



The New York Public Library
Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and
American Literature

Guide to the

William Meredith collection of papers

1941-1973

Berg Coll MSS Meredith

Processed by Staff.

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.

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

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
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 Auden, W. H. [List of poem for a poetry reading at the Pierpont Morgan Library, Nov. 4, 1971] Holograph 1971 Nov. 4 (1 p) (1 p)
With a printed invitation and reply card sent to W. Meredith, postmarked Oct. 11, 1971
- Manuscript box Hugo, Victor. Russia 1812. Typescript (carbon) of poem translated by Robert Lowell with ms. transcription of translator's revisions by W. Meredith. Dated by Meredith 1961 Mar. (2 p) (2 p)
(Lowell, R.)
- Manuscript box Kallman, Chester. The African ambassador. Typescript (photocopy) of poem with the author's ms. corrections 1969 June 18 (11 p) (11 p)
Signed. Inscribed to William Meredith

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Meredith (cont.)

- 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.
- Manuscript box (Lowell, R.) 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

- Manuscript box 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
- Manuscript box Deutsch, Babette. TLS to 1959 Sept. 26 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Jarrell, Randall. ALS to. Reproduced in facsimile from the author's holograph 1965 Sept. 29 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With his: 2 p. from a Colorado River journal, December, 1967. Sent as a Christmas card to Mary von Schrader Jarrell
- Manuscript box Kallman, Chester. 1 TLS (photocopy) to 1973 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Lowell, Robert. TL (carbon) to 1960 Mar. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Menashe, Samuel. 1 ALS to 1971 July 12 (1 p) (1 p)
Came with Muriel Rukeyser's papers
- Manuscript box Rukeyser, Muriel . 14 ALS, 1 ALS (fragment), 5 TLS to 1941 June 16 - [1966] Nov. 26 (20 letters in 4 folders) (20 letters in 4 folders)
In folder 1 his: "Loving more than another what was old." In folder 2 his: Bailout at seashore. In folder 3 his: In memory of Stratton Christensen; In folder 4: The Poetry Center, NY.
[Announcement of a poetry reading by] W. Meredith and F. D. Reeve
- Manuscript box 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

- Manuscript box Auden, W. H. 2 ALS, 1 telegram, 1 postcard, and 5 invitations to Meredith. Final letter dated from postmark [1955] - 1971 Feb. 26 (9 letters in 2 folders) (9 letters in 2 folders)
In folder 1 his: [Map of Kirchstetten village] Holograph, unsigned, postmarked Aug. 14, 1962. 1 p.
- Manuscript box 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
- Manuscript box 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.

Correspondence (cont.)
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

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

Manuscript box 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

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

Legal Documents

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