

1. ACCESSION NUMBER: GTU 2020-12-01
2. SHELF LOCATION:

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION ARCHIVES
MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION
MANUSCRIPTS INVENTORY

3. COLLECTION NAME:

KEN FEIT COLLECTION

4. COLLECTION DATES: 1960-1981
5. NUMBER OF CONTAINERS AND SIZE (in linear feet):

1 5" box, .5 linear feet

6. SOURCE AND DATE:

From the estate of a friend, Robin Goodfellow (1940-2017), an Oakland performer, artist, educator, musician, and community activist. Received November 2020.

7. RESTRICTIONS (if any):

8. ABSTRACT:

A small collection by and about Ken Feit (1940-1981), a Jesuit who left the order to become an itinerant fool. He died in an automobile accident in 1981. He was well-remembered by his many friends, including Matthew Fox.

9. BIOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION:

Kenneth (Ken) Feit was born in Chicago, graduated from Loyola University, studied medieval history at UC-Berkeley, and received a master's in history from Xavier University, Cincinnati. He entered the Jesuit order in 1964. He worked in St Louis, especially with Black youths to develop sound poetry. Feit explored activism as a prophetic clown and jester. He studied at the Ringling Clown Circus in Florida and the National Theater for the Deaf in Connecticut. He left the Jesuits in 1972 to become a wandering minstrel.

Although he died in an automobile accident in 1981, he is well remembered on the internet. The following reflects his life: “Ken Feit (1940–1981) was a Chicago-born poet, performer, and self-proclaimed itinerant fool. Although relatively unknown, Feit’s writings show him to be one of the twentieth century’s most insightful and innovative practitioners of western *iurodstvo*.” (<https://theeconomypress.com/Ken-Feit>) The term is a Russian word for the idea of “holy foolishness” for Christ's sake.

10. SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection includes letters, writings, Creative Ministry and Loyola Press publications from the early 1970's thru 1981, and the book, *Foolish Wisdom: Stories, Activities, and Reflections from Ken Feit*, by Joseph F. Martin.

11. ARRANGEMENT:

The collection is arranged as provided by the donor.

12. SUBJECTS:

Clowns -- Religious aspects
Christian education
Jesuit

13. NAMES AS SUBJECTS (ADD AUTHOR):

Feit, Ken, 1940-1981

14. Processor: David Stiver

Inventory Date: June 29, 2023

Cataloging Date:

EAD Date:

15. CONTENTS OF CONTAINERS:

1. Photo and signature, no date
2. Joseph F Martin, *Foolish Wisdom: Stories, Activities, and Reflections from Ken Feit*, 1990
3. Feit, *Soundwaves: A Book of Sound Poems*, 1971
4. Feit, *A Guide to Creative Ministry*, 1971
5. Feit, *Council of Urban Life, Milwaukee Police Department Part II*, November-December 1971
6. Feit, *Do Not Never Woke Up in the Sneeze! Stories*, no date
7. Feit, *The Romance of Sounds and Senses*, 1969-1971
8. Feit, *Creative Ministry: A Magical Booklet of Techniques and Experiences*, no date
9. Poetry from various cultures, no date

10. Feit, Five newsletters (to Robin), circa 1980
11. *Fools for Christ* film flyer. No date
12. Martin Hintz, "This Fool Isn't Joking, Milwaukee Sentinel, 1973-01-27
13. Handwritten notes, no date
14. Three letters to Robin Goodfellow, no year
15. Flyer for workshop (Ken the Fool), First Unitarian Church, Berkeley, March 29
16. Short Writings, no date
17. Pocket of Indulgences, no date
18. "The New Mysticism," interview with Matthew Fox by Laura Hagar, The New Age Journal, March/April 1989
19. Report of the accident that took Feit's life, 1981
20. Letters and obituary, 1981
21. Internet articles, 2019

16. SEPARATION NOTICE: