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

Guide to the

**Dame Edith Sitwell collection of papers**

1926-1965

Berg Coll MSS Sitwell

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Sitwell, Edith, 1887-1964

**Title:** Dame Edith Sitwell collection of papers

**Date:** 1926-1965

**Size:** 248 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, a typescript, 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

Dame Edith Sitwell was an English poet.

## Custodial History

Previous owners include Leonard Clark.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, a typescript, and correspondence. The manuscripts consist of poems, notes for work, essays, articles by the author, as well as a review of Sitwell's work by Cyril Connolly, and a poem relating to Sitwell by Siegfried Sassoon. The correspondence consists of letters, dating from [1926?] to 1961, from the author to Terence Ian Fytton Armstrong, Leonard Clark, Sir Edward Howard Marsh, Beverly Nichols, Stephen Spender, Frances Steloff, Humbert Wolfe, Virginia Woolf, and others. There are also letters relating to the author, dating from 1936 to 1965, between various correspondents including Roy Campbell, Leonard Clark, Richard Church, Geoffrey Grigson, Randall Jarrell, Wyndham Lewis, Humphrey Searle, and others. There are letters to Sitwell from Gordon Bottomley, Stella Bowen, Roy Campbell, Augustus John, Carson McCullers, Ben Nicholson, George William Russell, Siegfried Sassoon, Stephen Spender, Lytton Strachey, Dylan Thomas, Feliks Topolski, Arthur Waley, Virginia Woolf, and others, dating from 1926 to 1963.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

### **Names**

Sitwell, Edith, 1887-1964  
Bottomley, Gordon, 1874-1948  
Bowen, Stella  
Campbell, Roy, 1901-1957  
Church, Richard, 1893-1972  
Clark, Leonard  
Clark, Leonard  
Connolly, Cyril, 1903-1974  
Gawsworth, John, 1912-1970  
Grigson, Geoffrey, 1905-1985  
Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965  
John, Augustus, 1878-1961  
Lewis, Wyndham, 1882-1957  
Marsh, Edward Howard, Sir, 1872-1953  
McCullers, Carson, 1917-1967  
Nichols, Beverly  
Nicholson, Ben, 1894-1982  
Russell, George William, 1867-1935  
Sassoon, Siegfried, 1886-1967  
Searle, Humphrey  
Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995  
Steloff, Frances, 1887-1989  
Strachey, Lytton, 1880-1932  
Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953  
Topolski, Feliks, 1907-1989  
Waley, Arthur  
Wolfe, Humbert, 1885-1940  
Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Sitwell

Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 336, notes p. 431	Bee-keeper, The. Holograph poem n.d. (5 p) (5 p) Signed
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 377, notes p. 434	Canticle of the rose, The. Holograph poem n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves) Signed
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 368	Dirge for the new sunrise. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p) Signed
Manuscript box	Metamorphosis. Holograph poem n.d. (11 p) (11 p) Signed. Differs from Metamorphosis (second version, 1946) as published in her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, p. 221
Manuscript box	[Notes] from asterisk at bottom of page 3. Holograph, unidentified, notes. References made to King Lear n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Manuscript box	Preface for Leonard Clark's "English morning." Typescript n.d. (2 p) (2 p) Came with her correspondence with Leonard Clark
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 370, notes p. 433	Shadow of Cain, The. Holograph poem 1946 Apr. 27 (6 leaves) (6 leaves) Signed
Manuscript box	Shadow of Cain, The. Holograph poem n.d. (6 leaves) (6 leaves) Signed
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 357	Simpleton, A. Holograph poem n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf) Signed
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 338, notes p. 431	Sleepy tune, A. Holograph poem n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves) Signed
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 331	Song at morning, A. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signed
Manuscript box. In her Collected poems, London, Macmillan, 1957, p. 350, notes p. 432	Spring morning. Holograph poem n.d. (7 p) (7 p)

