

Correspondence between John Montgomery and Chris Challis 1981-1992

| Date | From | To | Comments |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 20/08/1981 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Reference to article 'Drain a Last Tired Beer' by Bukowski & photos accompanying it. Obituary on Widgery. Has contract for book. |
| 26/08/1981 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Reference Darlington's article re Horowitz. Jack did not explain details about family life, eg brother-in-law a bookie, father-in-law served 15 years for murder. Request for Widgery obituary & other material for publication in anthology he is to publish. |
| Undated Reply to above | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Corso 'used to be a postman'. Request to see Montgomery's MS. |
| 09/09/1981 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Request for copies of 'what you consider most important of your readings about Kerouac'. Discussion of Jack's motives for heavy drinking & his marriage to Stella. |
| Dec 1981 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Christmas card. Is publishing 'The Kerouac I Knew' anthology. Request again for copies of bibliographies Chris compiled for his dissertations. |
| 02/01/1982 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Critical comments on Milewski's book, review of it in 'Moody Street Irregulars'. Praise for Dietz article in same MSI issue. Comments on Jack's early affairs. Comments on Chris' article 'England Digs Me' & nature of Kerouac's influence on British. Jack had musician friends & listened to lot of music, influence of Tom Waits on Jack. Lawrence Lipton's 'The Erotic Revolution'. 'Fairly good friends' With Ferlinghetti. Bob Dylan 'didn't take an interest in poetry, until he read 'Mexico City Blues'', |

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| | | | according to Nicosia. Attached leaflet re 'Jack Kerouac, An Annotated Bibliography' by Robert J. Milewski. |
| 13/07/1982 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Asks if Montgomery will go to Boulder event. Chris' 2 articles in 'The Face' on Corso & Vesuvio's. 'Cosmopolitan' want photos from Chris, which he will not supply. |
| 21/06/1982 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Mention of his forthcoming book & poem 'Snowmelt from Yesteryears'. |
| 17/11/1982 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Article on 'Dharma Bums' to appear in 'NOMAL'. |
| 18/12/1982 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Discussion of where various writers live & gather – North Beach; Ferlinghetti – Southern Marin; Mike McClure. City Lights store has expanded. Corso reportedly stole \$800 from this store. (Envelope has list of words in Chris' handwriting.) |
| 15/02/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Reference to Kerouac's heavy drinking. Gerry Nicosia's problems with publication of his book. Describes Michael McClure as 'inferior writer'. 'Johnson reviews' were enclosed. |
| 16/03/1983 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | His play on tour & at Northampton. Forthcoming article in 'The Face' on 'Beat Morocco'. Included here as in same envelope as above. |
| 03/03/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Postcard. Reference to Tom Clark's planned biography. Name 'Moody Street Irregulars' taken from the Baker Street Irregulars, Sherlock Holmes' club. Ref to various 'Beat' reviews. |

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| 23/05/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Material on Chetcuti, who wrote 40 poems to Kerouac & is based in Toronto. |
| 15/07/1983 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Whalen Coyote's book; Micheline's 'Rock Song'. Enclosed broadsheet 'Simba'. Included here, as in same envelope as above. |
| 25/06/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Further discussion of forthcoming 'Memory Babe' by Nicosia, Jack's attitude to his readers and fame. Michael Wilding's 'The Kerouac Wake'. Kerouac was 'conventional' & 'traditional' in many of his attitudes. |
| 27/07/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Didn't attend Boulder event. Has sent galley proofs of his new book to Chris' editor, possibility of its publication in UK. |
| ?/08/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Is reading 'Memory Babe'. |
| 11/08/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Criticism of Kerouac conference. Antonelli's film about Kerouac's life and books, is trying to raise necessary funding. Also critical of Nicosia's 'Memory Babe', describes as 'presumptuous'. |
| 17/08/1983 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Response to above. |
| 20/08/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Further discussion of 'Memory Babe'. Praise for Adkins' account of Kerouac, Sam Charters, Griffey. Encloses copy of review of Nicosia by Morris Dickstein. |
| 31/08/1983 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Mention of J.T. Edson, best-selling author of westerns, who lives in Melton Mowbray. |

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| 2/09/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Ref. To article by Peter Anastas about Kerouac's visit to C. Olson at his apartment. Describes his regular job as postal clerk. |
| 23/09/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Postcard. Has copy of 'San Francisco Blues' sent as gift by Moore – Beat Books, 1983. Jack's widow 'trying to prevent publication' of any more Kerouac. |
| 1/10/1993 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | His review of 'Minor Characters', Joyce Johnson. Critical of 'San Francisco Blues'. |
| 11/11/1983 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | His book may come out in September. Current project for Kerouac Day Event & Q & A session with Carolyn at Northampton. |
| 29/11/1983 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Discussion of various publications, 'Literary Denim', 'MSI' Issue 13, 'Review of Contemporary Fiction'. Enclosed newspaper cutting on movies being shown in San Francisco. |
| Undated | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | Reply to above. 'Quest for Kerouac' to be published September. Ref. to 'Jack Kerouac, Charles Bukowski and Me' & to 'The Wild Thing Went From Side to Side'. |
| 5/02/1984 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Enclosed review from 'Poetry Flash'. Semi-documentary 'Kerouac's America' to be 90 minutes, ready in Spring. Nicosia's various problems with 'Memory Babe'. |
| 12/04/1984 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Wishes to review 'Beat Road' anthology. Request to see Kerouac portions of Chris' MS for comment before publication. |
| 23/06/1984 | Chris Challis | John Montgomery | |

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| 27/07/1984 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Has received Tom Clark's biography & comments on it. |
| 25/04/1986 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | His article on 'Quest for Kerouac' in 'Beat Indeed', Antwerp. Enclosed sheet on 'Kerouac at the Wild Boar & Other Skirmishes' by Montgomery. |
| 9/05/1986 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Discussion of contemporary US poetry. Enclosed letter from Jim Perrizo to John Montgomery. Frankie Kerouac Parker's memoirs to be completed 'this year'. |
| 2/05/1987 | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Postcard. Has moved to new San Anselmo address. Ref to Nicosia's forthcoming visit to Plymouth, Exeter & London. |
| 25/11/1987? | John Montgomery | Chris Challis | Comments on 'Quest for Kerouac', his review enclosed. Praise for new Ferlinghetti book of poetry 'Over All the Obscene Boundaries'. Richard Brautigan's suicide. |
| 21/07/1992 | Laura Montgomery Petersen | Chris Challis | From John Montgomery's daughter, thanking everyone for letters of condolence after his death. She will be cataloguing his collection of books, pamphlets etc. & may donate to U.C. Davis CA Library. |