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

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

### **Description**

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.

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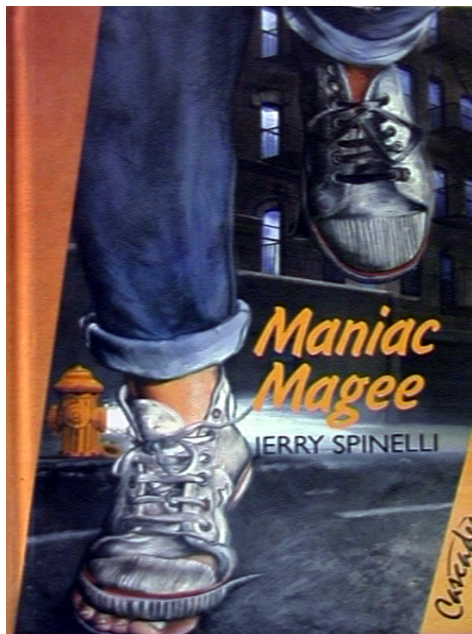
### **Keywords**

Jerry Spinelli, Gettysburg College, Maniac Magee, children's literature, children's author

### **Disciplines**

Children's and Young Adult Literature | English Language and Literature

**Guide to the  
The Papers of Jerry Spinelli, Class of 1963**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Christine M. Ameduri, Molly Thomas, Sidney Dreese  
February 2004**

## **MS – 007: The Papers of Jerry Spinelli, Class of 1963**

*Processed by: Christine Ameduri, Molly Thomas, Sidney Dreese  
February 2004*

### **Biography:**

George E. "Jerry" Spinelli (1941-), 1991 Newbery-Caldecott 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 seven 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 Notes:**

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 Description:** The collection has been divided into five series. 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 galleys. 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*.

## **Box 1:**

### **Series I – 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 II – 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



### Series III – Publications

#### Box 24

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 IV – 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 V - 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