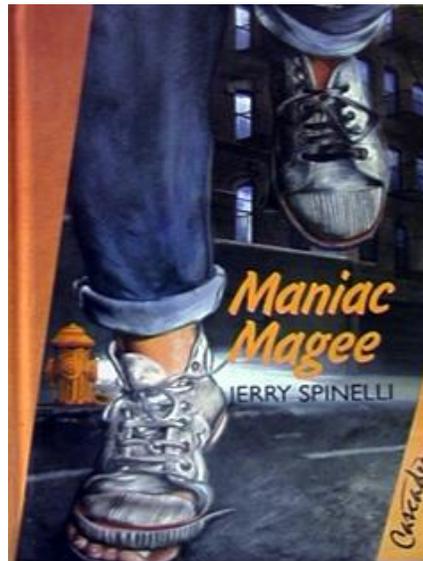


Guide to MS-007:

Papers of Jerry Spinelli, Class of 1963



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Christine M. Ameduri

Molly Thomas

Sidney Dreese

February 2004

MS-007: Papers of Jerry Spinelli, Class of 1963

Processed by Christine M. Ameduri, Molly Thomas, and Sidney Dreesse
February 2004

Size

26 boxes, 9.13 cubic feet

Dates

Inclusive: 1960-2003

Biographical Note

George E. "Jerry" Spinelli (1941-), 1991 Newbery Award winner for his book *Maniac Magee*, and internationally published author of numerous other children's books, graduated from Gettysburg College in 1963 with a degree in English. The Norristown, Pennsylvania, native then earned a master's degree in creative writing the following year at Johns Hopkins University, teaching briefly at Temple University before taking a job as editor of *Product Design and Development*, a trade magazine for engineers, at Chilton Publishing in Radnor, PA in 1966.

While a student at Gettysburg College, Spinelli was co-sports editor of the *Gettysburgian*, editor of the *Mercury*, and won that publication's fiction contest with his story "Growing Up" in 1961. In addition to these activities, he was also a member of the Interfraternity Council, Registration Committee as well as member and historian of Phi Gamma Delta. He married Eileen Mesi, also a children's author, in 1977 and they have six children. Currently, Spinelli is a member of the Chester County Astronomical Society and Fancy Rat & Mouse Association. His interests include tennis, astronomy, country music, traveling and his grandchildren.

Scope and Content Note

The Jerry Spinelli collection traces the writing career of the children's author from 1961-2003. The papers consist mainly of various versions of manuscripts including his original handwritten manuscripts, several editions of his books and some promotional material. The researcher will not find materials about life at Gettysburg College or Temple University, or his work at Chilton Publishing; genealogical data, diaries, memorabilia or photographs. For additional material about Spinelli the researcher should use the Vertical File.

Series I contains Spinelli's letter in search of an agent and an audiocassette of his acceptance speech for winning the Newberry Award for his book, *Maniac Magee* (1990).

Series II consists mainly of manuscripts: handwritten original, typed, copy-edited, drafts, some notes and printer's galley. Also included are essays while a student at Gettysburg College, unpublished short stories and novels; a rejected Disney screenplay.

Series III contains published poetry, published short stories, and published books (English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Italian and Finnish.) This series includes his first and favorite novel, *Space Station Seventh Grade* (1982). For book covers and printer's galleys the researcher also needs to see Series IV and V. In addition to various copies of *Maniac Magee* the collection also includes a videocassette of the book.

Series IV consists of some cover art and promotional material.

Series V contains oversized items: printer's galleys, rejected covers and cover proofs and the final stages of a picture book, *My Daddy and Me*.

Series Description

This collection has been divided into five series. **Series I:** General, **Series II:** Manuscripts, **Series III:** Publications, **Series IV:** Cover Art and Promotional Material, **Series V:** Oversize.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: General

- 1-1 Letter in search of agent, 1960
- 1-2 *Maniac Magee* – Newberry Medal acceptance speech; audiocassette and Newberry Caldecott Awards Banquet Program, Atlanta, 1991

Series 2: Manuscripts

- 1-3 Prose: College essays – Gettysburg College (English and History)
- 1-4 Prose: Sports column written as sports editor of the *Gettysburgian*, 1960
- 1-5 Story: *Night Ride to Pelican Isle* – unpublished picture book story
- 1-6 Story: "Too Soon for Chrysanthemums" – unpublished short story, Gettysburg inspired, late 1960s
- 1-7 Story: "Old Men" – written while attending writing seminars at Johns Hopkins University; published in *Charles St. Review*, 1964
- 1-8 Story: "The Egg Trick" – written during training school at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, CO, 1965
- 1-9 Story: "Vandy's Star" - unpublished short story, inspired by fraternity Christmas houseparties, 1966
- 1-10 Story: "Applesnow" - unpublished short story, Gettysburg setting, 1966
- 1-11 *Song of Rosalie* – first attempt at a novel, 1966
- 1-12 "Letter from Cape May" (1967) – original manuscript of story published in *Buffalo Spree*, 1975
- 1-13 *The Life of Joe Francis Pigg* – Early abandoned novel, typed manuscript, 1970
- 1-14 *The Revolution of Jane Rice* – Three-act play (unpublished), typed manuscript, 1971

