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Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and
American Literature

Guide to the

Kenneth Burke collection of papers

1922-1983 [bulk 1922-1973]

Berg Coll MSS Burke

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Burke, Kenneth, 1897-1993

Title: Kenneth Burke collection of papers

Date: 1922-1983 [bulk 1922-1973]

Size: 1,054 items

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, and correspondence.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature

Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History

Kenneth Burke was an American writer of short stories, historical dramas, and criticism, as well as a poet, and translator.

Custodial History

The letters to Hildegard and James Watson came with J. S. Watson's papers.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, and correspondence. The manuscripts and typescripts include short-stories, essays, poems, and reviews. The correspondence, dating from 1922 to 1983, includes letters from the author to Djuna Barnes, Muriel Rukeyser, Frances Steloff, Hildegard and James Watson, Jr., and others. There are also letters to the author, dating from 1940 to 1966, from Djuna Barnes, Wallace Fowlie, Francis Golffing, Randall Jarrell, Robert Lowell, Marianne Moore, Stephen Spender, James Sibley Watson, and others.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Burke, Kenneth, 1897-1993

Barnes, Djuna

Fowlie, Wallace, 1908-1998

Golffing, Francis

Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965

Lowell, Robert, 1917-1977

Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972

Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913-1980

Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995

Steloff, Frances, 1887-1989

Watson, Hildegard Lasell, -1976

Watson, James S. (James Sibley), 1894-

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 127
[Acceptance remarks on receiving an award at Brandeis University]
Typescript (carbon) draft of speech, with his ms. additions and revisions 1967
May 16 (9 p) (9 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 115
As curtain rises, a siren shrieks. Typescript draft (carbon) of dialogue with his ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Initialed
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 92
Auberge, L'. Typescript n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 73
"Bearded oaks": dialectical speculations on a poem by Robert Penn Warren.
Typescript (carbon) n.d. (8 p) (8 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 126
Beginnings, middles and ends. Typescript (carbon) review of The sense of an ending: studies in the theory of fiction by Frank Kermode n.d. (9 p) (9 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 139
"Christ-Dionysis link", The. Typescript (carbon) of review of Voyager: a life of Hart Crane by John Unterecker n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 144
Concealment. Manuscript musical score 1970? Aug. 18 (1 item) (1 item)
Signed
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 133
Cult of the breakthrough. Typescript (carbon) of review of Selected letters of Theodore Roethke 1968 Sept. 21 (6 p) (6 p)

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

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| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 40</p> | <p>Dante's De vulgari eloquentia. Typescript draft (carbon) of excerpt from his A rhetoric of motives n.d. (4 p) (4 p)</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 62</p> | <p>Dramatistic translation of Genesis. Typescript (carbon) 1954 Mar. 7 (5 p) (5 p)</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 141</p> | <p>Ecological proposal, An. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 61</p> | <p>Exercise for year's end. Galley proof, with his ms. corrections 1953 Dec. 31 (1 item) (1 item)
Initialed</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 127</p> | <p>Extraduction from what? Typescript (carbon) of essay n.d. (4 p) (4 p)</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 68</p> | <p>For a modernist sermon. Typescript (carbon) of essay n.d. (3 p) (3 p)</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 160</p> | <p>I want to write a satire. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (3 p) (3 p)</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 65</p> | <p>Implications of the term "act." Typescript (carbon) of essay n.d. (8 p) (8 p)</p> |
| <p>Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. On verso of letter dated Sept. 20, 1969. Folder 140</p> | <p>Modernism so far is but peanuts. Typescript (carbon) of "a critical rhapsody" n.d. (1 p) (1 p)</p> |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 109. 6 p. continuation in Folder 112 [On Freudian psychology] Typescript (carbon) of excerpted essay n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 141 [On Marshall McLuhan] Holograph draft of review n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
- Manuscript box Poems (156). Typescript (mostly carbon) n.d. (156 items) (156 items)
Some signed. Titles, or first lines, listed on inventory laid into Box 1 of his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. ...to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr.
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 68 Pyre. Typescript (carbon) of essay n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 28 [Review of Language and myth by Ernst Cassirer] Typescript draft (carbon) n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 116 [Rhetoric and poetics] Typescript (carbon) of excerpt n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 64 Second exercise for year's end: Dec. 31, MCM54. Typescript draft (carbon) with his ms. corrections n.d (4 p) (4 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 71 [Thoughts on a scholastic proposition] Typescript draft (carbon) of essay n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 125 Thoughts on the poets' corner. Typescript (carbon) of essay n.d. (8 p) (8 p)

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 118
Towards a better life: preface to a new edition. Typescript (carbon) 1965 Aug. (4 p) (4 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 113 on verso of letter dated Oct. 10, 1964
[Tribute to Marianne Moore] Typescript (carbon) n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 125
What's in a word? Typescript (carbon) review of Love's body by Norman O. Brown n.d. (9 p) (9 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 128
White oxen: preface to a new edition. Typescript (photocopy) of essay, including addendum 1967 Nov. (9 p) (9 p)

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 124
Barnes, Djuna. 3 TL (copy) to 1966 Sept. 26 - 1966 Oct. 4 (3 items) (3 items)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 105
Bennis, Warren G. TL (carbon) to 1963 Jan. 20 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 126
Brown, Goodman. TL (carbon) to 1967 May 19 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 70
Cohen, Arthur A. TL (carbon) to 1956 Jan. 7 (1 item) (1 item)

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

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| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 105 | De Mott, Benjamin. TL (carbon) to 1963 Feb. 2 (5 p) (5 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 82 | Fowlie, Wallace. TL (carbon) to 1957 Nov. 9 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 105 | Gard, Robert E. TL (carbon) to 1963 Jan. 20 (3 p) (3 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 124 on verso of his letter to J. S. Watson dated Nov. 25, 1966 | Gregory, Alyse. TL (carbon) to 1966 Nov. 25 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 24 | Longman, Lester D. TL (carbon) to 1945 Feb. 16 (3 p) (3 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 123 | New Jersey Herald. TL (carbon) to the editors 1962 Apr. 26 (3 p) (3 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 66 on verso of undated letter to J. S. Watson, Jr. | Rago, Henry. TL (carbon) to 1955 Mar. 25 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 120 on verso of his letter to J. S. Watson dated Dec. 31, 1965 | Reese, Professor. TL (carbon) to 1965 Dec. 28 (1 item) (1 item) |

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 54
- Rubin, Mr. TL (carbon) to 1952 Mar. 17 (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box (Rukeyser)
- Rukeyser, Muriel. 3 TLS to 1937 Feb. 10 - 1943 Apr. 2 (3 items) (3 items)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 87
- Soule, George. TL (carbon) to 1959 Feb. 21 (12 p) (12 p)
- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham Book Mart, New York. We Moderns. Folder 82
- Steloff, Frances. ALS to. Declines to write an appreciation of Thomas Mann or Allen Tate for publication in We Moderns, Gotham Book Mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940 1939 Nov. 2 (1 p) (1 p)
On verso of Steloff's TLS to him, Oct. 31, 1939; with TL (carbon) reply
- Manuscript box (Gotham)
- Steloff, Frances. TLS and postcard to 1951 Nov. 5, 1952 May 31 (2 items) (2 items)
With 2 TL (carbon) replies
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 83
- Thompson, Elsa Knight. TL (carbon) to 1958 Mar. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 115
- Tyner, Richard F. F. TL (carbon) to 1965 Mar. 17 (2 p) (2 p)
With TL (carbon) from Tyner to Burke dated March 4, 1965. 1 p.
- Manuscript box
- Watson, Hildegard and James [junior]. 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, 1 TLS (copy), 1 TL, 2 TNS, 23 postcards to 1922 Oct. 3 - 1983 May 13 (816 items in 162 folders) (816 items in 162 folders)
Original separation sheets laid into folder. Accompanied by other correspondence to and from Burke; by his poems; by his occasional writings, all listed in inventory laid into Box 1. Came with J. S. Watson's papers
- Manuscript box. In his: 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. ...to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 101
- Weinberg, Sydney. TLS to 1962 Mar. 24 (1 p) (1 p)

Incoming Correspondence

- Manuscript box. In: Burke, Kenneth. 40 ALS, 9 ANS, 740 TLS, etc. to Hildegard and James Sibley Watson, Jr. Folder 124
- Barnes, Djuna Chappell. 2 TLS (copy), 1 TNS (copy) to Burke 1966 Oct. 1 - 1966 Oct. 8 (3 items) (3 items)

Correspondence (cont.)
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Belitt, Ben. TL (carbon transcript, fragment) to Burke 1955 May 21 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Coates, Robert. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 May 15 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Cowley, Malcolm. TL (carbon transcript, incomplete) to Burke 1955 May 14 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
30

Dowling, Allan. ALS to Burke 1946 Sept. 22 (2 p) (2 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Foster, Catherine Osgood. TN (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 June 4 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr.
Folders 67 and 82

Fowlie, Wallace. 1 TLS, 1 TL (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 June 2, 1957 Oct. 29 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Golffing, Francis. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 May 11 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Gregory, Horace. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 May 28 (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
20

Hayakawa, Samuel Ichiye. TLS to Burke 1943 Feb. 27 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
46

Jarrell, Randall. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Josephson, Hannah. TN (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 June 1 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
12

Laughlin, James. TLS to Burke 1940 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
46

Levin, Harry. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke 1950 Aug. 18 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
46

Lowell, Robert. TNS (carbon transcript) to Burke n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
67

Moore, Marianne. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke 1955 May 21 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr.
Folders 39, 85, 86

Ransom, John Crowe. 2 ALS, 1 TLS to Burke 1948 Aug. 25 - [1958] Dec. 16 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)

Correspondence (cont.)
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
46

Roethke, Theodore. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
46

Spender, Stephen. TLS (carbon transcript) to Burke n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. to Hildegard
and James Sibley
Watson, Jr.
Folders 54, 63,
97, 100

Watson, James Sibley, Jr. 2 TLS, 1 TL, 1 TL (carbon, incomplete) to Burke
1952 Apr. 12 - 1962 Feb. 1 (4 items) (4 items)