wyoming, learning Sanskrit, and other goings-on.

Large APC, postmarked Mar. 21, 1971. Discussion of Wieners, *Loba*, Bob Wilson, Gerrit Lansing, and attending a sundance.

APC postmarked Dec. 1971; APC postmarked Feb. 1972.

TLS postmarked Feb. 1972, urging JMN to apply to a bookseller job in San Francisco so that they could study together. Book requests, checking in on Gerrit Lansing, wondering if JMN knows anyone who wants “orange pills,” and other ongoing projects.

ALS in envelope, postmarked June 29, 1972. Extensive letter documenting her marriage to Grant, and his recent run-in with a federal warrant.

Marriage announcement for Diane di Prima and Grant Fisher, dated June 23, 1972, in envelope postmarked Aug. 14, 1972.

ALS in envelope, postmarked Aug. 14, 1972. With news of welfare, writing *Loba*, the Zen Center, “I feel like a kid who’s always up hours and hours before the grown-ups.” Another job prospect for JMN.

ALS in envelope, postmarked Sept. 20, 1972. Poetry in the Schools program in Phoenix, books at the printer, job prospects for JMN.

ANS in envelope, postmarked 1973.

ALS in envelope, postmarked Nov. 14, 1973.

TNS in envelope, postmarked 1977.

Solstice greetings include: “Darkness Invocation.” Printed on 8.5 x 11 in. red paper, in envelope postmarked Jan. 1977; solstice broadside greeting from Shep and Diane, signed, 1983; in San Francisco Institute of Magical & Healing Arts (SIMHA) envelope; ANS, in envelope postmarked 1992; autograph card, signed, in envelope postmarked 1998; APC, postmarked Dec. 1999.

Undated card that references earthquake on Jan. 4, and includes a drawing by children.

San Francisco Institute of Magical & Healing Arts brochure, with classes, workshops, and intensives for Fall 1984. In SIMHA envelope.

Photocopy/carbon copy of letters between Diane di Prima and Raymond Foye, regarding publication of poems by John Wieners. In envelope postmarked Nov. 21, 1984.

Folder: “D – H”

Dahlstedt (formerly Nunnelee), Becki. Signed birthday card, n.d.

Dawes, Priscilla. TLS, May 23, 1972. With mentions of her leaving the book business, and Gerrit Lansing, Paul Metcalf, and Creeley readings.

Dubins, Josie. APC to Gerrit Lansing, with thanks for *Sadhana*. Postmarked Aug. 1979.

Enslin, Theodore. TNS, May 14, 1971, regarding copy of *Restau* from Richard Grossinger; and TLS, June 3, 1971, with bibliography on homeopathy and mention of Diane di Prima.

Eshleman, Clayton. 5 items: ALS, Jan. 6, 1989 regarding *Caterpillar*; TLS, 10 Jan. 1969, regarding *Caterpillar* sales to JMN; TNS, Jan. 27, 1969; APC, Feb. 10, 1969; TLS, Mar. 27, 1970, 2 pp. which ends with “if I ever see you I will hope I have the nerve of my own present clarity and smash you in the face.”

Fisher, Grant (Diane di Prima’s ex-husband). 3 items: TLS, Epiphany, 1975, 2 pp. with mentions of Jung, Blake, Kerouac; and ALS, in envelope postmarked Dec. 11, 1975; ALS, Dec. 11, 1975, with autograph poem inscribed to JMN laid in.

Foye, Raymond. 3 items: TLS, Nov. 27, 1984, regarding John Wieners book with Chelsea Hotel stationary; 2 TPC, ca. 1995, also about John Wieners compilation.

Grossinger, Richard. 4 items: TLS regarding book order with invitation to Robert Kelly reading flyer, in envelope postmarked Oct. 15, 1970; TLS in envelope postmarked June 1971; TLS in envelope postmarked Nov. 10, 1975, undated TNS with book request.

Hart, Stephan (see also: Joby Kelly). 6 items: holograph note of address; ALS, postmarked Aug. 1970; TLS, postmarked Sept. 1970; ANS postmarked Jan 28, 1971; TLS, Feb. 16, 1972; TLS, postmarked Mar. 1971; TLS, Apr. 14, 1971, regarding *Restau*.