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Sitwell (cont.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Manuscript box  | Through gilded trellises. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)<br>Signed   |
| Manuscript box  | Two songs. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p)<br>Signed  |
| Manuscript box  | World I could be happy in, A. Holograph article. Deleted title: A world I would like to live in n.d. (3 p) (3 p)<br>Signed  |
| Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Sitwell   |   |
| Manuscript box  | Connolly, Cyril. Holograph draft of review, untitled, of three collections of verse. Volumes reviewed are Homage to Sextus Propertius by Ezra Pound, Collected poems by David Gascoyne and Selected poems by Edith Sitwell n.d. (7 p) (7 p)<br>Signed |
| Manuscript box. In his: 16 ALS to Walter James Turner and Delphine Marguerite Dubuis Turner [1918-1920] Letter of Aug. 9 [1919?] Folder 1 | Sassoon, Siegfried Lorraine. Impasse (1963). Holograph poem. A parody of Edith (?) Sitwell's poems n.d. (1 p) (1 p)   |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Manuscript box | Armstrong, T. I. F. 28 ALS, TLS, etc. to 1930 - 1952 (28 letters) (28 letters)   |
| Manuscript box | Civil list pension fund. LS to the. Form letter relating to Edgar Jepson signed at the request of T. I. F. Armstrong 1939 Jan. (1 letter) (1 letter)   |
| Manuscript box | Civil list pension fund. LS to the. Form letter relating to John Metcalfe signed at the request of T. I. F. Armstrong 1951 [July 2 (1 p) (1 p)]  |
| Manuscript box | Clark, Leonard. 28 ALS, 11 telegrams, 1 postcard to. Letter of [Dec. 30, 1952] mentions W. H. Auden; March 7, 1954, mentions Dylan Thomas 1949 Nov. 22 - [1957 Aug. 12 (40 letters in 8 folders) (40 letters in 8 folders)]<br>Accompanied by six TLS from various secretaries to Leonard Clark, Nov. 9, 1953-July 7, 1962 |
| Manuscript box | Ervine, St. John Greer. ALS to. Relates to Geoffrey Grigson 1936 Jan. 13 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)<br>With TLS (carbon) to the editor of The Observer, Jan. 13, 1936. 3 p.   |
| Manuscript box | Ervine, St. John Greer. ALS to 1954 June 18 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  |
| Manuscript box | Fremantle, Anne. 2 ALS to 1958 Dec. 4, 1959 Jan. 29 (1 leaf; 3 p) (1 leaf; 3 p)<br>With ALS (copy) to a member of the National Council of Catholic Men, Jan. 29, 1959. 3 p.<br>Enclosed in letter of Jan. 29, 1959   |
| Manuscript box | Marsh, Sir Edward Howard. 9 ALS to 1935 Oct. 13 - 1952 Aug. 5 (9 letters in 2 folders) (9 letters in 2 folders)  |
| Manuscript box | Nichols, Beverly. 2 ALS to. Mentions Dylan Thomas 1959 Sept. 2, 1959 Sept. 14 (1 leaf; 2 leaves) (1 leaf; 2 leaves)  |
| Manuscript box | Pinker, James B. LS, ALS, etc. to 1939 (1 letter) (1 letter)   |
| Manuscript box | Roberts, Michael. ALS, telegram to. Relates to The Faber book of modern verse, 1936 1935 July 15 - 1935 Dec. 9 (2 leaves; 1 letter) (2 leaves; 1 letter)<br>With 2 envelopes; accompanied by: Duckworth & co., London. TL, signed Gerald Duckworth, to Michael Roberts. Jan. 17, 1936. 1 p.                                |

Correspondence (cont.)  
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Spender, Natasha. 5 ALS to. One undated 1943 Dec. 14 - 1944 Dec. 19 (5 letters) (5 letters)
- Manuscript box Spender, Stephen. 73 ALS to 1935 Oct. 14 - 1961 Oct. 9 (73 letters in 16 folders) (73 letters in 16 folders)  
On verso of March 16, 1941: Spender, Stephen. "We cannot hold on..." Holograph poem;  
Letter to the editor of Encounter, Nov. 21, 1956
- Manuscript box (Gotham) Steloff, Frances. 12 ALS, 1 ANS, 3 telegrams to 1948 Sept. 21 - [1957 May 2 (16 letters in 6 folders) (16 letters in 6 folders)  
With 7 TL (carbon) replies; with 25 miscellaneous items relating to Edith Sitwell
- Manuscript box Williams, Tennessee. AL (draft) to. Quotes letter she wrote to the editor of the New York Times 1953 Mar. 31 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box [Wolfe], Humbert. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Woolf, Virginia. 2 ALS to [1926?], 1930 (1 leaf each) (1 leaf each)

