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

Guide to the

**Christopher Isherwood collection of papers**

1926-1975

Berg Coll MSS Isherwood

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986

**Title:** Christopher Isherwood collection of papers

**Date:** 1926-1975

**Size:** 75 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 and typescripts, correspondence, 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

Christopher Isherwood was a British expatriate who emigrated to America in 1939. He authored novels, plays, screenplays, expositions, and translations of the Vedanta.

## Custodial History

Some material was previously owned by Caroline Newton and the Group Theatre Archive.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, and portraits. The manuscripts and typescripts consist of plays written with W. H. Auden, articles by Howard Griffin and James Stern about Isherwood, and reviews by John Maynard Keynes. Also present is correspondence, dating from 1926 to 1975, from the author to Benjamin Britten, Rupert Doone, Howard Griffin, Alfred Kazin, Olive Mangeot, Elizabeth Mayer, Judith Moffett, and Glenway Wescott, as well as letters from Herbert Mitgang to Isherwood, dating from 1967 to 1975. There are letters to Isherwood from W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, Herbert Mitgang, D. A. Parry, and Glenway Wescott, dating from 1939 to 1975.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

### **Names**

Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986  
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973  
Britten, Benjamin, 1913-1976  
Doone, Rupert, 1903-1966  
Griffin, Howard, 1915-1975  
Kazin, Alfred, 1915-1998  
Keynes, John Maynard, 1883-1946  
Mangeot, Olive  
Mayer, Elizabeth  
Mitgang, Herbert  
Moffett, Judith, 1942-  
Newton, Caroline, 1893-  
Stern, James, 1904-1993  
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987  
Group Theatre (U.S.)

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts with contributions by Isherwood

- Cased Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The ascent of F6. A tragedy in two acts. Typescript revisions with ms. correction by Auden. Dated "Marshall's typing and translation service, April 28, 1936" 1936 Apr. 28 (29 p) (29 p)  
With 1 TLS (photocopy) from Edward Mendelson to P. G. Phillips, April 13, 1985. 1 p.
- Cased Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The ascent of F6. A tragedy in two acts. Typescript with Isherwood's ms. corrections n.d. (85 p) (85 p)  
With Robert Medley's ms. note: "Presumably pre publication copy found amongst Rupert Doone's papers."; Published, London: Faber, 1936. Came with the Group theatre archive
- Cased Auden, W. H. The chase: a play in three acts. Holograph n.d. (121 p) (121 p)  
Signed. With 4 pages in Isherwood's hand and part of manila cover
- Oversize (+) Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The dog beneath the skin or Where is Francis? A play in three acts. Typescript with ms. corrections and stage directions in unidentified hands. Prompt copy n.d. (108 p) (108 p)  
Published, London: Faber, 1935. Came with the Group theatre archive
- Oversize (+) Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The dog beneath the skin or Where is Francis? A play in three acts. Holograph insertions and re-writes by Auden n.d. (36 p) (36 p)  
Came with the Group theatre archive
- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The enemies of a bishop, or, Die when I say when: a morality in four acts. Typescript (carbon) with Christopher Isherwood's ms. corrections n.d. (79 p) (79 p)  
With original wrapper
- 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: Poems [1928] Auden, W. H. ["We saw in spring."] Holograph transcript by Christopher Isherwood of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Isherwood
- Manuscript box (Isherwood) Griffin, Howard. [A portrait of a novelist] Holograph and typescript drafts (incomplete) of article with the author's ms. corrections. A conversation with C. Isherwood 1957 Oct. 11 (29 p) (29 p)
- Manuscript box (Isherwood) Griffin, Howard. [A portrait of a novelist] Typescript draft of article with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (15 p) (15 p)  
Signed

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Isherwood (cont.)