Hausman, Gary (The Windsor Mountain School, Lenox, MA). 2 items: publication announcement with ANS, postmarked Sept. 9, 1969; ALS, Sept. 22, 1969.

Hayes, Sarah. ANC, Feb. 9, 1989, regarding work.

Herring Family (including Judy, Melody, and Jonathan). Christmas TL and card, postmarked Jan. 3, 1994.

Folder: "I – Mal"

Irby, Kenneth. 4 items: ALS, Aug. 27, 1979; ANS, Nov. 13, 1979, with photocopy of Creeley poem; ALS, Feb. 19, 1978, with discussion of *Credences*, Robert Duncan, David Bromige, Louis Zukofsky, and others; ALS/TLS, Oct. 26, 1985, with teaching schedule, mention of Lansing, Jung, and others.

Kelly, Joby (see also: Stephan Hart). 7 items: 2 ANS, n.d. and Nov. 26, 1970; TNS, n.d.; TLS, Nov. 17, 1970; TLS, June 18, 1972, 2 pp. with personal note in crisis and with reference to Lansing; TLS, Aug. 12, n.y.; TLS, postmarked Aug. 5, 1971, regarding custodianship of manuscripts.

Kelly, Robert. 4 items: 2 TNS, Nov. 2, 1969 and Mar. 18, 1970 with mentions of publications, Steve Jonas, and Lansing; TLS, Oct. 4, 1970; ALS, Oct. 10, 1970.

Lifshin, Lyn. ANS to Booksmith, n.d.

Lillybeck, Steven P. TLS, June 14, 1982.

Mabbott, Thomas O. TL with manuscript prospectus, Apr. 2, 1980.

Malanga, Gerard. 2 items: TLS, Feb. 2, 1973, with copy of *gloss*, a poetry manuscript submitted to *Restau*.

2 folders: "Lansing, Gerrit" [1960s & 1970s]

Lansing, Gerrit. Two folders, containing approx. 72 TLS, ALS, ANS, APC, and related materials. Includes approx. 39 items in folder with dates ranging from the 1960s to 1970s, and approx. 33 items in folder with dates ranging from the 1980s to 1990s.

Lansing was a primary connection for JMN in the Boston-area poetry scene, one of the poets that *Restau* published as a broadside, and a key interlocutor for JMN as another bookdealer and poet. These letters are a rich trove of their friendship, and include short postcards with book recommendations, autograph letters up to 14 pages, and mostly 1–2 pp. typescript letters. The correspondence mentions a great range of topics, with close familiarity between the correspondents.

The Includes letter inscribed on the back flyer for poetry reading of Lansing's *Heavenly Tree Soluble Forest* in Gloucester, Aug. 30, 1995. Non-correspondence items include a copy of a typescript of *The Dante Etudes* (Robert Duncan, mentioned in APC) with ALS, dated June 9, 1977; copy of Lansing's *Analytical Psychology* (Institute of Further Studies, 1983), inscribed to JMN with TLS dated May, 27, 1984; copy of *Atelier*, vol. 2, no. 6, April 1992, guest-edited by Carol Weston; copy of "Dead Many Blues," poem typescript inscribed to JMN, Nov. 11, 1997; JMN's astrology chart,

hand-drawn by Lansing with a computer printout accompanying; and 3 pp. autograph poem “Love Poem for D.”

Folder: “Mar – W”

Marlowe, Alan. APC, n.d.

Martin, John (Black Sparrow Press). TLS, May 20, 1970, regarding JMN leaving bookselling and possible Steve Jonas edition.

Schaff, David (incl. Ephemera Dariel Press). 9 items: TNS, postmarked 1969; ANS, n.d.; TLS, postmarked Jan. 1970, 2 pp. with mention of Clayton Eshleman (that help explain the vitriol of Eshleman’s last letter to JMN), books sent to Lansing and others, and other details; TLS, postmarked June 1970; TLS, Oct. 16, 1970, with notes on Helen Adam, Steve Jonas, and others; ALS, Oct. 27, 1970; ANS, postmarked Dec. 1970; APC, Mar. 11, 1971; TLS, n.d., 3 pp. with news of *Ephemera* and addresses for Robin Blaser, Mary Korte, Harold Dull, Helen Adam, David Bromige, George Stanley, Richard Duerdan, Robert Duncan, and Phillip Lamantia, with discussion of *Restau* and Bolinas.