Incoming Correspondence

- Manuscript box Bottomley, Gordon. ALS to Sitwell. Mentions Dante Gabriel Rossetti 1941 Oct. 5 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box (Sitwell, E.) Bowen, Stella. AL to Sitwell. Relates to Pavel Tchelitchew May 15 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Campbell, Roy. ALS to Sitwell n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
With 2 ALS from Mary Campbell to Edith Sitwell
- Manuscript box (Sitwell, E.) Jennings, Richard. 2 ALS to Sitwell. Letter of Nove. 30, 1936 relates to Dylan Thomas, William Butler Yeats and T. S. Eliot 1936 Nov. 30, 1939 July 3 (3 leaves; 1 leaf) (3 leaves; 1 leaf)
- Manuscript box John, Augustus Edwin. ALS to Sitwell 1956 May 2 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box McCullers, Carson (Smith). 2 TLS to Sitwell 1959 Aug. 23, 1959 Sept. 8 (1 p.; 3 p) (1 p.; 3 p)
- Manuscript box (Sitwell, E.) Nicholson, Ben. ALS to Sitwell Mar. 5 (3 leaves) (3 leaves)
- Manuscript box Russell, George William. AL to Sitwell 1935 Jan. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
Signed AE
- Manuscript box Sassoon, Siegfried Lorraine. 2 ALS to Sitwell. Mention Charlotte Mew, Thomas Hardy, Ralph Hodgson and Virginia Woolf 1928 Mar. 28, 1932 Mar. 12 (1 leaf each) (1 leaf each)
- Manuscript box Spender, Stephen. 2 ALS to Sitwell 1961 Jan. 10, 1961 Jan. 26 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)
- Manuscript box Strachey, Lytton. AN, in the third person, to Sitwell 1926 May 11 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Thomas, Dylan. 2 ALS to Sitwell. Mentions Richard Church 1936 Jan. 17, 1936 Jan. 24 (2 p.; 1 p) (2 p.; 1 p)
- Manuscript box (Sitwell, E.) Topolski, Feliks. ALS to Sitwell 1963 Sept. 14 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Waley, Arthur (?). AL to [Sitwell]. Mentions T. S. Eliot and Sacheverell Sitwell June 29 (3 leaves) (3 leaves)  
Signed with initial
- Manuscript box Woolf, Virginia. ALS to Sitwell Mar. 27 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Related Correspondence

- Manuscript box Campbell, Roy. ALS to Randall Jarrell. Mentions Dame Edith Sitwell n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Correspondence (cont.)

Related Correspondence (cont.)

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Manuscript box                  | Church, Richard. 5 ALS, 15 TLS, 1 postcard to Leonard Clark. Letters of Sept. 18-Nov. 7, 1952 mention Edith Sitwell 1952 Sept. 18 - 1965 June 2 (21 letters in 5 folders) (21 letters in 5 folders)<br>Letter of Oct. 20, 1958 encloses his: The strength of tradition. [Review of] Selected poems. By Leonard Clark. Typescript (carbon), undated. 1 p. Folder 4; with undated Christmas card. Folder 5 |
| Manuscript box                  | Duckworth & Co., London. TL to Michael Roberts. Relates to the inclusion of Edith Sitwell in The Faber book of modern verse 1936 Jan. 17 (1 p) (1 p)<br>Signed Gerald Duckworth. With: Sitwell, E. ALS, telegram to Michael Roberts. July 15, [1935]; Dec. 9, 1935   |
| Manuscript box                  | Lewis, Wyndham. ALS to Geoffrey Grigson. Relates to Edith Sitwell n.d. (1 p) (1 p)   |
| Manuscript box<br>(Sitwell, E.) | Searle, Humphrey. Postcard to Leonard Clark. Relates to Edith Sitwell 1952 Oct. 12 (1 card) (1 card)   |