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

Guide to the

Stephen Spender collection of papers

1928]-1993 [bulk 1931-1967]

Berg Coll MSS Spender

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995

Title: Stephen Spender collection of papers

Date: 1928]-1993 [bulk 1931-1967]

Size: 314 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, correspondence, notebooks dating from 1932 to 1966, financial documents, and portraits.

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

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

Creator History

Stephen Spender was a British essayist, literary critic, playwright, poet, and translator.

Custodial History

Former owners include Caroline Newton, Robert Malise Bowyer Nichols, William Plomer, Stephen Winsten, and the Group Theatre Archive.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, notebooks dating from 1932 to 1966, financial documents, and portraits. The manuscripts and typescripts include stories, poems, notes for work, and essays, as well as manuscripts transcribed by Spender, and typescripts with Spender's manuscript emendations. There is correspondence, dating from 1931 to 1973, from the author to W. H. Auden, Kenneth Burke, Rupert Doone, Anne Fremantle, Howard Griffin, Geoffrey Grigson, Randall Jarrell, Sir Edward Howard Marsh, Philip O'Connor, Michael Roberts, Edward Sackville-West, Edith Sitwell, Ruth Witt-Diamant, and Leonard and Virginia Woolf. Also present are letters relating to the author, dating from [ca. 1937] to 1975, between various correspondents including Christopher Isherwood, Henry Miller, Herbert Mitgang, Dylan Thomas, Hugh Walpole, Virginia Woolf, and others. There are letters to Spender from W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, Peter H. Salus, Edith Sitwell, and the editors, John Bagguley and Cecil Woolf, dating from [1928] to [1973].

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Notebooks

Names

Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Bagguley, John
Burke, Kenneth, 1897-1993
Doone, Rupert, 1903-1966
Fremantle, Anne, 1909-2002
Griffin, Howard, 1915-1975
Grigson, Geoffrey, 1905-1985
Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986
Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965
Kallman, Chester, 1921-1975
Marsh, Edward Howard, Sir, 1872-1953
Miller, Henry, 1891-1980
Mitgang, Herbert
Newton, Caroline, 1893-
Nichols, Robert, 1893-1944
O'Connor, Philip
Plomer, William, 1903-1973
Roberts, Michael, 1902-1948
Sackville-West, Edward, 1901-1965
Salus, Peter H.
Sitwell, Edith, 1887-1964
Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953
Walpole, Hugh, Sir, 1884-1941
Walpole, Hugh, Sir, 1884-1941
Winsten, Stephen
Witt-Diamant, Ruth
Woolf, Cecil
Woolf, Leonard, 1880-1969
Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941
Group Theatre (U.S.)

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Spender

- | | |
|---|--|
| Manuscript box | <p>Answers to a questionnaire (3 p.). Composed by Philip O'Connor.
 Typewritten 1958 July 11 (3 p) (3 p)
 With 2 additional pages</p> |
| Cased | <p>Burning cactus, The. Holograph story 1933 (35 p) (35 p)
 Signed. In envelope with authenticating note by William Plomer into whose possession it came in 1933. William Plomer</p> |
| Oversize (+) | <p>"Dear love it was your need for love that first." Holograph fragment of poem
 n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
 With his: [Trial of a judge] Early holograph draft, p. [45] at end</p> |
| Oversize (+) | <p>[Destructive element, The. T. S. Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft n.d. (25 p) (25 p)
 Detailed analysis of other material in this volume laid in</p> |
| Oversize (+) | <p>[Deus ex machina] Holograph short story n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
 With author's ms. note: "written in Greece 1934."; with his: [Trial of a judge] Early holograph draft, p. [2-7] at end. Published in The Listener, Dec. 22, 1938, v. 20, no. 519, p. 1372-1373</p> |
| Manuscript box | <p>[Draft of the opening lines of a long poem on a photograph of a friend, P. W. (obit. 1956)] Eight successive holograph drafts, typescript and first proof with ms. corrections in the author's hand 1956 Aug. 5 - 1956 Dec. 23 (45 p) (45 p)
 With ALS, Jan. 28, 1967, submitting the manuscript for the benefit auction of P.E.N. International Writers' Fund, April 6, 1967</p> |
| Oversize (+) | <p>Dreams. Holograph drafts of poem. Title taken from label on cover.
 Includes some original pencil and pen-and-ink drawings 1961 May 27 - [1963] Oct. 21 (1 v) (1 v)
 Three typewritten pages inserted. On front flyleaf: Bonnefoy, Yves. Rimbaud [par lui-meme] Ms. extract in Spender's hand, undated. 1 p.; holograph draft of poem and lists of poets on p. [1] and [282] respectively</p> |
| Oversize (+) In his: Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph p. [140-162] | <p>[Dreams] Holograph drafts (incomplete) of poem n.d. (23 p) (23 p)</p> |
| Manuscript box | <p>Errors of fact and misreadings of texts in Stephen Spender: a portrait with background by Hugh David (Heinemann, 1992). Typescript (copy) of list with appendices 1993 (53 p) (53 p)
 Signed</p> |
| Oversize (+) | <p>[Fable and reportage] Left review article. Holograph draft. Review of The ascent of F6 by W. H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, and Auden's Look, stranger! n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
 In volume with his: [The destructive element. T. S. Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft. Pages [2-8] at end. Published in The Left Review, v. 2, no. 14, Nov. 1936, p. [779]-782</p> |
| In his: [Poems] Holograph notebook, Feb. 18 [1963]-April 5 [1966] | <p>[Generous days, The. If it were not; Sleepless; The generous days; Bagatelles. VII] Holograph drafts of four poems [1963] Feb. 18 - [1965] Aug. 25 (4 items) (4 items)</p> |
| Oversize (+) | <p>[Generous days, The. If it were not; Sleepless; The generous days; Bagatelles. I, XI] Holograph drafts of three poems n.d. (22 p) (22 p)
 In his: Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph, p. [52-53, 65]; [68-69, 76-77]; [104-105, 108-120]. Published, London: Faber & Faber, 1971</p> |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Spender (cont.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Oversize (+) | Graves. Holograph notes n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
In his: Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph. P. [2] |
| Manuscript box | "I think continually of those who were truly great" "Oh young men, Oh young comrades." Typescript of two poems, one with the author's ms. correction n.d. (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Enclosed in Robert Malise Bowyer Nichols' letter of Oct. 4, 1931. Sent to Robert Malise Bowyer Nichols |
| Oversize (+). On p. [282] of his: Dreams. Holograph | List of poets. Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Oversize (+) | [Note on story by Edward Upton] Holograph draft n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
In volume with his: [The destructive element. T. S. Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft. Pages [28-29] |
| In his: [Poems] Holograph notebook, Feb. 18 [1963]-April 5 [1966], p. 84-85 | "Performing at / the gathering commemorating / Aldous Huxley dead..." Holograph draft of poem [1963] Dec. 18 (2 p) (2 p) |
| Cased | [Poems] Holograph notebook. Includes original pencil and pen-and-ink sketches. Mutilated (many pages completely torn out) [1963] Feb. 18 - [1966] Apr. 5 (1 v) (1 v)
Detailed analysis of contents laid in |
| Cased | Poems. Vol. 3. Holograph notebook with 11 eleven poems 1932 Oct. - 1934 [Jan. 1 (1 v) (1 v)
At end of notebook: List of reviews, 1933 and 1932. 1 p. and [Greek] Nouns and regular verbs, 3 l. |
| Oversize (+) | [Poland] Holograph notes for essay or speech n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
In his: Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph, p. [170-171, 174] |
| Oversize (+) | [Reviews. Leavis, Frank Raymond; Revaluation] Holograph draft n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
In volume with his: [The destructive element. T. S. Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft. Pages [10-14] at end. Published in Criterion, v. 16, no. 63, Jan. 1937, p. 350-353 |
| Manuscript box | [Rilke] Holograph fragment of essay or book review n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| In his: [Poems] Holograph notebook, Feb. 18 [1963]-April 5 [1966] | [Selected poems (1965). "Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light"; One more new botched beginning] Holograph drafts of two poems [1963] Dec. 2 - [1964] June 17 (2 items) (2 items) |
| Oversize (+) | [Selected poems (1965). Subject: object: sentences; "Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light"] Holograph drafts of two poems n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
In his: Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph, p. [96, 98-100]; [126-127]. Published, London: Faber & Faber, 1965 |
| Oversize (+) On p. [1] of his: Dreams. Holograph | "Some few arrived upon a new found land." Holograph draft of poem 1963 Mar. 3 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box | [Spain invites the world's writers] Holograph draft, incomplete, of article. Paginated 5 and 16. Mentions Sylvia Townsend Warner n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
With his: [Trial of a judge] Holograph drafts of several speeches. Published in New Writing, IV, Autumn 1937, p. 245-251 |
| Oversize (+) | [Still centre, The] Holograph drafts of four poems n.d. (41 p) (41 p)
With his: [Trial of a judge] Early holograph draft. Published, London: Faber & Faber, 1939 |
| Oversize (+) | "They cheer for peace. If this were peace." Two holograph drafts of poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
With his: [Trial of a judge] Early holograph draft, p. [22-23] at end |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Spender (cont.)

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|----------------|---|
| Manuscript box | To the island; a poetic drama. Typescript (carbon), with the author's ms. corrections. Incomplete? Page 1 wanting? 1951 (123 p) (123 p)
From the Stephen Winsten collection |
| Oversize (+) | [Trial of a judge] Early holograph draft of play. On pages [1-25], rectos only
n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Detailed analysis of contents of volume laid in |
| Manuscript box | [Trial of a judge] Holograph drafts of several speeches. One page on verso of Trial draft beginning "And now the tears exiled since childhood." n.d. (11 p) (11 p)
Also his: [Spain invites the world's writers] Holograph draft, incomplete, of article, undated, 2 p. Paginated 5 and 16 |
| Oversize (+) | Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph notebook. Includes original pencil and pen-and-ink sketches. Mutilated (some pages completely torn out). Dated "Summer 1957-1958" 1957 - 1958 (1 v) (1 v)
Detailed analysis of contents laid in |
| Cased | Vienna. Holograph poem. Inscribed by the author to Muriel to whom the work is dedicated n.d. (38 p) (38 p) |
| Manuscript box | "We cannot hold on..." Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
On verso of: Sitwell, Edith. 73 ALS to Stephen Spender. Letter of March 16, 1941 |

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Spender

- | | |
|---|--|
| Cased | Auden, W. H. Poems [1928] Typescript (carbon) of 10 poems, with the author's, Christopher Isherwood's, and Stephen Spender's ms. corrections
n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
Caroline Newton bookplate |
| In his: Holograph notebook 1965- [73], p. 118, 119 | Auden, W. H. [To Stephen Spender on his 60th birthday: greetings from Auden.] Holograph n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed |
| Oversize (+) On front flyleaf of: Spender, Stephen. Dreams. Holograph | Bonnefoy, Yves. Rimbaud [par lui-meme] Manuscript extract in Stephen Spender's hand. Relates to Charles Baudelaire n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham book mart, New York. We moderns. Folder 50 | Patchen, Kenneth. Stephen Spender. Typescript of contribution to We Moderns n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940 |
| Manuscript box (MacNeice) | Pocock, Robert. Louis MacNeice: a radio portrait. Typescript (mimeographed) of script, with R. Pocock's ms. revisions. Contributions by W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, John Betjeman, Cyril Connolly, and William Empson 1966 Sept. 7 (26 p) (26 p)
Signed |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Manuscript box | [Auden], Wystan [Hugh]. AL (draft) to. Mentions Charles Madge 1936? (1 leaf) (1 leaf) |
|----------------|---|