Taggart, John. 2 items: ANS, Mar. 12, 1970, re: Wieners and *Maps*; TLS, Apr. 7, 1970, regarding Wieners and Jonas.

Tinjaca, Mabel. ALS, May 30, 1989. Work-related.

Wakoski, Diane. TLS, Dec. 9, 1977, laid into 1977 Season’s Greetings from Black Sparrow Press.

Welch, William. ALS, Jan. 7, 1970.

Weston, Carol. 2 items: large TLS on wrapping paper (folded), Feb. 6, 1971; ANS, Apr. 29, 1970—mysterious note about a meeting.

Folder: “Meyer, Thomas”

Meyer, Thomas. Approx. 23 items: TLS and manuscripts, circa 1969–1972. Almost all are substantial letters with 1–2 pp., and many are written from Corn Close in Yorkshire, where Meyer and Jonathan Williams were staying. The letters include details about daily life, discussion of the poems *Kitty Hawk* and publication schedules, concern for Joby Kelly, Gaston Bachelard, book requests, Jonathan Williams, Basil Bunting, Steve Jonas, Marianne Moore’s poetics, difficulties in publishing *Restau*, Carol Weston, Gerrit Lansing, Meyer’s feelings about his friendship with JMN, and their importance of their communication.

From TLS, July 3, 1970, Meyer writes: “Your letters to me have proved to be some of the most valuable sources, I am most grateful for them.”

From TLS, Jan. 18, 1971, Meyer writes: “Restau must mean, its cluster of letters at least: res tau, ie: an X’d thing (tau’d object) as we mark, put a cross on those things that are sacred — designed (make a signature, sign) designate the holy need. This mark is a crucifixion, fixed on an X that is a tree, live wood — the instrument of death is always green, loss is a promise. The Hanged Man. As it is the number ten (10, X; one & naught reversed naught one, the moment of completion & inception.) & in this alphabetical mystes is the sound of “rest thou,” an angels voice saying this sleep is not dreamless, energies need the moment & quiet to collect themselves within so that they may become new shoots, leaves. So I await Restau’s arrival.”

Non-letter items include: a copy of *Fruits Confit*, a greeting by Jargon “for certain Cultivated Friends at the Holidays, 1972”; this is no. 9 from an edition of 75 copies; Typescript poetry manuscript enclosed in TLS, Oct. 29, 1968; invoice from the Ferry Press dated Apr. 22, 1970; typescript

poetry manuscript “A Homage Wrought From a Midsummers Dream,” with small note, postmarked Jul, 6. 1970; typescript titled “I have seen the blue-haired ladies,” dated Oct. 13, 1969; approx. 30 pp. copy of typescript with holograph notes on cover of *Kitty Hawk*, a poem Meyer references frequently in early letters.

Folder: “Myers, Jack”

Myers, Jack. Approx. 12 items: TLS, ALS, and ANS, circa 1970–1971. About Myers’ recent *Black Sun Abraxas*, *Restau*, and typescript of poem. Includes worried letter towards end of correspondence, as well as mentions of Anselm Hollo, Dick Hugo, and others.

Folder: “Nunnelee Family”

Nunnelee Family (Sharon [wife], Britt [son], Shelley [son], Joe [father], Janice [mother]). Approx. 23 items, mostly autograph cards for holidays and birthdays, as well as small autograph notes.

Folder: “Nunnelee, Mark”

Nunnelee, Mark. 2 items: 3 pp. TL to Gerrit Lansing, June 11, 2000, which mentions regrets over dealings with Clayton Eshleman and also Diane di Prima’s astrology work; TL draft and copy of edited TL in support of Allen Sutterfield, addressed to the Department of Justice, Apr. 4, 1967.

Folder: “Rowan, Louis (Lou)”

Rowan, Louis (Lou). Approx. 18 items: TLS, ALS, and APC, circa 1969–1971. Numerous multi-page and extensive letters, much of it discussing book sales and topics such as Larry Eigner’s archive.

