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

Guide to the

Chester Kallman collection of papers

1937-1973

Berg Coll MSS Kallman

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Kallman, Chester, 1921-1975

Title: Chester Kallman collection of papers

Date: 1937-1973

Size: 344 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, financial documents, certificates, and portraits.

Access: Restricted access.

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

Chester Kallman was an American poet and librettist.

Custodial History

Some of the materials were formerly owned by Caroline Newton and William Meredith.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, notebooks,

financial documents, certificates, and portraits. The manuscripts and typescripts include poems, essays, librettos, and translations. The correspondence, dating from 1939 to 1972, includes letters by the author to Alan Ansen, W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Lincoln Kirstein, Nicolas Nabokov, Caroline Newton, and others. Also present are letters relating to the author, dating from 1942 to 1970, between various correspondents including David Protech. There are letters to Kallman from W. H. Auden, Lincoln Kirstein, William Meredith, William A. Rogers, Peter Salus, and others, dating from 1944 to 1973.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Certificates
Correspondence
Notebooks

Names

Kallman, Chester, 1921-1975
Ansen, Alan
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986
Kirstein, Lincoln, 1907-1996
Meredith, William, 1919-2007
Nabokov, Nicolas, 1903-
Newton, Caroline, 1893-
Rogers, William A
Salus, Peter H.

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts & Typescripts written by Kallman

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Oversize (+) | [Absent and present] Typescript draft of poem with his manuscript corrections n.d. (39 p) (39 p) |
| Manuscript box | African ambassador, The. Typescript (photocopy) of poem with the author's ms. corrections 1969 June 18 (11 p) (11 p)
Signed. Inscribed to William Meredith |
| Cased | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. The Bassarids. Typescript (mimeographed) libretto. Music by Hans Werner Henze n.d. (57 p) (57 p) |
| Cased | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. Delia or a masque of night. Typescript draft of libretto with W. H. Auden's ms. corrections and 3 typescript (carbons, 1 incomplete): 23 p.; 22 p.; 22 p.; 21 p. n.d. (4 items) (4 items)
With additional page of typescript. Accompanied by: Auden, W. H. 1 ANS to Edgar Wind [n.d.] 1 p. |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. Delia, or a masque of night. Typescript (fragment) of play n.d. (7 p) (7 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. Love's labour's lost. Photocopy of Act Three n.d. (10 p) (10 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. Love's labour's lost. Typescript draft of libretto with Chester Kallman's and Nicolas Nabokov's ms. corrections and comments n.d. (35 p) (35 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. Love's labour's lost. Typescript draft scenario and excerpts from libretto with Chester Kallman's ms. corrections n.d. (12 p) (12 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. Love's labour's lost. Typescript draft statement by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman with Kallman's ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. [Moralities] Typescript (incomplete) draft of text adapted from Aesop for music by Hans Werner Henze with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (3 p) (3 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. On the way. Holograph scenario of libretto n.d. (14 p) (14 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. On the way. Typescript (carbon, incomplete) libretto with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (13 p) (13 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. On the way. Typescript (carbon) scenario of libretto n.d. (29 p) (29 p) |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Chester Kallman. The rake's progress. Typescript transcript by Alan Ansen of libretto. Music by Igor Stravinsky. Later version of Act I and earlier version of Acts II and III n.d. (45 p) (45 p) |
| Manuscript box | Clerihews (5). Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
On verso of p. 7 of his: 1 ALS to Harold [Norse] |
| Manuscript box | Creating operatic characters and situations. Typescript draft of essay with W. H. Auden's ms. corrections. Relates to the Rake's Progress n.d. (2 p) (2 p) |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts & Typescripts written by Kallman (cont.)

