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.

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.


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
# Container List

**Manuscripts and Typescripts**

**Manuscript box**
- *Answers to a questionnaire (3 p.). Composed by Philip O'Connor.*
  - Typewritten 1958 July 11 (3 p) (3 p)
  - With 2 additional pages

**Cased**
- *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

**Oversize (+)**
- "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

**Oversize (+)**
  - Detailed analysis of other material in this volume laid in

**Oversize (+)**

**Manuscript box**
  - With ALS, Jan. 28, 1967, submitting the manuscript for the benefit auction of P.E.N. International Writers' Fund, April 6, 1967

**Oversize (+)**
- 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)

**Oversize (+) In his: Versions for a volume of poems. Holograph p. [140-162]**
- [Dreams] Holograph drafts (incomplete) of poem n.d. (23 p) (23 p)

**Manuscript box**
- 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

**Oversize (+)**
- [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 his: [Poems] Holograph notebook, Feb. 18 [1963]-April 5 [1966]**
- [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)

**Oversize (+)**
- [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)
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)

List of poets. Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

In volume with his: [The destructive element. T. S. Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft. Pages [28-29]

Detailed analysis of contents laid in

In his: [Poems] 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)

Manuscript box
[Poland] Holograph fragment of essay or book review n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

In his: [Poems] Holograph notebook, Feb. 18 [1963]-April 5 [1966], p. 84-85

Oversize (+)

"Some few arrived upon a new found land." Holograph draft of poem 1963 Mar. 3 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
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.)

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 (+)
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- [79], p. 118, 119
Signed

Oversize (+) On front flyleaf of:
Spender, Stephen. Dreams.
Holograph

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)
Signed

Correspondence
Outgoing Correspondence

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

Auden, Wystan Hugh. 1 ANS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

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

Clark, Leonard. ALS to. Relates to Andrew Young 1956 Aug. 20 (1 p) (1 p)

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


Gordan, John Dozier. ALS to 1967 Feb. 28 (1 p) (1 p)

Greacen, Patricia. TLS to. Relates to James Joyce commemorative dinner of Feb. 2, 1957 1956 Dec. 12 (1 p) (1 p)

Griffin, Howard. 1 ALS, 3 TLS, postcard to 1953 Nov. 4 - 1957 Nov. 28 (5 letters) (5 letters)

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)

Grigson, Geoffrey. ALS to n.y. Apr. 30 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Grigson, Geoffrey. ALS to July 6 (3 p) (3 p)

Jarrell, Randall. TLS to 1964 July 13 (1 p) (1 p)

Kilroe, Maureen. TLS to. Relates to New poems, a P.E.N. anthology, 1954 1953 Dec. 29 (1 p) (1 p)

Kirstein, Lincoln. ALS to 1973 Nov. 12 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

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

Marsh, Sir Edward Howard. 2 ALS to Jan. 9; Aug. 6 (1 p.; 1 leaf) (1 p.; 1 leaf)

Nichols, Robert Malise Bowyer. ALS to 1931 Oct. 4 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

O'Connor, Philip. TLS to [1958?] May 2 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

O'Connor, Philip. 4 ALS to. One undated July 16 - Oct. 12 (4 letters) (4 letters)


Sackville-West, Edward. 2 ALS to Nov. 17; Nov. 18 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)

Sitwell, Edith. 2 ALS to 1961 Jan. 10, 1961 Jan. 26 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)

Symons, Julian. TLS, ALS to 1939 Feb. 3, [1939] Nov. 4 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)

Winsten, Stephen. ALS to June 20 (1 p) (1 p)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript box</th>
<th>Correspondence (cont.)</th>
<th>Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woolf, Virginia.</td>
<td>6 ALS, 1 TLS to July 4 - 1939 Dec. 13 (7 letters in 2 folders) (7 letters in 2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woolf, Virginia.</td>
<td>ALS to. Mentions Julian Bell and Cyril Connolly Apr. 2 (5 p) (5 p)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auden, Wystan Hugh.</td>
<td>1 ANS to [Spender] n.d. (1 p) (1 p)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auden, Wystan Hugh.</td>
<td>1 ALS to Spender n.d. (1 p) (1 p)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kallman, Chester.</td>
<td>ALS to Spender 1964 July 10 (1 p) (1 p)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salus, Peter H.</td>
<td>1 TL (carbon) to Spender. Relates to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden 1971 July 9 (1 p) (1 p)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sitwell, Edith.</td>
<td>73 ALS to Spender 1935 Oct. 14 - 1961 Oct. 9 (73 letters) (73 letters) On verso of Mar. 16, 1941: Spender, Stephen. &quot;We cannot hold on...&quot; Holograph poem. Correspondence includes one letter to the editor of Encounter, Nov. 21, 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woolf, Cecil and John Bagguley, eds. Authors take sides on Vietnam. Correspondence with Spender 1967 (1 folder) (1 folder)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walpole, Hugh.</td>
<td>2 ALS to Virginia Woolf. Mentions Stephen Spender 1938 Oct. 31, 1939 Jan. 13 (1 leaf each) (1 leaf each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woolf, Cecil and John Bagguley, eds. Authors take sides on Vietnam. Correspondence with Stephen Spender 1967 (1 folder) (1 folder)</td>
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Financial Documents
Financial Documents (cont.)

Oversize (+)

[Accounts] Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

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 (Auden)

Life magazine, New York. Photograph of a Gotham Book Mart reception for 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)