Box 2

- 2-1 *The Shoe* – Adult novel, unpublished, typed manuscript, 1974
- 2-2 *The Corn Goddess* – Adult novel, unpublished manuscript, 1979, folder 1

Box 3

- 3-1 *The Corn Goddess* – Adult novel, unpublished manuscript, 1979, folder 2
- 3-2 *The Corn Goddess* – Adult novel, unpublished, typed manuscript, 1979

Box 4

- 4-1 *Space Station Seventh Grade* (originally titled *Stuff*) – first published novel, author's favorite, original manuscript, 1980, folder 1
- 4-2 *Space Station Seventh Grade* (originally titled *Stuff*) – first published novel, author's favorite, original manuscript, 1980, folder 2

Box 5

- 5-1 *Space Station Seventh Grade* (originally titled *Stuff*) – first published novel, author's favorite, copy-edited manuscript, 1980
- 5-2 *Space Station Seventh Grade* (originally titled *Stuff*) – first published novel, author's favorite, typed manuscript, 1980

Box 6

- 6-1 *Space Station Seventh Grade* (originally titled *Stuff*) – first published novel, author's favorite, printer's galleys, 1980
- 6-2 *Who Put that Hair in my Toothbrush* (originally titled *Siblings*), original manuscript, 1983, folder 1

Box 7

- 7-1 *Who Put that Hair in my Toothbrush* (originally titled *Siblings*), original manuscript, 1983, folder 2
- 7-2 *Who Put that Hair in my Toothbrush* (originally titled *Siblings*), typed manuscript (revisions), 1983

Box 8

- 8-1 *Who Put that Hair in my Toothbrush* (originally titled *Siblings*), printer's galleys, 1983
- 8-2 *Night of the Whale*, original manuscript, 1984, folder 1

Box 9

- 9-1 *Night of the Whale*, original manuscript, 1984, folder 2
- 9-2 *Jason and Marceline*, sequel to *Space Station Seventh Grade* – original manuscript, 1985, folder 1

Box 10

- 10-1 *Jason and Marceline*, sequel to *Space Station Seventh Grade* – original manuscript, 1985, folder 2
- 10-2 *Jason and Marceline*, sequel to *Space Station Seventh Grade* – copy-edited manuscript, 1985

Box 11

- 11-1 *Jason and Marceline*, sequel to *Space Station Seventh Grade* – printer's galleys, 1985
- 11-2 *Dump Days* – original manuscript, 1987
- 11-3 *Dump Days* – copy-edited manuscript, 1987

Box 12

- 12-1 "School Spirit" – original manuscript of a published story, 1989
- 12-2 "The Bathwater Gang" – original manuscript, 1989
- 12-3 "The Bathwater Gang" – typed manuscript, 1989
- 12-4 *Maniac Magee* – notes, 1989, winner of 1991 Newberry Award
- 12-5 *Maniac Magee* – portion of early draft, 1989, folder 1
- 12-6 *Maniac Magee* – portion of early draft, 1989, folder 2

Box 13

- 13-1 *Maniac Magee* – original manuscript, 1989
- 13-2 *Maniac Magee* – discarded introduction, pages and ending, 1989
- 13-3 *Maniac Magee* – typed manuscript, 1989

Box 14

- 14-1 *Maniac Magee* – copy-edited manuscript, 1989
- 14-2 *Maniac Magee* – printer's galleys, 1989
- 14-3 *Maniac Magee* – Disney screenplay by Wesley Strick (rejected for film), 1995
- 14-4 *Fourth Grade Rats* – original manuscript, 1990
- 14-5 *Fourth Grade Rats* – self-edited manuscript, 1990

Box 15

- 15-1 *School Daze Series: Report to the Principal's Office* – original manuscript, 1990
- 15-2 *School Daze Series: Who Ran My Underwear up the Flagpole* – original manuscript, 1991

15-3 *School Daze Series: Do the Funky Pickle* – original manuscript, 1992

Box 16

16-1 *There's a Girl in My Hammerlock* – original manuscript, 1991

Box 17

17-1 *Crash* – original manuscript, 1995

17-2 *Crash* – typed manuscript, 1995

Box 18

18-1 *Crash* – copy-edited manuscript, 1995

18-2 *The Library Card*, “Mongoose” notes, 1996

18-3 *The Library Card* excluding “April Mendez” – manuscript, 1996

18-4 *The Library Card* – typed, edited manuscript, 1996

Box 19

19-1 *Wringer* (originally titled *Palmer's Pigeon*) – manuscript and notes, 1997