- Manuscript box Don Pasquale: what price. Typescript (fragment) draft of essay with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box [Entertainment of the senses] Kallman, Chester and W. H. Auden. The entertainment of the senses. Holograph (incomplete) and typescript (incomplete) draft of libretto with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (6 leaves each) (6 leaves each)
- Manuscript box [Entertainment of the senses] Kallman, Chester and W. H. Auden. Typescript (2 photostats) of libretto, 1 with Chester Kallman's ms. corrections n.d. (6 p. each) (6 p. each)
Published in Thank you, Fog, Faber, 1974
- Manuscript box Estelle. Typescript (incomplete) draft of short story with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box Francis Bacon and the will to order. Typescript of essay with Professor Nelson's ms. corrections n.d. (19 p) (19 p)
- Manuscript box From the Alexandrians. Typescript drafts (2) and typescript (carbons) (2) of poem n.d. (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Also, 2 ALS from Chester Kallman to Peter H. Salus, Aug. 29 and Sept. 14, 1971; 3 TL (carbons), 1 TN (carbon) from Peter H. Salus to C. Kallman, July 9, 1971-March 20, 1972. 1 p. each. Relates to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden
- Manuscript box From the Alexandrians. Typescript transcript by W. H. Auden of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Miscellaneous manuscript material n.d. (14 items in 2 folders) (14 items in 2 folders)
- Manuscript box [Poems] Holograph and typescript drafts of 75 poems with the author's ms. corrections 1937 Sept. - [1945 Jan. 6 (75 items in 15 folders) (75 items in 15 folders)
One signed
- Manuscript box [Poems] Holograph. Disbound. 1943 Oct. 28 (1 v) (1 v)
Contains inscriptions by Wystan Hugh Auden
- Manuscript box [Poems] Typescript and typescript (carbon) of 4 poems with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (4 items) (4 items)
Accompanied by his: 1 ANS to Howard Griffin [n.d.] 1 p.
- Manuscript box [Poems] Typescript and typescript (carbon) transcripts by Alan Ansen of 9 poems n.d. (10 p) (10 p)
- Manuscript box [Script] Typescript (carbon, incomplete) with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (12 p) (12 p)
- Manuscript box To the poetry editor of The New Yorker. Typescript of clerihew n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
With: Auden, W. H. Talking to myself. Typescript and typescript (carbon) drafts of poem
- Manuscript box [Translating opera librettos] Typescript (fragment) draft of essay with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box Ulysses' return to his homeland. Typescript (incomplete draft) of script n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Unidentified manuscripts. [Terms of contract for book club editor] Typescript (incomplete) n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Came with Chester Kallman's papers

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts & Typescripts written by Kallman (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Auden) Unidentified manuscripts. [Verse puzzle] Typescript draft with W. H. Auden's and Chester Kallman's ms. corrections. Mutilated n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Notebooks**
- Cased Notebook, Holograph. Contains verse fragments and miscellaneous notes n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
- Cased Notebooks (2), Holograph. Contains verse fragments and notes on opera, some for reviews n.d. (2 v) (2 v)
- Manuscript box [Notes for] English 186. Holograph notebook n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Signed
- [Poems] Holograph notebook. Includes some poems published in his Absent and present, 1963 n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
- Cased Poems, notes on opera, etc., Holograph. Mutilated 1946 July 19 (1 v) (1 v)
- Manuscripts & Typescripts relating to Kallman**
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. Interview with W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman. Typescript (photocopy). Interview conducted by Glenn Loney at Kirchstetten [Austria] on Aug. 26, 1970 n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
Signed by Glenn Loney. With article (photocopy) based on interview and published in Opera Monthly in March 1992. 7 p.
- Manuscript box [Auden, Wystan Hugh] The queen's masque / by Bojo, the homo. Holograph of play. On title page: "To be presented at 803 South State Street on January 7th 1943 by Kallman's Klever Kompanions under the direction of Mr. Strowan Robertson." n.d. (10 p) (10 p)
- Manuscript box (Auden) Auden, W. H. A voice of importance. Typescript draft of review of Chester Kallman's The sense of occasion n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
- (Auden) Brecht, Bertolt. The rise and fall of [the city of] Mahgonny. Typescript (carbon) draft translation by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman of libretto with the translators' ms. corrections n.d. (42 p) (42 p)
- (Auden) Brecht, Bertolt. The rise and fall of [the city of] Mahgonny. Typescript (carbon, incomplete) draft of translation by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman of libretto with the translator's ms. corrections. Includes ms. comments in an unidentified hand n.d. (34 p) (34 p)
- Manuscript box (Auden) Brecht, Bertolt. The seven deadly sins [of the lower middle class] Typescript of the English version by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman with Auden's ms. corrections n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
- Manuscript box (Auden) Cunard White Star Ltd. Application for passage [from New York City to Southampton, England] by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman 1947 Sept. 20 (1 p) (1 p)
- (Auden) Dittersdorf, Karl Ditters von. [Arcifanfano, king of fools] Typescript (carbon, incomplete) translation of Carlo Goldoni's libretto by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman with Auden's ms. corrections n.d. (86 p) (86 p)

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts & Typescripts relating to Kallman (cont.)

- In [Auden's]:
Holograph
notebook [1957-
1959], p. 58-61,
70-78, 96, 97,
137, 129-149,
151, 155-181,
183, 189, 190
- [Elegy for young lovers] Auden, W. H. [Elegy for young lovers] Holograph (incomplete) libretto. In collaboration with Chester Kallman. Music by Hans Werner Henze n.d. (58 p) (58 p)
- Manuscript box
(Kallman) Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. Mignon's song 111. Typescript (carbon) draft of translation by Chester Kallman n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box
(Auden) [Menu from the Hotel Europaischer Hof, Heidelberg] Relates to the first production of Elegy for Young Lovers 1961 May 19 (8 p) (8 p)
Signed by W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, Hans Werner Henze, Elizabeth Mayer, et al.
- Manuscript box
(Kallman) Monteverdi, Claudio. The coronation of Poppea. Arnalta's lullaby. Typescript (carbon) draft of translation by Chester Kallman n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Oversize
(+)(Auden) Nabokov, Nicolas. Love's labor's lost. Holograph musical score, adapted for opera with libretto by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman, based on the play by William Shakespeare n.d. (395 p) (395 p)
- Manuscript box
(Kallman) Nietzsche, Friedrich. Beyond good and evil. Aphorism 289. Typescript (fragment) of unidentified translation n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Came with Chester Kallman's papers
- Manuscript box
(Kallman) North German Lloyd passenger agency, inc. [Request for passenger information on Chester Kallman] n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- In [Auden's] his:
Holograph
notebook [1957-
1959], p. 182, 184
(Kallman) [Rake's Progress] Auden, W. H. [The rake's progress] Holograph (fragment) libretto. In collaboration with Chester Kallman. Music by Igor Stravinsky n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
- Verdi, Giuseppe. Falstaff. Holograph (incomplete) translation of libretto by Chester Kallman. Includes his incomplete translation of an unidentified libretto n.d. (2 v) (2 v)

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Manuscript box Ansen, Alan. 1 postcard to 1948 May 13 (1 item) (1 item)
On recto: Auden, W. H. 1 ANS to Alan Ansen
- Manuscript box Auden, Wystan Hugh. 20 ALS to [1939] May 11 - [1943] Feb. 22 (20 letters in 5 folders) (20 letters in 5 folders)
- Manuscript box Auden, Wystan Hugh. 1 postcard to 1950 June 5 (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box Fox, Orlan. 1 ALS, 1 TLS to 1971 Aug. 28, 1972 May 22 (1 p.; 1 leaf) (1 p.; 1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Griffin, Howard. 1 ANS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
With his: [Poems] Typescript and typescript (carbon) of 4 poems
- Manuscript box
(Auden) Griffin, Howard. 1 telegram to. Relates to W. H. Auden n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box [Isherwood], Christopher. ALS to 1939 May 5 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Kirstein, Lincoln. 12 TLS, 1 telegram, 1 postcard to 1953 June 27 - 1964 Sept. 4 (14 letters in 3 folders) (14 letters in 3 folders)
Accompanied by: Kirstein, Lincoln. TLS (carbon) to Chester Kallman
- Manuscript box Mayer, Elizabeth. 1 ANS to 1952 June 12 (1 p) (1 p)
With: Auden, W. H. 69 ALS, etc. to Elizabeth Mayer. On recto of ALS in Folder 11

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Meredith, William. 1 ALS, 2 postcards, 1 telegram to 1969 May 14 - 1969 Oct. 15 (4 letters) (4 letters)
- Manuscript box [Merrill], [James]. 1 TLS to. Sent to William Meredith 1969 June 26 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Nabokov, Nicolas. 2 ALS to 1969 Sept. 11, 1970? Sept. 10 (1 p.; 1 leaf) (1 p.; 1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Nabokov, Nicolas. 1 ALS to [1969?] Aug. 7 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With: Auden, W. H. 14 ALS, 1 ANS, 1 TLS to Nicolas Nabokov. Folder 2
- Manuscript box Newton, Caroline. 1 ALS to [1941] Sept. 7 (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box Newton, Caroline. 1 ANS to 1941 Sept. 26 (1 letter) (1 letter)
With: Auden, W. H. 36 ALS, etc. to Caroline Newton. On postcard in Folder 5
- Manuscript box [Norse], Harold. 1 ALS to July 11 (7 p) (7 p)
On verso of p. 7 his: Clerihews (5). Holograph, undated. 1 p.
- Manuscript box Petzold, Hedwig. 2 ANS to [1956] Oct. 9, 1961 May 31 (1 p.; card) (1 p.; card)
With: Auden, W. H. 29 ALS, etc. to Hedwig Petzold. Folders 3 and 6
- Manuscript box Rogers, William A.. 2 AL (incomplete) to 1945 Feb. 12, [1945?] Apr. 27 (3 leaves; 2 p) (3 leaves; 2 p)
- Manuscript box Spender, Stephen. 1 ALS to 1964 July 10 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Treasury Dept. 1 TL (carbon) to 1944 Oct. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
With 1 TL, signed Marius Banister, from Treasury Dept. to Chester Kallman, Oct. 10, 1944, 1 p.
- Incoming Correspondence
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. 2 ALS to Kallman 1944 Dec. 8], [1951] Dec. 24 (1 leaf each) (1 leaf each)
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. 3 ALS to Kallman. One undated 1945 Jan. 24; [n.y.] Jan. 26 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. 30 ALS, 1 AL (incomplete), 2 TLS to Kallman 1948 Sept. 17] - [1950] Oct. 31 (33 letters in 8 folders) (33 letters in 8 folders)
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. Postcard to Kallman 1955 Apr. 16 (1 card) (1 card)
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. ALS to Kallman Apr. 24 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box. In Folder 1 Kirstein, Lincoln. TLS (carbon) to Kallman [1953] July 30 (2 p) (2 p)
With: 12 TLS, 1 telegram, 1 postcard from Kallman to Lincoln Kirstein, June 27, 1953 - Sept. 4, 1964. 3 folders
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Letters, ALS, TLS, etc. from miscellaneous correspondents, not listed separately, to Chester Kallman 1944 - 1971 (23 letters in 4 folders) (23 letters in 4 folders)
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Marschoin[?], Alfred. TLS to Kallman. In German 1960 Oct. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Meredith, William, 1919- 1 TLS (photocopy) to Kallman 1973 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box. In Folder 2 Nabokov, Nicolas. 1 TL (carbon) to W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman 1969 Aug. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
With: Auden, W. H. 14 ALS, 1 ANS, 1 TLS to Nicolas Nabokov.
- Manuscript box (Auden) Nabokov, Nicolas. 1 ALS to W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman [1973] Sept. 7 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Rogers, William A. ALS to Kallman 1944 June 13 (4 p) (4 p)
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Rogers, William A. 2 ALS (photostats) to Kallman 1944 July 4, 1944 Aug. 20 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)

Correspondence (cont.)

Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Salus, Peter H. 3 TL (carbons), 1 TN (carbon) to Kallman 1971 July 9 - 1972 Mar. 20 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
With: Kallman, Chester. From the Alexanderians. Typescript drafts (2) and typescript (carbons) (2) of poems, unsigned and undated. 1 p. each; also with 2 ALS from Kallman to Peter H. Salus, Aug. 29 and Sept. 14, 1971. Relates to Auden's Festschrift
- Manuscript box Treasury Dept. 1 TL to Kallman 1944 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed Marius Banister. With: Kallman, Chester. 1 TL (carbon) to Treasury Dept., Oct. 14, 1944. 1 p.
- Manuscript box (Kallman) United Nations. 1 TL, 1 letter of appointment, and 3 notifications of personnel action to Kallman 1946 Nov. 14 - 1947 Sept. 3 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Signed Frank L. Acinapura
- Manuscript box (Kallman) United States. Office of Censorship. 1 TL (mimeographed), 5 notifications of action, and 3 withholding receipts to Kallman 1944 Mar. 27 - 1945 June 19 (9 items) (9 items)
Signed Byron H. Spinney

Related Correspondence

- Manuscript box Meredith. William. 2 TL (carbon) to W. H. Auden. Relates to Chester Kallman 1959 Feb. 28, 1970 Mar. 9 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
With 1 TL (carbon), 2 TLS of related correspondence
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Unidentified letters. 1 TL (fragment) to unidentified publication n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Initialed J. P.; Came with Chester Kallman's papers
- Manuscript box (Kallman) United States. Navy Department. Memoranda (2), Endorsed orders (9), Notice (1) to David Protech 1944 July 11 - 1944 Nov. 20 (12 items) (12 items)
Came with Chester Kallman's papers
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Vinson, J[--?] W[--?]. 1 TLS to the editor of The Daily [--?]. Relates to a review by Chester Kallman n.d. (2 p) (2 p)

Financial Documents

- Manuscript box (Kallman) Curtis Brown, Ltd. Royalty statements (2) sent to Chester Kallman. 1954 Apr. 9, 1955 May 27 (1 p. each in 5 folders) (1 p. each in 5 folders)
Includes individual statements from Boosey & Hawkes, London and Societe des Auteurs & Compositeurs Dramatiques, Paris relating to Auden's and Kallman's libretto The rake's progress. Five folders
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Curtis Brown, Ltd. Royalty statement sent to Chester Kallman. Relates to An Elizabethan song book edited by W. H. Auden and C. Kallman 1960 Sept. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Kallman) Grove Press, New York. Royalty statement sent to Chester Kallman. Relates to Storm at Castelfranco 1956 July 12 (1 p) (1 p)

Portraits

- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. Photographs (11) of W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, Christopher Isherwood, and Caroline Newton. Six inscribed on verso and dated 1940. 6 x 5 cm. 1940 (11 items) (11 items)
Inscribed photographs came with Auden's 36 ALS, etc. to Caroline Newton
- Manuscript box Original oil portrait. 25 x 20 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

Portraits (cont.)

Manuscript box Photograph of Chester Kallman with unidentified man. 14 x 10 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box Photographs (7) of Chester Kallman n.d. (7 items) (7 items)

Certificates

Manuscript box United States. Selective Service System. Registration certificate for Chester
(Kallman) Kallman. Inscribed "duplicate" 1942 Feb. 16 (1 item) (1 item)