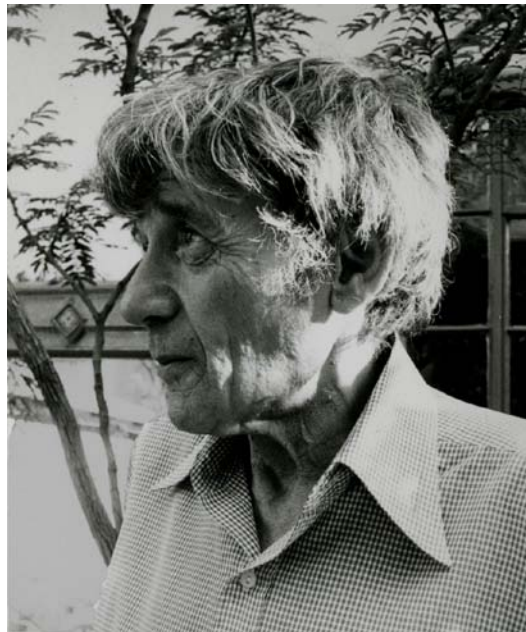


MSS ACC 143

UNISA LIBRARY MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION

Sinclair Beiles Papers (1970 - 2011)

Inventory



Marié Coetzee
Nov 2001
Updated 2012

Sinclair Beiles Papers (1970 - 2011) Manuscripts Collection Accession 143

Sinclair Simon Maurice Beiles (1930-2000)

Sinclair Simon Maurice Beiles, one of South Africa's more unusual and often underrated poets, was born in Kampala, Uganda in 1930. He was the only child of Jewish South African parents who moved back to Johannesburg when their son was six years old. Sinclair Beiles studied at the University of the Witwatersrand and left South Africa in the mid-fifties. After spending time in New Zealand, Spain and Morocco he moved to Paris which at the time was the centre of international bohemia. Sinclair Beiles worked in Paris as chief editor for publisher Maurice Girodias' Olympia Press. He established links with the American beat generation of writers, particularly Allen Ginsberg, Brion Gysin, Gregory Corso and William Burroughs, and they collaborated on the legendary collection of Dadaist cut-ups, *Minutes to go*. When the Paris scene fell apart in the early sixties, he left for Greece. In 1969 Beiles published a volume of poetry *Ashes of experience*. This volume, largely written during his stay in Greece, was his first substantial publication. Sinclair Beiles became the first winner of the Ingrid Jonker Memorial Prize for poetry in 1970.

Beiles returned to South Africa in the seventies and later married fellow poet Marta Proctor. They moved into a house in Yeoville, Johannesburg and soon became part of the Yeoville artistic group in the eighties. He often performed his poetry live, at venues such as the Black Sun. In 1997 Beiles finally received some recognition when the French Cultural Institute and the British Council of Johannesburg organised a Beat Hotel exhibition in Carfax where Beiles read his poems. Beiles had a history of mental instability and his illness made him at times unpredictable and volatile. He continued to write prolifically until his death on 3 November 2000. Among his later publications were plays in verse. His collected poems were published in the United States under the title *A South African abroad* (Lapis Press, 1991).

The Beiles Papers (0.2 linear metres)

The Beiles Papers, which comprise 0,2 linear metres and were donated to the Unisa Library Archives by Dawie Malan in 2001. Recent additional donations from Dawie Malan are incorporated in this updated Inventory. The Beiles Papers include interesting correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, pamphlets, posters and eleven sketches. The Papers throw some light on the enigma of Sinclair Beiles and the archival material complements the publications by and about Beiles in our holdings.

*The introduction to the inventory was compiled from **The Weekender**, August 16-17 2008, p 6, and other Beiles Papers.*

Sinclair Beiles Papers (1970 - 2011)

- 1 Biographical
- 1.1 Dawie Malan's transcribed interview with Sinclair Beiles 1994
- 1.2 *In memoriam* by Dawie Malan 2000
- 1.3 Notes on Sinclair Beiles
- 1.4 *Sinclair Beiles - poet at home and abroad* by G Cummiskey 1995

- 2 Correspondence:
Sinclair Beiles, Dawie Malan and Marta Proctor 1993-2000

- 3 Manuscripts
- 3.1 *The belles of Bellevue*
- 3.2 *Deliria*
- 3.3 *The crucifixion*
- 3.4 *Nagmaal*
- 3.5 *Monsieur Dada* (with black cover)
- 3.6 Poems and notes

- 4 Sketches by Sinclair Beiles (11 items) ca 1990

- 5 Poster: Sinclair Beiles and the Beat Hotel exhibition 1997
Presented by Johannesburg British Council and the
French Institute of South Africa

- 6 Pamphlets advertising Beiles readings 1986-2000

- 7 Sinclair Beiles photographed by
Dawie Malan, Lydia Herbst and others ca1994-1998

- 8 Cold Turkey Press 2010
- 8.1 Poster poem *Dispossessed*
- 8.2 Poem *The idiot's voice*

- 9 Press cuttings and newspaper articles ca 1970-2011
- 9.1 Stephan Gray and Danie Marais on Sinclair Beiles
- 9.2 Interview with Dutch publisher Gerard Bellaart published
in ***The Weekender***, August 16-17 2008, p 6
- 9.3 Miscellaneous cuttings on Sinclair Beiles