Summary

Creator: Meredith, William, 1919-2007

Title: William Meredith collection of papers

Date: 1941-1973

Size: 101 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 legal documents.

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

William Meredith was an American poet, literary critic, librettist, and translator.

Custodial History

Previous owners include Mary von Schrader Jarrell and Muriel Rukeyser.
Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, and legal documents. The manuscripts and typescripts include poems by the author, as well as manuscript transcriptions of Robert Lowell's translations of the works of Victor Hugo and Boris Pasternak. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from 1941 to 1973, to W. H. Auden, Babette Deutsch, Randall Jarrell, Chester Kallman, Samuel Menashe, Muriel Rukeyser, Peter Salus, and others, as well as a letter, dated 1969, from Chester Kallman to James Merrill relating to the author. There are letters to Meredith from W. H. Auden, John Berryman, T. S. Eliot, Chester Kallman, and Peter Salus, dating from [1955] to 1972.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Correspondence

Names
Meredith, William, 1919-2007
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Berryman, John, 1914-1972
Deutsch, Babette, 1895-1982
Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965
Hugo, Victor, 1802-1885
Jarrell, Mary, 1914-2007
Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965
Kallman, Chester, 1921-1975
Menashe, Samuel, 1925-2011
Merrill, James, 1926-1995
Pasternak, Boris Leonidovich, 1890-1960
Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913-1980
Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913-1980
Salus, Peter H.
Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Meredith

Manuscript box
Bailout at the seashore. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
With his: 14 ALS, 1 ALS (fragment), 5 TLS to Muriel Rukeyser. Folder 2

Manuscript box
Harvest (for Elizabeth Drew), A. Typescript (carbon) of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscript box
In memory of Stratton Christensen. Typescript (carbon) of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. With his: 14 ALS, 1 ALS (fragment), 5 TLS to Muriel Rukeyser. Folder 3

Manuscript box
January: Resolution. Holograph poem 1941 Feb. 23 (3 p) (3 p)
Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscript box
"Loving more than another what was old." Holograph poem n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Signed. With his: 14 ALS, 1 ALS (fragment), 5 TLS to Muriel Rukeyser. Folder 1

Manuscript box
Partial accounts. Typescript of poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)

Manuscript box
[Poems] Typescript (mimeograph) of 3 poems n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscript box
Poems for my friends in N. Y. Typescript of 3 poems n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscript box
Talking back. Typescript draft and typescript of poem n.d. (1 p.; 2 p) (1 p.; 2 p)
Accompanied by: Memo of agreement between Meredith and Peter H. Salus, Jan. 25, 1972.
1 p.; Meredith, W. 1 ALS, 2 TLS to P. Salus, Nov. 8, 1971-March 31, 1972. 1 p. each; Salus, P.
4 TL, 1 TN (carbons), to W. Meredith, Nov. 1, 1971-April 5, 1972

Manuscript box
Whorls. Holograph and typescript (photocopy) of poem. One dated 1966 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
One signed. Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscript box
Winter verse. Typescript (mimeograph) of 4 poems 1964 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Signed. Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscript box
Year end account. Typescript (mimeograph) of 5 poems 1965 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Signed. Sent to Muriel Rukeyser

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Meredith

Manuscript box
With a printed invitation and reply card sent to W. Meredith, postmarked Oct. 11, 1971

Manuscript box (Lowell, R.)

Manuscript box
Signed. Inscribed to William Meredith

Manuscript box (Lowell, R.)
Pasternak, Boris. Hamlet in Russia. Typescript (carbon) of poem translated by Robert Lowell with ms. transcript of translator's revisions by W. Meredith. Dated by Meredith 1961 Mar. (1 p) (1 p)
With typescript (carbon) reminiscence of Olga Ivinskaya by [Nicolas Nabokov], dated Feb. 1961 by W. Meredith. 9 p.
Pasternak, Boris. The landlord. Holograph draft and typescript (3 versions, with carbons) of poem translated by Robert Lowell with the translator’s ms. revisions. Dated by W. Meredith 1961 Mar. (9 p) (9 p)

Holograph draft also includes Lowell's translation of Pasternak's poem, Wild Vines, translated here as Wild Wine

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Auden, Wystan Hugh. 2 TL (carbon) to. 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

Deutsch, Babette. TLS to 1959 Sept. 26 (1 p)

Jarrell, Randall. ALS to. Reproduced in facsimile from the author’s holograph 1965 Sept. 29 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Kallman, Chester. 1 TLS (photocopy) to 1973 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1 p)

Lowell, Robert. TL (carbon) to 1960 Mar. 9 (1 p) (1 p)

Menashe, Samuel. 1 ALS to 1971 July 12 (1 p) (1 p)

Salus, Peter H. 1 ALS, 2 TLS to 1971 Nov. 8 - 1972 Mar. 31 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
With his: Talking back. Typescript draft and typescript of poem

Incoming Correspondence

1 p.

Berryman, John. 22 ALS, 5 TLS, 4 postcards to Meredith 1962 Nov. 13 - 1971 Oct. 30 (31 letters in 7 folders) (31 letters in 7 folders)
Accompanied by his: [Dream songs]. Undated. 13 p. Folder 3; Halliday anxious & Eloise. Feb. 5, 1970. 5 p. Folder 5; King David dances. Folder 7

Eliot, Thomas Stearns. TLS to Meredith 1961 June 15 (1 p) (1 p)
With two poems by William Meredith containing his ms. revisions. 6 p. and 1 p.

Kallman, Chester. 1 ALS, 2 postcards, 1 telegram to Meredith 1969 May 14 - 1969 Oct. 15 (4 letters) (4 letters)

Salus, Peter H. 4 TL (carbons), 1 TN (carbon) to Meredith 1971 Nov. 1 - 1972 Apr. 5 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
With: Meredith, William. Talking back. Typescript draft and typescript of poem

Related Correspondence

Kallman, Chester. 1 TLS to [James Merrill] 1969 June 26 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Sent to William Meredith

Legal Documents
Legal Documents (cont.)

Manuscript box

Memorandum of agreement between William Meredith and Peter H. Salus.
Typescript (photocopy) 1972 Jan. 25 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed by both parties. With: Meredith, William. Talking back. Typescript draft and typescript of poem