



Special Collections Department

En Passant Archive

1970 - 1983

Manuscript Collection Number: 414

Accessioned: Gift of James Costello, 2000

Extent: 1.3 linear ft.

Content: Letters, postcards, greeting cards, publications, tear-sheets, poetry manuscripts, photographs, flyers, advertisements, and news clippings

Access: The collection is open for research.

Processed: May 2001 by Gerald Cloud

for reference assistance [email Special Collections](#)

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Biographical Note

American attorney, poet, and editor James A. Costello was born in Utica, New York, on August 10, 1937. He attended Le Moyne College in Syracuse and Albany Law School. Costello moved to Wilmington, Delaware, in 1970 when he began working as a patent attorney for E.I. du Pont de Nemours Company. In 1975 he founded *En Passant Poetry* (1975 – 1982), a literary magazine devoted to poetry, poetry in translation, book reviews, and graphics. Costello is also a published poet and the author of *The Underbelly Poems* (1981).

Sources:

Costello, James. *The Under Belly Poems*. Wilmington, DE: En Passant Poetry, 1981.

Mullinax, Gary. "Patently, he's poet." *Wilmington Morning News*, Oct 5, 1981.

— — "Former Utican's Book of Poetry Published." *Utica Observer-Dispatch*, Jul 12, 1981.

Scope and Content Note

The *En Passant* Archive, spanning the dates 1970 – 1983, is the archive of the little poetry magazine *En Passant*, edited by James Costello in Wilmington, Delaware. The 1.3 linear feet of material in the collection consists of letters from contributors, administrative correspondence, little magazines, including twelve issues of *En Passant*, and the manuscripts of most of the thirteen issues of the magazine published between 1975 and 1983.

The archive is divided into three series: the first is primarily correspondence from contributors, editors of other little magazines, and subscribers. The correspondence series is arranged chronologically by year, and divided into two smaller groups: correspondence from contributors and administrative matters. There is also one folder containing the personal papers and correspondence of James Costello, and a folder of miscellaneous newsletters and flyers related to poetry. The second series in the archive includes the manuscripts of nine of the thirteen published issues of *En Passant*. The third series contains publications related to *En Passant* and James Costello's own poetry.

The *En Passant* Archive contains a comprehensive selection of items typically associated with administration of a little magazine. The majority of the items in the archive are letters from the contributors whose works were published in *En Passant*. Although examples of Costello's written comments are rare, the correspondence does reflect the editorial exchange that passed between Costello and the poets who sought publication in his magazine. Many of the letters are replies to the detailed feedback Costello appears to have provided his contributors — some thanked him, while others voiced disagreement. After Costello accepted a poem for publication he often received letters of appreciation from the contributor. These letters typically include the biographical data that eventually appeared on *En Passant's* contributor's notes page. There is also a significant percentage of on-going correspondence between Costello and

several *En Passant* contributors. One of the most frequent correspondents, Nathan Cervo, a poet and professor of English at Franklin Pierce College, discussed poetry, little magazines, and the difficulties of publishing poetry.

The administrative correspondence, which forms a much smaller group of items, deals mostly with business matters such as subscriptions, grants, and advertising.

The manuscripts in the second series are nearly all original typescripts as submitted by the contributors, most of which have autograph changes and corrections made in Costello's hand. All of the nine issues represented are collated in their published page order and contain various typesetting instructions for the printer. The editorial process of the magazine is further revealed when examining the manuscripts alongside the contributor's correspondence. Many of the contributors' letters address the changes Costello has suggested and it is possible to trace the progression of several poems.

The personal papers of James Costello include letters from editors and associates, photos, reviews, and other items related to Costello's published poetry.

The publications series includes twelve of the thirteen published issues of *En Passant* (a complete set of the little magazine is available in Special Collections), several little magazines that published Costello's poetry, and two small books of Nathan Cervo's poetry.

Contents List

Box -- Folder -- Contents

Series I. Correspondence

- 1 1970 - 1975
 - F1 Contributors
 - F2 Administrative
- 1976
 - F3 Contributors
 - F4 Administrative
- 1977
 - F5 Contributors
 - F6 Administrative
- 1978
 - F7 Contributors
 - F8 Administrative
- 1979
 - F9 Contributors
 - F10 Administrative
- 1980
 - F11 Contributors
 - F12 Administrative
- 1981
 - F13 Contributors
 - F14 Administrative
- 1982
 - F15 Contributors
 - F16 Administrative
- 1983
 - F17 Contributors
 - F18 Administrative
- F19 Costello Personal papers
- F20 Newsletters, Flyers, etc.

Series II. Manuscripts

- 1 F21 1976, Issue 4 Contributors:
 - Betsy Adams
 - Miguel Arteché
 - Guy R. Beining
 - Nathan Cervo
 - James A. Costello
 - Robert Dante
 - Franz Douskey
 - Stuart Downs
 - Michael Evans
 - Carol S. Hamilton
 - Robert Hillebrand
 - Allen Hoey
 - Gary Hotham
 - Karen Kervorkian
 - Adele Mays
 - Errol Miller
 - Naul Ojeda

Lynne Carol Rose
George H. Rothacker
Susan F. Schaeffer
Craig Weeden
Carl Woods
Carolyn Wright
Christine Zawadiwsky

F22 1977, Issue 5 Contributors:

Doug Abrams
Nathan Cervo
Joan Colby
James A. Costello
Christopher Hewitt
Terry Kennedy
Karen Kervorkian
Charles K. Lassiter
Amy Matthews
Russ McKinney
Michael McMahon
Jim Parlett
Alfonsina Storni
Kathryn Van Spanckeren
Carl Woods
Carolyn Wright

F23 1977, Issue 6 Contributors:

Nathan Cervo
Susan Deal
Barry Dempster
Robert Gibb
Rachel Hadas
Dorothy Lee
Robert Meszaros
Naul Ojeda
Stephanos Xenos

F24 1979, Issue 8 Contributors:

Richard Behm
Joseph Bruchac
Nathan Cervo
James Costello
Robert Dante
Tommy Davidson
Susan Deal
Barry Dempster
Laurence Donavon
Thomas Dyer
Patricia Ellis
Gayle Harvey
Jay Jacoby
Michael McMahon
Robert Meszaros
Ricardo Pau-Liosa
John Repp
Hilary Russell
Luise Van Keuren

F25 1979, Issue 9

Contributors:
Betsy Adams
Nathan Cervo
Barry Dempster
Robert Desnos
Gary Fincke
Michal Fineman
Pat Therese Francis
Thomas House
David James
Frederico Garcia Lorca
Marianne Loyd

Gary Metras
Eric Nelson
Perry Oldham
Molly Peacock
Martin Robbins
George Rothacker
Paul Smyth
Wayne Westlake
Norma Westwood
Vincent Zigas

F26 1980, Issue 10 Contributors:

Emily Borenstein
Nathan Cervo
Kevin Clark
Ron De Maris
Laurence Donavon
Sonya Dorman
Devon Duggan
William Elliott
George Green
Anne Hohenstein
Vincente Huidobro
Hakusha Kitahara
Steven Nimtz
Naomi Nye
Peggy Parris
Jay Paul
Molly Peacock

Carmine Sarracino
Reviews:
Barbara Lefcowitz
Elizabeth McKim
Richard Michelson
Nona Nimmicht
Mary Oliver

F27 1980, Issue 11

Contributors:
William Aberg
Eros Alesi
Stephen Burke
Nathan Cervo
David Citino
Joan Colby
Donald Cook
James Costello
Susan Deal
Christina Dodwell
Marisa Gatti-Taylor
Robert Gibb
Nixeon Handy
Christopher Hewitt
Erik Muller
Jan Pallister

Mary Porter
Tom Smith
Paul Smyth
Vaughn Stadtmiller
Arlene Stone

F28 1981, Issue 12 Contributors:

Guy Beining
Linda Bierds
Nathan Cervo
James Costello
Robert Dante
Susan Deal
Lamine Diakhaté
Gary Fincke
Gale Flynn
Eleni Fournouni
Robert Gibb
Thomas Lavazzi
Wilhelm Lehmann
Betty Lowry
Robert Meszaros
Gary Metras
Rodney Nelson
Mark Nepo
Naul Ojeda
Jan Pallister
Ricardo Pau-Llosa
Roger Pfingston
Tom Smith
Paul Smyth

F29 1982, Issue 13 Contributors:

Nathan Cervo
Joan Colby
Ron De Maris
Léon-Paul Fargue
Diane Glancy
Francis Golfing
Judith Goodenough
Narman Hane
Robert King
Marie Klenk
Mark Nepo
Peggy Parris
Simon Perchik
Celia Strome
Mary Tisera
Don Welch
James Zola

Series III. Publications

- 2 F30 *En Passant*
Issues 1-2
- F31 *En Passant*
Issues 3-4
- F32 *En Passant*
Issues 5-6
- F33 *En Passant*
Issues 7, 9
- F34 *En Passant*
Issues 10-11

- F35 *En Passant*
Issues 12-13
- F36 Little Magazines (containing work by Costello)
The Free Lance, 18.1-2 (1977)
Icarus, 4.3 (1976)
The Stone, 4.1 (1971)
The Small Pond, 19.2 (1982), contains review of
Costello's *The Under Belly Poems*.
- F37 *The Under Belly Poems*, (1981)
Book of poems by James Costello, inscribed by the
author.
- F38 *One Finger Exercises*, (1978)
Breath, (1984)
Books of poems by Nathan Cervo.