19-2 *Wringer* (originally titled *Palmer's Pigeon*) – original manuscript, 1997

19-3 *Wringer* (originally titled *Palmer's Pigeon*) – computer printout, 1997

Box 20

20-1 *Wringer* (originally titled *Palmer's Pigeon*) – copy-edited manuscript, 1997

20-2 *Knots in My Yo-Yo String* (autobiography) – copy-edited manuscript, 1997

20-3 *Knots in My Yo-Yo String* (autobiography) – self-edited printout, 1997

Box 21

21-1 *Stargirl* – notes, 2000

21-2 *Stargirl* - handwritten chapters, 2000

21-3 *Stargirl* – original manuscript, 2000

21-4 *Stargirl* – edited manuscript, 2000

Box 22

22-1 *Stargirl* – copy-edited manuscript, 2000

22-2 *Stargirl* – edited manuscript, 2000

22-3 *Milkweed* – notes, 2003

22-4 *Milkweed* – editorial correspondence, 2003

22-5 *Milkweed* – draft fragments, 2003

Box 23

- 23-1 *Milkweed* – first draft, revisions, 2003
- 23-2 *Milkweed* – original manuscript, 2003

Box 24

Series 3: Publications

- 24-1 Poetry published in various poetry magazines, 1972-1976:
 - “Green Rain,” published in *The Archer*, 1972
 - “Prayer of a Bennington Sophomore,” published in *Graffiti*, 1973
 - “Components,” published in *Driftwood East*, 1974
 - “Timing,” published in *Understanding*, 1974
 - Untitled, published in *Unity, A Way of Life*, 1974
 - “Prayer of a Football Widow” and “Decor,” published in *Apostrophe, A Magazine of Good Poetry*, 1974
 - “Prayer of a Salt Tossler,” published in *Science of Mind*, 1976
 - “The Sugar Bowl,” published in *Poetry: People*, 1976
- 24-2 “Growing Up,” winner of *Mercury* fiction contest, 1961
- 24-3 “Roy Rogers,” published in *Sunday Clothes*, 1974
- 24-4 “Letter from Cape May,” published in *Buffalo Spree*, 1978
- 24-5 “The Little Star that Did Not Shine,” published in anthology *A Christmas Story*, 1980
- 24-6 “A Tip of the Cap,” title later changed to “The Great Gus Zernial and Me,” published in *Philadelphia*, 1981
- 24-7 “The Great Gus Zernial and Me,” published in anthology, *Our Roots Grow Deeper than We Know*, 1985
- 24-8 “The Miller,” published in *Noble Pursuits*, 1988
- 24-9 “Mentor” (interview), published in *Chapter by Chapter*, 1996
- 24-10 *Space Station Seventh Grade*, Little, Brown and Company, 1982
- 24-11 *Who Put that Hair in my Toothbrush?*, 1984 (Italian edition)
- 24-12 *Jason and Marceline*, 1986 (German edition)
- 24-13 *Maniac Magee*, Scholastic, 1990
Maniac Magee, CollinsEducational
- 24-14 *Maniac Magee*, HarperTrophy
- 24-15 *Maniac Magee*, HarperTrophy
Maniac Magee (Japanese edition)
- 24-16 *Maniac Magee* (Brazilian edition)
Maniac Magee, excerpt in textbook, *A Volcano of Cheers*, 1993
- 24-17 *Maniac Magee* (Korean edition)
Maniac Magee (Italian edition)
- 24-18 *Crash*, 1996 (Italian edition)

Box 25

- 25-1 *Stargirl*, Knopf, 2000
Stargirl (Finnish edition)
- 25-2 *Stargirl* (German edition)
Stargirl (Portuguese edition)
- 25-3 *Stargirl* (Spanish edition)
Stargirl (Korean edition)
- 25-4 *Loser*, 2002 (Japanese edition)
Loser, 2003 (Italian edition)
- 25-5 *Maniac Magee*, videocassette (picture board narration), 1992
- 25-6 *Crash*, unabridged, audiocassettes, 1996

Series 4: Cover Art and Promotional Material

- 25-7 *Maniac Magee*, book club poster, 1991
- 25-8 *Loser*, promotional material, 2002
- 25-9 *Milkweed*, jacket proof and editorial correspondence, 2003

Box 26

Series 5: Oversize

- 26-1 *Stargirl* – printer's galleys, February 2000
- 26-2 *Stargirl* – printer's galleys, May 2000
- 26-3 *Stargirl* – rejected covers, 2000
- 26-4 *Stargirl* – cover proofs, 2000
- 26-5 *Loser* – dust jacket proofs, 2002
- 26-6 *My Daddy and Me* – final stages, 2002

Contact Information

Special Collections and College Archives
Musselman Library, Gettysburg College
717-337-7014

special_collections@gettysburg.edu
www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections