

1. Burroughs, William Seward III, (Billy). Four [4] Letters with Mailing Envelopes, an extensive, perhaps complete archive of published material and associated ephemera.

Savannah / Atlanta / Denver: c. 1972 - 80. Four densely written letters, two-sided, three are full manuscript and one is typed with a manuscript closing. Includes three Air Mail envelopes, two with legible dates. Flattened, very good with mailing folds and some edge tear where extricated from original writing pad. Includes an Archive of 8 books and 12 periodicals of Billy's canopy.

William S. Burroughs III, sometimes referred to as Jr. (Bill or Billy), had the same name as both his literary father and great-grandfather (inventor of the Burroughs adding machine). He was a troubled, substance afflicted and orphaned offspring of the Beat Generation. His father left the young Bill motherless at two years old with the William Tell style manslaughter of his wife. Thirteen years later, Billy accidentally shot his best friend in the neck and for months believed he had killed him. Billy was sent to live with his paternal grandparents for most of his early life. While in Florida he attended The Green Valley School in Orange City, which was intended for emotionally disturbed and delinquent children. The school was closed in 1973 for physical and emotional abuse of its students. While at the school, Bill Jr. found a much need male role model in Joe Stewart, and communicated with him throughout his life. Stewart was on staff and administrator of the school and later became a Beat historian and archivist.



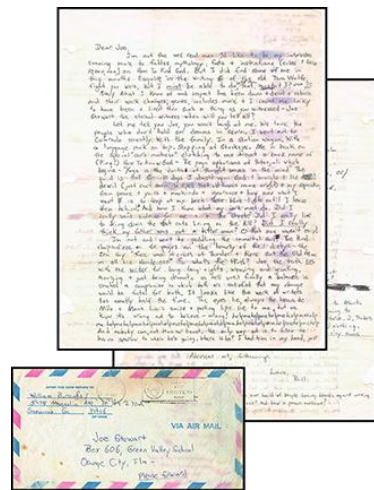
1A. Dec. 20, 1972 postmark. 2 pp. manuscript letter with mailing envelope signed twice.

His wife Karen: *"I'm one of the few people I know who are capable of being evil. I avoid it, though. My wife is definitely coming back to me. I take it all back! I'm only flesh and blood at present and me heart leaps. I miss my old lady and any hassles only reflect on my incompetence as a benevolent, loving con man."* [CFB p. 64]

Painkillers and living in Savannah: *"Shed a tear for me, soon I'll be out of painkillers. I eat them. Sigh. Dues is dues.*

Can't have your pain and kill it, too. Don't like Savannah / it's old and dead and the pop. [population] is like Lazarus' folks, hoping for a miracle. Lotta ignorant folk in this town eat fried food and fear yanks, but I love the south." [CFB pp. 64/67]

His recovery: “*Expect no complications and to be off crutches in a few weeks – gotta get a cane – no – too affected. ‘Why it was a lame old tiger in Jaipur my dear. Horrible brute he was and the hide was worthless. Ah yes, rub it right there, that helps.’*” [CFB p. 64]



Life of an artist: *"Every artist I know of and respect has been down + dead + reborn and their work changes, grows, includes more and I count me lucky to have been + lived thru such a thing as you witnessed - Joe Stewart, the eternal witness when will you tell all?"*

*“helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme
helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme helpme”* [See CFB p. 135]

Upcoming move from Savannah to Atlanta: *"If you wanna write write quick we're moving to Atlanta next week."* [See CFB p. 65]



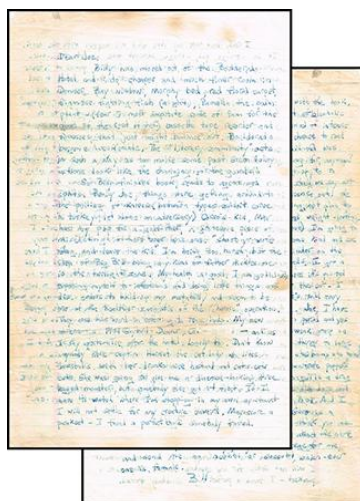
Discussing his mindset: “DeZr Joe, I must warn9m00 you, I’m in a strange state of mind and may appear absolutely normal.”

Atlanta's drug scene: *"I have no idea why but I love to watch the people get high and am sometimes not my usual dull self myself. So I imagine very vividly that Atlanta with all it's nights and cokeheads is out there somewhere but all I can say is it just has to wait."* [See CFB p. 74]

His father and grandmother: “*The story goes the little peice of a finger was out of the Army for Big Bill, perhaps shot off. Grandma said blown off by childhood chemistry kit. No one really knows anything about Bill, but No one. There in is one great reminder. When they get out their guns I’m afraids dey jus hav to shoot me.*”

Writing of a new book of fiction [an undocumented work, not *Prakriti Junction*]: “*Look, I’m not doing much working of this new book with an unworkable hero ond impossibly contradictory plot an american skid row bum who saves his own soul so to speak. But I’ve given him a mysteriouns mother so mysterious that anything, “out of character” Jeb does, the reader can assume he got it from his mother or his vague education. It is winter on the Bowery and Jeb’s eyes are glued shut with pus to his now dead friend he’d said he’d like to lie down in a stream someplace and just let it run through him real cold and clean, Eventually Jeb makes his break in stolen car over the el you get the picture everything is snow and blinding relflection described a hundred times better thaan theis and Jeb staggers across this landscape like it’s a ball of fire. He’s in and falls in this stream bleeding from Distant impersonal state police tinted window gunshot in the water’s like ice he numbs immediately can’t feel his body you dig, and the water hits him at nose level and strikes them and him soundly about the head with bright light... just as the lights go out, he’s made it.*” [CFB p. 74/76]

Trucker school: “*I’m going to Ryder trucking school. Ryder Tek. Because: 1. Writers starve. 2. Truckers don’t. 5. Some truckers can write. + A. Dead writers get (1) nothing. B. Truckers get (1) \$15,000 a year (2) long hours alone (3) tiny rooms in the middle of nowhere to sleep in.*” [CFB p. 71]



1D. c. 1980 (undated, no envelope). Legal size paper, double sided, signed.

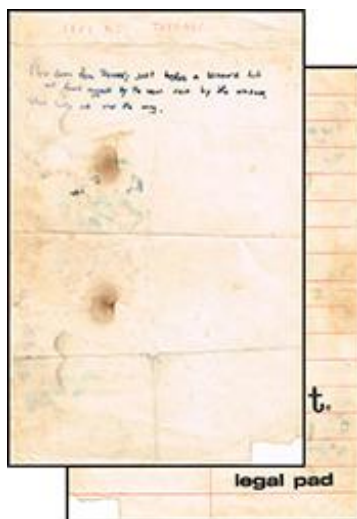
Move from Boulder to Denver: “*Billy has moved out of the Boulderado Hotel and into cheaper and much finer room in Denver. Bay window, Murphy bed, red floral carpet, Siamese fighting fish (a gift), Pamela the palm plant (fear I must amputate some of Pam for the good of the rest of her) cassette tape recorder and finances that just might balance out. Boulderado became insufferable. The “literary community” acts in such a way as to make some past Green Valley actions look like the changing of the guards.*” [CFB pp. 155 -183]

Max Corso—Gregory Corso’s son and the godson of William S. Burroughs: “*Corso’s kid, Max has my pop for a godfather, a grotesque piece of miscasting if there ever was one. ‘shoot yr wife, Greg,*

and leave the kid' I'm being too harsh but the idea of Big Bill being any kind of a father tickles me in the twilight zone."

His health, liver transplant and new Denver address: *"My health is good. I am judiciously exposing myself to infections and doing little things off drs. orders to build up my metabolly and seem to be one of the healthier specimens of the "heroic" operation. They use this word in referring to transplants. My new address is 1401 Gaylord, Denver, Co. - and as I say quite nice after the hotel. Lonely tho."*

Discussing *Prakriti Junction*, his past writing and future health: *"I really don't have any idea what will happen with the book. It is strange, pal, strange. Straight true account of alcoholic marriage, strange travels, grim hospitalization, period of intense spiritual crisis and winds up with poetry. Had a chance to read some work to some prisoners at Boulder County jail and was ok-ed by the boys. After all, who am I writing for, anyway? Answer: Nobody. I spent near 30 years catching up to join the literatee and now I find a bunch of shall we say not my types. It's like a feed off each other's energy scene until the entire framework implodes. So I'm not just healing, but plan to get healthier than ever before in my life. Yoga and weight-lifting. [/] Matter of fact (it occurs to me just this moment) I'm going to start organizing all these poems into a form of some kind and see if the West Coast might, be receptive to a new cinder on the horizon."* [See CFB Editor's Note]



c. Jan. 1981. Legal size notepad cover with short poem.

The cover of William S. Burroughs Jr.'s last notepad, used during his flight from Denver to Florida prior to his death. One of Billy's last pieces of writing.

*"Flew down fom Denver; just before a blizzard hit /
and found myself by the usual seat by the window, /
which looks out over the wing"* [See CFB pp. 151-205]

2. Collection of books by William S. Burroughs Jr. Eight books by WSB Jr. including the First Edition of his first book, *Speed*, advance copies and the First Edition of his second book, *Kentucky Ham*, and advance copies of the Overlook Press editions with important publisher's materials documenting the difficult publication history of Billy's final work, *Cursed from Birth* (previously titled *Prakriti Junction*). All in very Good to Fine condition.



2A. *Speed* New York, NY: Olympia Press, 1970. First Edition. Paperback Original. Introduction by Allen Ginsberg. Cover Illustration by Ira Cohen and Bill Devore. First Edition of the first book by William S. Burroughs Jr., son of *Naked Lunch* author William S. Burroughs. An autobiographical novel focusing on Billy's early life living with his grandparents in Florida followed by his running away to New York City during the height of his methamphetamine addiction. Very Good in illustrated wraps.

2B. *Speed* London: Olympia Press, 1971. First UK Edition. Introduction by Allen Ginsberg. The First Hardcover Edition of the first book by William S. Burroughs Jr., son of *Naked Lunch* author William S. Burroughs. Fine hardcover in Fine dustjacket.

2C. *Kentucky Ham* (Advance Uncorrected Proof) New York, NY: E.P. Dutton, 1973. First Edition. Advance Uncorrected Proof. The second autobiographical, depicting his return to Florida from New York City and subsequent arrest resulting in a stint at a Federal Narcotics

Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. The book also recounts Billy's time living in Tangier with his father and later enrollment in the Green Valley School where he met his mentor, Reverend George von Hilsheimer, and future wife, Karen Perry. Fine in comb bound wraps.

2D. Kentucky Ham (Advance Review Copy) New York, NY: E.P. Dutton, 1973. First Edition. Advance Review Copy. Laid-in review slip from the publisher noting the Publication Date of June 11, 1973. Very Good hardcover in Very Good dustjacket.

2E. Speed (Advance Review Copy with Publisher's "Precis") Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1984. First Overlook Press Edition. Advance Review Copy. Introduction by Jennie Skerl. Afterword by John Steinbeck, Jr. Laid-in is a Publisher's two-page "Precis" dated 5/23/84 from The Overlook Press and Richard Elovich—the first editor tasked to complete *Prakriti Junction* [*Cursed From Birth*] for publication—asking Billy's friends and acquaintances to send reminiscences of the author for inclusion in his final work. Elovich requests: "*Your help is essential to the completion of Bill's final book ... Billy's autobiography will not be complete without your memories of him. The lessons of his life cannot be drawn from his words alone, but must appear from your stories as well.*" Additionally laid-in is a three-page typewritten response with numerous holograph corrections from poet, Richard Dillon, accompanied by a double-sided page of his draft notes, both handwritten and typed. Dillon's remembrances include his time knowing Bill Jr. in Boulder at the Hotel Boulderado, and, most importantly, the evening that Billy was rushed to the hospital and told that he required a liver transplant. The Overlook Press' plan to publish *Prakriti Junction* never came to fruition after re-releasing *Speed* and *Kentucky Ham*. At the request of William S. Burroughs Sr., a second attempt to publish Billy's final book was made by editor, David Ohle, for the Grove Press in 2001 with the title, *Cursed from Birth: The Short Unhappy Life of William Burroughs Jr.* This second effort was canceled just prior to publication due to legal concerns. It was not until 2006 that Soft Skull Press successfully published *Cursed from Birth* to complete Billy's full autobiographical trilogy. Richard Dillon's contribution was not ultimately included and never subsequently published. Fine hardcover in Fine dustjacket with laid-in ephemera toned with age.

2F. Kentucky Ham (Advance Uncorrected Proof) Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1984. First Overlook Press Edition. Advance Uncorrected Proof. Foreword by Anne Waldman. Afterword by William S. Burroughs. Fine plain tape bound wraps in Fine publisher's advance dustjacket.

2G. Kentucky Ham (SIGNED Advance Review Copy) Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1984 [1985]. First Overlook Press Edition. Advance Review Copy. Foreword by Anne Waldman. Afterword by William S. Burroughs. Signed by Anne Waldman on the title page. Laid-in publisher's review slip noting the Publication Date of January 11, 1985. Additionally includes publisher's letter dated October 8, 1984, signed and corrected by Overlook Press editor, Ira Silverberg. The publisher's letter also notes their "program to publish the complete works of the late William S. Burroughs Jr." Fine hardcover in Fine dustjacket.

2H. *Cursed from Birth: The Short Unhappy Life of William S. Burroughs Jr.* New York, NY: Soft Skull Press, 2006. First Edition. Edited by David Ohle. The first trade edition from Soft Skull Press, following two unsuccessful attempts at publication by the Overlook Press and Grove Press. Very Good in wraps with the corresponding reference markers cited in the “Letters” section above.



3. Collection of periodicals featuring William S. Burroughs Jr. Twelve periodicals featuring contributions by WSB Jr. including several uncollected pieces and first appearances excerpted for use in his books, *Kentucky Ham* and *Cursed from Birth: The Short Unhappy Life of William S. Burroughs Jr.* A major representation of Billy’s published body of work.

3A. “Life with Father: Mother's milk was mixed with speed” in *Esquire Magazine* (September 1971) Chicago, IL: Esquire, Inc., 1971. First Edition. Features the first appearance of William S. Burroughs Jr.'s second book, *Kentucky Ham*—an excerpt depicting Billy's dysfunctional upbringing while living in the shadow of his father William S. Burroughs, the infamous author of *Naked Lunch*. Very Good in wraps.

3B. “Lexington Addicts’ Hospital” in *Defiance: A Radical Review* # 2 New York, NY: Coronet Communications, Inc., 1971. Features the 34-page piece, “Lexington’s Addict’s Hospital.” Variations would later appear in Billy’s second autobiographical novel, *Kentucky Ham*. Very Good in wraps.

3C. “Son of Naked Lunch Tells of Daddy Bill’s Sugar Skull” in *Santa Cruz Times* (September 16 - October 3, 1974) Santa Cruz, CA: Santa Cruz Times, 1974. First Edition. Edited by Jay Shore. Features a one-page piece by William S. Burroughs Jr. recounting his employment inquiry with the *Santa Cruz Times* and ultimately being commissioned to write about his father: “I went whining around to this paper’s offices looking for a writer’s job of work and the editor wanted me to write something about my father. This has never happened to me before as you can well imagine.” The piece concludes with an editor’s note: “*Burroughs Jr. is also looking for a part-time job and will do anything that does not involve lifting or swinging heavy objects. Please contact the Times if you know of any work available.*” *Santa Cruz Times* was a short-lived weekly counterculture newspaper that ceased publication in 1975. Billy’s time living in Santa Cruz is chronicled in his final book, *Cursed from Birth*. Fine in lightly toned tabloid format; appears unread.

3D. “JUST BECAUSE ALLEN GINSBERG MEDITATES DOESN’T MAKE HIM STUPID” in *Creem Magazine* (April 1976) Birmingham, MI: Creem Magazine Inc., 1976. First Edition. Features an intimate, off-the-cuff literary portrait of Allen Ginsberg by William S. Burroughs Jr. This piece appears to be incorrectly cited as “April 1974” in the “Acknowledgements” section of Bill Jr.’s final book, *Cursed from Birth: The Short Unhappy Life of William Burroughs Jr.* Near Fine in wraps.

3E. “from PRAKRITI JUNCTION” in *Bombay Gin* [#3] (Winter/Spring 1977) np [Boulder, CO]: Bombay Gin Editions, 1977. First Edition. Edited by Bonnie Shulman, Cindy Shelton, and Simone Lazzeri. Published at the Naropa Institute’s Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics. Features four pieces by William S. Burroughs Jr. including an excerpt from *Prakriti Junction* which was later included in Section 1 of *Cursed from Birth* (though not cited in the book’s “Acknowledgements” section). Also features work by Anne Waldman and Gregory Corso, among others. Very Good in side-stapled wraps.

3F. “But I Tried” in *Bombay Gin* #4 (Summer/Fall 1977) Boulder, CO: Bombay Gin Editions, 1977. First Edition. Edited by Bonnie Shulman and Cindy Shelton with Guest Editors Anne Waldman and Larry Fagin. Cover photo of Gregory Corso by John Barkin. Features “BUT I TRIED”, a poem by William S. Burroughs Jr. Also features work by William S. Burroughs,

Gregory Corso, Allen Ginsberg, Jim Carroll, Diane di Prima, Peter Orlovsky, Ed Sanders, Frank O'Hara, et al. Near Fine in side-stapled wraps.

3G. “from old Journal stuff” in *Bombay Gin* [#5] (Winter/Spring 1978) Boulder, CO: Bombay Gin Editions, 1978. First Edition. Edited by Mary Ann McCarty and Jan Johnson. Features a journal entry by William S. Burroughs Jr. recounting a time that he visited a convent in Savannah. Although cited in the “Acknowledgements” section of *Cursed from Birth*, this piece does not appear to be included in the book. The citation could have been mistaken with WSB Jr’s contribution to *Bombay Gin* #3, which was included in *Cursed from Birth* but not cited. Near Fine in staple bound wraps.

3H. “from FURY is a Sign of Life” and “The Grey Hound” in *New Blood* (Vol. I, No. I) Boulder, CO: Artz Press, 1980. First Edition. Edited by Tom Swartz. Features two contributions by William S. Burroughs Jr. “The Greyhound” and “from FURY is a Sign of Life” (a possible alternate title for *Prakriti Junction*) in which Billy describes the circumstances of his liver transplant and the early recovery period from his “heroic” operation. A variation of this excerpt appears in Section 4 of *Cursed from Birth* (though not cited in the book’s “Acknowledgements” section). Also features two poems by Anne Waldman. Fine in wraps.

3I. “More from FURY is a Sign of Life” in *New Blood* (Vol. II, No. I) Boulder, CO: Artz Press, 1981. First Edition. Features a drawing by William S. Burroughs Jr. and “More from FURY is a Sign of Life”, a continuation of his previous contribution to *New Blood* chronicling the aftermath of his liver transplant. A variation of this excerpt also appears in Section 4 of *Cursed from Birth*. Near Fine in wraps.

3J. “Last Poems” in *New Blood* (No. 6) Boulder, CO: New Blood Press, 1982. First Edition. Featuring Wiliam Burroughs Jr.'s last poems and a single journal entry. Near Fine in wraps.

3K. *Nada Poems* (Big Scream Issue 25) SIGNED Grandvilsle, MI: Nada Press, 1988. First Edition. Edited by David Cope. Signed by David Cope. Collects six pieces by William S. Burroughs. Also includes “To Burroughs Jr. in the Bardo” by Anne Waldman. *Nada Poems* is Issue 25 of *Big Scream*, the poetry journal founded in 1974 by David Cope and published by his Nada Press. *Big Scream* published over 200 poets and was described by Allen Ginsberg as his favorite small-press mag. Fine in wraps.

3L. “On the Street: An Interview with Billy Burroughs” in *The Moment* #11 (Fall 1989) Association Copy: Woodland Hills, CA: Shelf Life Press, 1989. First Edition. Edited by Eric Lyden and Kevin Bartnof. Features a 1978 interview with William S. Burroughs Jr., conducted by Lee Hill in Boulder, CO. Bill Jr. shares his thoughts on the Beat Generation, being perceived as “the last Beatnik”, his absent “junky” father, and being raised by his grandmother, Laura Lee Burroughs. Billy further discusses his books, *Speed* and *Kentucky Ham*, as well as his failed marriage with Karen Perry and has time living in Denver. This copy is from the collection of Richard Aaron, friend of William S. Burroughs and Brion Gysin. Aaron facilitated the sales of

Brion Gysin's archive and Burroughs' Vaduz archive. He is the founder of Am Here Books which published the *Descriptive Catalogue of the William S. Burroughs Archive* (1973) and the true first editions of Burroughs' *Port of Saints* (1973) and *Letters to Allen Ginsberg, 1953-1957* (1978). Laid-in are the original sales receipt and Aaron's carbon payment slip. Near Fine with a few spots on the upper front cover, otherwise unmarked.

From David Ohle's "Editor's Note" in *Cursed from Birth: The Short Unhappy Death of William Burroughs JR.*:

"When William Burroughs invited me to edit his late son's manuscript *Prakriti Junction*, I was told that, like Billy's *Speed and Kentucky Ham*, it was autobiographical, this time treating his ill-fated marriage, subsequent love affairs, terminal addictions, and the Job-like sufferings he endured in the grotesque aftermath of a liver transplant."

"stored among the three hundred or so file boxes of his father's archives... I sifted through the contents of the three file boxes that held the remnants of Billy's life... a compelling story emerged from his hundreds of letters (sent and unsent, some stained with drops of dried blood), dozens of notebooks and tablets, even paper shards torn from shopping bags, all filled with his gnarly, often barely decipherable script. These obsessive jottings presumably gave him temporary release from the horrors of his post-transplant predicament—and something to do on sleepless nights and idle Denver days while he waited in physical and mental agony to die."

"Thus, this is not Billy's *Prakriti Junction*. Instead, it is an attempt at the 'unscrambling' Billy called for, reconstructed not only from the *Prakriti* manuscript but from documents and audio tapes found in his boxes."

"In all of Billy's writings compiled here, misspellings or poor punctuation that suggested a state of mind rather than oversight or error were left unchanged... Whenever I found a snippet or note anywhere in Billy's boxes that illuminated, enhanced, or added information to passages of the *Prakriti* manuscript, I inserted it where it seemed to belong."

"Because the calendar was a reminder of his numbered days, Billy only intermittently dated his letters. When he received them, he rarely saved the envelopes. As a result the chronology here represents a best attempt, not an exactitude."

From Joe Stewart – friend of Bill Jr., former Green Valley School staff, and recipient of the letters presented here:

"Billy was a friend of mine. I knew him at Green Valley School in Orange City, Fla. in 1972 and afterwards until his death in 1981. I think this book [*Cursed from Birth*] tells his story the way he would like. *Literary Outlaw* is the other good bio of Bill Burroughs, Sr. in which Billy's life is well told. Read both of these books and you will know the Burroughs. The old man was a genius and a great writer but a lousy father. The son was cursed from birth (that title is something Billy wrote himself and signed a letter with to his father [See CFB p. 63])."

“Bill Jr. never had a chance. Not as long as he played the part of Burroughs, Jr. In the summer of 1972 (I think it was) Esquire Magazine printed a bit of the unpublished Kentucky Ham ...which is the chapter on Green Valley...”

“I knew him at Green Valley School when he came down from Dobbs Ferry, NY to finish Kentucky Ham in the fall of 1972. He was staying at the Motel. Some time later he got an apartment in Deland.” [See CFB p. 62-63]

“One night after we had been drinking we came back to GVS and he drove in odd S curves on the way back. More off the road than on. Once we got back to GVS I declined to get back in the car when he wanted to go out for more music and drinking. The next day I got a note from the receptionist in the Big House to call Billy at the hospital in Deland. He had been in a car wreck but survived it OK.” [See CFB p. 63]

“I told him in regard to his vices that he could change vices. I told him ‘One vice is as good as another’. Bill Jr. used that line in his dedication of Kentucky Ham to GVH.”

“I tried to tell Billy to change his name in 1972. I thought that would be his only chance of surviving the Burroughs name. But of course his course was set. He was and would always be a Burroughs. To have your father kill your mother when you are 4 and then to be sent to grow up with your grandparents (abandoned by your father) and then to learn in your teens that your father is the notorious junkie homosexual genius author of NAKED LUNCH well how would you handle that? So self-destruction was Billy's fate. This is an excellent book and anyone who is interested in either father or the son should enjoy and learn from it. One thing though – Billy enjoyed his life VERY MUCH until he got sick. So his life was not that short and was certainly not all unhappy. Just the last ten years.”

“But he really was cursed from birth.”

\$9,500