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Oversize (+) On sheet 1 of: Auden, W. H. [Review of Belloc: a biographical anthology, edited by Herbert van Thal] Galley proofs	Auden, Wystan Hugh. 1 ANS to 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	Burke, Kenneth. TLS (carbon transcript) to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Clark, Leonard. ALS to. Relates to Andrew Young 1956 Aug. 20 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Doone, Rupert. ALS to [1936?] Jan. 4 (1 p) (1 p) With Robert Medley's ms. note at bottom. Came with the Group theatre archive
Manuscript box	Fremantle, Anne. 4 ALS, 1 postcard to [1963] Oct. 14 - 1967 Jan. 31 (5 letters) (5 letters)
Manuscript box	Gordan, John Dozier. ALS to 1967 Feb. 28 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Greacen, Patricia. TLS to. Relates to James Joyce commemorative dinner of Feb. 2, 1957 1956 Dec. 12 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Griffin, Howard. 1 ALS, 3 TLS, postcard to 1953 Nov. 4 - 1957 Nov. 28 (5 letters) (5 letters)
Manuscript box	Grigson, Geoffrey. 9 ALS, 3 ANS, 1 postcard to 1934 Apr. 6] - [1936] Mar. 1 (13 letters in 3 folders) (13 letters in 3 folders)
Manuscript box	Grigson, Geoffrey. ALS to n.y. Apr. 30 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Manuscript box	Grigson, Geoffrey. ALS to July 6 (3 p) (3 p)
Manuscript box	Jarrell, Randall. TLS to 1964 July 13 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Kilroe, Maureen. TLS to. Relates to New poems, a P.E.N. anthology, 1954 1953 Dec. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Kirstein, Lincoln. ALS to 1973 Nov. 12 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Manuscript box (Thomas, D.)	Marsh, Sir Edward Howard. TLS to 1940 May 15 (1 p) (1 p) Signed also by Henry Moore and Sir Herbert Read in an appeal for Dylan Thomas
Manuscript box	Marsh, Sir Edward Howard. 2 ALS to Jan. 9; Aug. 6 (1 p.; 1 leaf) (1 p.; 1 leaf)
Manuscript box	Nichols, Robert Malise Bowyer. ALS to 1931 Oct. 4 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Manuscript box	O'Connor, Philip. TLS to [1958?] May 2 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Manuscript box	O'Connor, Philip. 4 ALS to. One undated July 16 - Oct. 12 (4 letters) (4 letters)
Manuscript box	Roberts, Michael. 2 ALS, 1 TLS, 2 postcards to. Relates to The Faber Book of Modern Verse, 1936 1935 Mar. ?] - [1935] July 22 (5 letters) (5 letters)
Manuscript box	Russell, Peter. 4 ALS to [1957] Jan. 27 - 1963 Oct. 2 (4 letters) (4 letters)
Manuscript box	Sackville-West, Edward. 2 ALS to Nov. 17; Nov. 18 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)
Manuscript box	Sitwell, Edith. 2 ALS to 1961 Jan. 10, 1961 Jan. 26 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)
Manuscript box	Symons, Julian. TLS, ALS to 1939 Feb. 3, [1939] Nov. 4 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Manuscript box	Winsten, Stephen. ALS to June 20 (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Witt-Diamant, Ruth. 11 ALS, 1 TLS, 2 telegrams to 1948 June 13 - 1961 Sept. 27 (14 letters in 3 folders) (14 letters in 3 folders)
On verso of letter of Dec. 12 [1949]: Goyen, William. ALS to Ruth Witt-Diamant, Nov. 6 [1949] 1 p. With holograph postscript by Walter Berns. Folder 3
- Manuscript box Woolf, Leonard Sidney. 3 ALS to. October 25 letter, an expression of sympathy on Julian Bell's death, is addressed to Leonard and Virginia Woolf. One letter undated [1937] July 27, [n.y.] Oct. 25 (3 letters) (3 letters)
- Manuscript box Woolf, Virginia. 6 ALS, 1 TLS to July 4 - 1939 Dec. 13 (7 letters in 2 folders) (7 letters in 2 folders)
- Manuscript box Woolf, Virginia. ALS to. Mentions Julian Bell and Cyril Connolly Apr. 2 (5 p) (5 p)

Incoming Correspondence

- Manuscript box Auden, Wystan Hugh. 75 ALS, 7 ANS, 6 TLS, 1 TL, 7 postcards to Spender [1928] - [1973] June 15 (96 letters in 22 folders) (96 letters in 22 folders)
Accompanied by Auden's: 7 Als, 1 ANS to Natasha Spender. [n.d.] Folders 12-15, 18-19, 21
- On verso of: "Out of sight assuredly, not out of mind" in his: Poems [1928] Auden, Wystan Hugh. 1 ANS to [Spender] n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- On p. 5 of: [To a young man on his twenty-first birthday] in his: Poems [1928] Auden, Wystan Hugh. 1 ALS to Spender n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- In his: Poems [1928] Auden, Wystan Hugh. 1 ALS to Spender n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Kallman, Chester. ALS to Spender 1964 July 10 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Auden) Salus, Peter H. 1 TL (carbon) to Spender. Relates to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden 1971 July 9 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Sitwell, Edith. 73 ALS to Spender 1935 Oct. 14 - 1961 Oct. 9 (73 letters) (73 letters)
On verso of Mar. 16, 1941: Spender, Stephen. "We cannot hold on..." Holograph poem. Correspondence includes one letter to the editor of Encounter, Nov. 21, 1956
- Manuscript box (Vietnam) Woolf, Cecil and John Bagguley, eds. Authors take sides on Vietnam. Correspondence with Spender 1967 (1 folder) (1 folder)

Related Correspondence

- Manuscript box Isherwood, Christopher. 2 ALS to Rupert Doone. Letter of Sept. 1 [ca. 1937] mentions W. H. Auden, Rosamund Lehmann, John Maynard Keynes and Stephen Spender [ca. 1937] Sept. 1, [1950] Sept. 12 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)
Came with the Group theatre archive
- Manuscript box Miller, Henry. 3 ALS to Ruth Witt-Diamant. Letter of June 28, 1948 relates to Stephen Spender 1948 June 28 - [1954 Oct. 5 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
- Manuscript box (Spender) Mitgang, Herbert. Letters to Stephen Spender 1967 - 1975 (1 folder) (1 folder)
With replies and articles contributed to The New York Times
- Manuscript box Thomas, Dylan. 2 ALS, 1 postcard to Ruth Witt-Diamant. Postcard of July 27, 1950 also contains messages from Stephen and Natasha Spender 1950 July 27 - 1952 Mar. 9 (3 p.; 1 p.; 1 card) (3 p.; 1 p.; 1 card)
With Thomas' address in ms., 1 p.
- Manuscript box Walpole, Hugh. 2 ALS to Virginia Woolf. Mentions Stephen Spender 1938 Oct. 31, 1939 Jan. 13 (1 leaf each) (1 leaf each)
- Manuscript box (Vietnam) Woolf, Cecil and John Bagguley, eds. Authors take sides on Vietnam. Correspondence with Stephen Spender 1967 (1 folder) (1 folder)

Financial Documents

Financial Documents (cont.)

- Oversize (+) [Accounts] Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
In volume with his: [The destructive element. T.S. Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft. Page [1]
at end

Portraits

- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. Photograph of W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender and
Christopher Isherwood on Fire Island, 1947. 12 x 15 cm. 1947 (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box Life magazine, New York. Photograph of a Gotham Book Mart reception for
(Auden) Sir Osbert and Edith Sitwell. Mutilated. 12 x 25 cm. In photograph are: W. H.
Auden, Elizabeth Bishop, Marianne Moore, Randall Jarrell, Stephen
Spender, etc. 1948 Nov. 9 (1 item) (1 item)