- Oversize (+) Spender, Stephen. [Fable and reportage] Left review article. Holograph draft. Review of The ascent of F6 by W. H. Auden and C. Isherwood, and Auden's Look, stranger! n.d. (7 p) (7 p)  
In volume with his: [The destructive element. TS 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
- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham book mart, New York. We moderns. Folder 68 Stern, James. [Christopher Isherwood] Typescript of contribution to We Moderns. Included in his TLS to Frances Steloff, Oct. 10, 1939 n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Manuscript box Britten, Benjamin. 2 TLS (photocopy), 1 postcard to [1940] Mar. 18 - [1942] Feb. 18 (3 letters) (3 letters)
- Manuscript box Doone, Rupert, 2 ALS to. Letter of Sept. 1 [ca. 1937] mentions W. H. Auden, Rosamund Lehmann, John Maynard Keynes and Stephen Spender [ca. 1937], [1950 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)  
Came with the Group theatre archive
- Manuscript box Griffin, Howard. 2 ALS, 1 TLS, 3 postcards to [1952] Jan. 6 - [1957] Jan. 26 (6 letters) (6 letters)
- Manuscript box Griffin, Howard. TLS to Sept. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Kazin, Alfred. ALS to [1946] Feb. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Mangeot, Olive ("Mop"). 4 ALS, 5 TLS, 9 postcards to 1926 Aug. 11 - [1945] Dec. 29 (18 letters) (18 letters)
- Manuscript box Mayer, Elizabeth. 1 ALS, 1 TLS, 1 telegram to [1941] Dec. 31 - [1942] Apr. 23 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
- Manuscript box Moffett, Judith. ALS to. Relates to James Merrill 1975 Jan. 14 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box. In: Wescott, Glenway. 37 ALS, 4 ANS, 7 TLS to William Maxwell. May 1, 1957-Sept. 24, 1976. Folders 9 and 10 Wescott, Glenway. 1 TLS (copy), 1 ALS (copy) to 1970 Nov. 19, 1971 Mar. 2 (2 letters) (2 letters)

Incoming Correspondence

- Manuscript box Auden, Wystan Hugh. AL (incomplete) to Christopher [Isherwood] 1944 Aug. 30 (1 p) (1 p)
- In Auden's: Poems [1928] Auden, Wystan Hugh. ALS to Stephen Spender, Christopher Isherwood, and Walter n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Kallman, Chester. ALS to Christopher [Isherwood] 1939 May 5 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Isherwood) Mitgang, Herbert. Letters to Christopher Isherwood 1967 - 1975 (1 folder) (1 folder)  
With replies and articles contributed to the New York Times

Correspondence (cont.)  
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box.  
In: Wescott,  
Glenway. 37 ALS,  
4 ANS, 7 TLS to  
William Maxwell.  
May 1, 1957-Sept.  
24, 1976. Folder  
10

Parry, D. A. ALS (copy), TLS to Isherwood 1971 Feb.1, 1971 Feb. 28 (2 p.; 1 p) (2 p.; 1 p)

Manuscript box.  
In: Wescott,  
Glenway. 37 ALS,  
4 ANS, 7 TLS to  
William Maxwell.  
May 1, 1957-Sept.  
24, 1976. Folder  
10

Wescott, Glenway. ALS (copy) to Isherwood 1971 Mar. 9 (5 p) (5 p)

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box

[On the frontier] Keynes, John Maynard. 2 TLS to Rupert Doone. Relate to On the frontier by W. H. Auden and C. Isherwood 1937 Nov. 14, 1938 July 30 (2 p. each) (2 p. each)

Letter of Nov. 14, 1937 encloses: On the frontier. Memorandum of agreement. Typescript (carbon), undated. 3 p.; Came with Group theatre archive

Portraits

Manuscript box

Photograph of Christopher Isherwood. 20 x 13 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

Cased

Auden, W. H. Album of photographs. Contains photographs of Auden, Louis MacNeice, C. Isherwood, George Augustus Auden, Constance R. Auden, Erika Mann, John Mapson, etc. 1933 Mar. - 1936 June 9 (1 v) (1 v)

Manuscript box.  
Folder 11

Auden, W. H. Photograph of W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, and C. Isherwood on Fire Island, 1947. 12 x 15 cm. 1947 (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box

Auden, W. H. Photographs (11) of W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, C. Isherwood, and Caroline Newton. Six inscribed on verso by Caroline Newton and dated 1940 1940 (11 items) (11 items)

Inscribed photographs came with Auden's 36 ALS, etc. to Caroline Newton

Manuscript box  
(Auden)

Bramall, Eric. Photograph of W. H. Auden and C. Isherwood at Bryanston School. 12 x 16 cm. ca. 1937 (1 item) (1 item)