Folder: “Sutterfield, Allen”

Sutterfield, Allen. Approx. 24 items: TLS, ALS, and APC, circa 1966–1970, though bulk are 1966–1967. Several multi-page letters (two are 12 pp./6 leaves), with many in-depth discussions on poetics and books. Includes a holograph draft of a bookseller catalog by Sutterfield, “Ye Official Bookliste #1 Mephisto Bookshop,” with titles by Don Byrne, Edmund Wilson, Evelyn Waugh, J.D. Salinger, James Branch Cabell, and others, as well as autograph and typescript drafts of poems.

Folder: “Whitener, Robert (Bob)”

Whitener, Robert (Bob). Approx. 40 items, a few of which are addressed to Becki Nunnelee. Includes TLS, ALS, TNS, and APC, circa 1966–1967 (many undated). Topics include bookselling (with extensive letter on other bookdealers and their prices), and enrolling in the military (several letters are from Turkey).

3 folders with photographs. Including photograph of JMN ca. 1970s, by Ammiel Alcalay; photographs of JMN and Becki Dahlstedt (formerly Nunnelee) (1), JMN (1), Gerrit Lansing (3), John Wieners (1 with 4 different printings/size); and photograph of Vincent Ferrini ca. 1970s by Ammiel Alcalay.

Folder: “Misc. Ephemera.” Very selective; few items. Including press release from Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library on Charles Olson, car title, business card, exhibition opening, concert program, and clipping.

Folder: “JMN Bookseller Lists.” 3 bookseller catalogs, including master copy with selling notes, and clean copy of “Modern First Editions, Broad sides, Little Magazines” (Feb. 2, 1969), and “List #1: A

Selected List from Contemporary Literature.” Very useful documents for tracing the intersection of Nunnelee’s poetic and bookselling life.

2 folders: “Restau”

With approx. 40 items across two folders, including mostly typescripts and reproductions or carbon copies of typescripts. There are a number of typescripts of pieces that are not published in *Restau* (e.g., work by Bill Little, or Raffael de Gruttola); and a number of typescripts of pieces that are published in *Restau*, including typescripts/carbons of work by Gerrit Lansing (an autograph version of which is in the correspondence file), Carol Weston, Stephen Jonas (several typescripts and copies of typescripts of *Orgasm* poems, included edited typescripts without cut-out words), and Richard Grossinger. Includes also work by D. Gordon (translations of Chinese poetry), David Selioff, Dale Landers, Thomas Meyer, Charles Stein (typescripts of poems with holograph corrections), Jack Myers, Robert Kelly (with autograph note), and others.

At times, no author is indicated, such as a *Mammal* broadside with accompanying card, and unattributed work (identified to be Diane di Prima) titled “Spring Visions,” numbered pp. 85–96 on different papers (from the now-published as of 2021 *Spring and Autumn Annals*).

Includes (perhaps as a type of submission) a copy of *North Country Medicine*, no. 2, Jan. 1971, addressed to JMN with autograph note and glyph signature by Albert Glover. This little magazine was mimeographed only in editions of thirty or so copies; issue no. 2 Issue 2, “to a multiplicity of ways & a singleness of mind,” featured a reprint of Hans Guterbok’s “The Hittite Version of the Hurrian Kumarbi Myths: Oriental Forerunners of Hesiod” and R. Cumberland’s translation of “Sanconiatho’s Phoenician History” from the first book of Eusebius’s *De Praeparatione Evangelica*.

A few pages of proofs are included, as well as image of the cover art by Athanasius Kircher. Includes also paste-up materials, title page materials, and related production materials.

Oversized, and housed separately, are several pages of drawings that depict the illustrated cover of Stephen Jonas’s *Morphogenesis*.

BOX# 2

Manuscripts, Typescripts, and Other Documents by JMN

3 folders: “JMN – MS & TS”

Approx. 2 linear inches and hundreds of leaves of autograph manuscripts and typescripts of JMN’s poetry. Many have autograph edits and multiple reworkings, and draft material for an unrealized book project, including edited typescript draft of foreword (represented elsewhere in this box). Includes also an autograph statement of conversion to Christianity on Dec. 16, 1981. Poems range from early 1970s throughout the early 1990s; there are a few typescript diary entries dated early 1970s and a few printed computer typescripts. One typescript diary entry dated Nov. 20, 1971, reads: “How do I know so many gifted people? Diane, Gerrit, Tom. I feel myself possessed of no genus [sic] or remarkable ability. Yet I feel I somehow do fit within this remarkable circle of friends and often feel as tho I’m being groomed for some insight or role now unknown to me. Diane recognized this anomalous situation too and only could say Gerrit in particular is “grooming” me but couldn’t be specific of what.”

Folder: “JMN – Navy Notebook”

Clothbound navy notebook inscribed by JMN, Dec. 30, 1972, Kansas City. Laid in or pasted in (scrapbook-style) are approx. 28 poems, from 1972 to 1980s, many typescript with autograph corrections. Includes an autograph page with a book dedication (for a book of poetry JMN never wrote or produced), titled “The Tree-Greening of Blue-Deep Nature,” with dedication “for Sharon / & for all roots, stems, stalks, & leafs / for Gerrit & Diane, the huntress wolf, & for friends / byward & wayward (some now gone-ward) / as we, all of one, bless’d loved / one another: / for Steve / for Becki / for Boston movie nights / ... / for Robert Creeley / for Love / P.S. for John Wieners too.”

Laid in towards the back of the journal also are reading notes about Old English, notes on the “green book” (“a journal of omens”), and additional autograph drafts of poems on legal-sized paper interspersed among Christmas lists, notes on Aerosmith, and other quotidian writings.

Folder: “JMN – Black Binder”

Contains a laid-in examination notebook for history course, Oct. 4, 1976; autograph reading notes, reproductions of readings on or by Owen Barfield; autograph reading notes on magic; typescript drafts of poems (including autograph edits), one of which is dated Sept. 13, 1981. Includes numerous manuscripts and typescripts of poems in multiple drafts.

Folder: “JMN – Notes on Medieval History”

Includes extensive autograph notes, most on legal-sized paper, related to JMN’s studies at University of Missouri, Kansas City, ca. 1976. Particular focus on medieval English history. This was a particularly rich area of inquiry for poets that JMN was in literal or figurative dialogue with, including Gerrit Lansing, Diane di Prima, and Robert Duncan.

Folder: “JMN – Green Book”

Leather-bound green book, conceived of as a journal (as indicated in “Navy Notebook” laid-in papers). Approx. 20 pp. are dated early July 1993 for journal entries, and the book is laid out like a published piece, with space for “full title page” and cover. However, only a handful of entries have

been completed, with autograph drafts of poems, entries on a challenging situation for JMN and Sharon, his A.A. sponsor, and other details.

2 in. black binder containing a copy of the typescript of Thomas Meyer's extensive "A Technographic Typography in Progress," written Mar. 1966 to May 1967. Nunnelee's name inscribed on front cover, with Cambridge address (ca. early 1970s).

1 in. black binder functioning as a type of Xerographic commonplace book, with copies of printouts or typescripts by A.B. Chambers and Gerrit Lansing ("Creativity as Psychic Force" and Lansing's MA dissertation on Henry Vaughan). Highlighting throughout; it seems that JMN has taken additional notes that are housed elsewhere in this box on the topic of magic brought up by Lansing in these readings.

3 small comb-bound red cover booklets [produced in San Francisco]

- one with dampstaining to back cover. Inscribed "Mark Nunnelee, San Francisco, Nov. 30, 1970," and contains a xerographic reproduction of Robert Duncan's *Writing Writing a Composition Book for Madison 1953: Stein Imitations* (Sumbooks, May 1964 in an edition of 375 copies). This was produced while he was assisting Diane di Prima in San Francisco, and may well have been reproduced by her (she was known for Xeroxing copies of books for friends).
- one undated pirate copy of an edited typescript of John Wieners' play, "Of Asphodel, in Hell's Despite" by the Judson Poets' Theater. Likely also produced in San Francisco.
- one undated pirate copy of Jack Spicer's *Lament for the Makers* (White Rabbit Press, 1962).

2 in. comb-bound book with red cover containing xerographic copy of Aleister Crowley's *Magick Without Tears* (Thelema Publishing Company), with JMN's name inscribed on cover page. Possibly reproduced with Diane di Prima, given its visual proximity to the other small pirate versions of books.

Corner-stapled manuscript, xerographed, titled "Notes for the Community of Dialog, The Community of the Little Rose, and the Brotherhood"; missionary manual that was likely produced as mimeograph originally. Appears to be a Christian group, though with secret and mystical elements.