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

Guide to the

**William Plomer collection of papers**

1921-1973

Berg Coll MSS Plomer

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Plomer, William, 1903-1973

**Title:** William Plomer collection of papers

**Date:** 1921-1973

**Size:** 257 items

**Source:** This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources. Plomer's essay on Virginia Woolf was a gift of Simon Nowell-Smith.

**Abstract:** This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, and correspondence.

**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 Plomer was an English poet, novelist, short-story writer, librettist, and songwriter.

## Custodial History

This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources. Plomer's essay on Virginia Woolf was a gift of Simon Nowell-Smith.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, and correspondence. The manuscripts and typescripts consist of librettos, essays, interviews, lectures, and poems by the author. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from 1921 to 1973, to Graham Ackroyd, Susan Hill, Simon Nowell-Smith, William Sansom, Leonard Woolf, Virginia Woolf, and others. There is also a letter to Plomer from W. S. Maugham, dated Sept. 30, 1934.

## **Key Terms**

### **Names**

Plomer, William, 1903-1973

Ackroyd, Graham

Hill, Susan, 1942-

Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965

Nowell-Smith, Simon, 1909-1996

Sansom, William, 1912-1976

Woolf, Leonard, 1880-1969

Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Plomer

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Cased          | Britten's War Requiem. Holograph draft of preface n.d. (10 p) (10 p)  |
| Cased          | Britten's War Requiem. Holograph notes n.d. (11 p) (11 p)   |
| Cased          | Britten's War Requiem. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections and initialled ms. note on title. Music by Benjamin Britten, , words by Wilfred Owen n.d. (5 p) (5 p)<br>With printed text to accompany recording of Jan. 3-10, 1963 with William Plomer's ms. correction and autograph; with program of first performance in New York, Oct. 23, 1963 |
| Cased          | Conversations with my younger self. Rough draft of proposed BBC 3rd programme broadcast, Dec. 1962. Holograph n.d. (57 p) (57 p)<br>With clipping   |
| Oversize (+++) | Conversations with my younger self. Holograph. "Fair copy for third programme." [BBC] 1962 (25 p) (25 p)<br>Signed  |
| Manuscript box | dodo in every bus by Robert Pagan [pseud.], A. Holograph n.d. (16 p) (16 p)<br>Published in The Penguin new writing, no. 4, 1941  |
| Manuscript box | Draft of an obituary notice of Roy Campbell recorded by W[illiam] P[lomer] in May, 1957, for the South African Broadcasting company. Holograph n.d. (5 p) (5 p)<br>Signed   |
| Manuscript box | E. M. Forster. Holograph n.d. (2 p) (2 p)<br>Signed with initials. With author's note authenticating that it was written "for the Aldeburgh Festival programme"   |
| Manuscript box | Forster, Edward Morgan (1879- ). Holograph 1961 (6 p) (6 p)<br>Signed with initials. With author's note authenticating that it was written for the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1961  |
| Manuscript box | Happy days, by Robert Pagan [pseud.] Holograph n.d. (16 p) (16 p)<br>With John Lehman's ms. note commenting on the author's use of a pseudonym. Published in The Penguin new writing, no. 3, 1941   |
| Manuscript box | [Introduction to Herman Charles Bosman's Unto dust] Holograph 1962 (8 p) (8 p)<br>Incomplete ALS and signed title supplied by author, laid in   |
| Manuscript box | [John Hampson Simpson] Holograph 1956 (6 p) (6 p)<br>With author's note authenticating that it was written for amemorial volume to be published in Madras, Feb. 1956  |
| Cased          | Lecture on autobiography given at Aldeburgh Festival, 1961. Holograph. Bound 1961 (51 p) (51 p)<br>Signed   |
| Manuscript box | Lime-flower tea. 2 holograph drafts of poem. One draft is entitled A night in winter n.d. (5 p) (5 p)   |
| Manuscript box | [Limerick] n.d. (1 p) (1 p)   |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Plomer (cont.)

- Manuscript box money man, The. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p)  
With accompanying envelope, inscribed and signed by the author: "Final version, as printed in The Listener, Oct. 17, 1963."; with preliminary notes, 7 p.; work sheets, 4 p.; and draft, 5 p.
- Manuscript box Museum pieces. Holograph fragment (photocopy). Title page and p. 99 n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
With his: 5 ALS to Jacob Schwartz. 1961
- (Plomer) [Rumbold, Richard. A message in code] Introduction. Holograph (draft). On notebook leaves foliated 19-26, 29-43, and [50]-62 n.d. (44 p) (44 p)  
With: Rumbold, Richard. A message in code. Typescript
- Manuscript box [Virginia Woolf] Holograph essay n.d. (18 p) (18 p)  
Published in Recollections of Virginia Woolf, ed. by J. R. Noble, N.Y., 1972. Gift of Simon Nowell-Smith
- Cased Wild doves of Louis Trichardt, The. Holograph draft of poem. Bd. 19 x 13.5cm 1959 Mar. (1 v) (1 v)  
With his ALS to Simon Nowell Smith, dated March 14, 1959
- Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Plomer
- (Plomer) Rumbold, Richard. A message in code: the diary of Richard Rumbold 1932-1960. Selections chosen, edited and introduced by William Plomer. Typescript with the editor's ms. corrections. Mentions Paul Bowles, Sir Harold Nicolson and others n.d. (433 p) (433 p)  
Signed by the editor. Accompanied by: Plomer, Wm. [Rumbold, R. A message in code] Introduction. Holograph (draft), undated. 44 p.; Rumbold, R. A message in code: the diary of Richard Rumbold, 1932-1960. Proof copy. Published, London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1964

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Manuscript box Abercrombie, [--?]. 2 ALS to. [Correspondent is either Lascelles or Ralph Abercrombie] 1957 May 16, 1957 May 24 (1 p.; 3 leaves) (1 p.; 3 leaves)
- Manuscript box Ackroyd, Graham. 2 ALS to 1951 Dec. 9, 1952 Jan. 4 (1 leaf; 3 leaves) (1 leaf; 3 leaves)
- Manuscript box Clark, Leonard. ALS to. Relates to Andrew Young 1956 July 6 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Enslin du Plessis, H[enry?]. 15 ALS to 1921 Sept. 20 - 1962 Apr. 13 (15 letters in 3 folders) (15 letters in 3 folders)
- Manuscript box Hill, Susan. 59 ALS, 1 postcard to 1970 Sept. 22 - 1973 Sept. 11 (60 letters in 12 folders) (60 letters in 12 folders)
- Manuscript box Lehmann, John. ALS to 1945 Oct. 25 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
With correspondent's marginal ms. note
- Cased Nowell-Smith, Simon. 91 ALS, 4 ANS to. Pasted into two quarto half black morocco albums. [1942] May 1 - 1972 May 29 (95 letters in 2 v) (95 letters in 2 v)  
With his [Autobiographical notes] pasted on p. 140-146
- Manuscript box Nowell-Smith, Simon. 32 postcards, 3 Christmas cards to 1945 Oct. 3 - 1972 [Dec. 25 (35 letters in 5 folders) (35 letters in 5 folders)
- (Plomer)-C. [Nowell-Smith], Simon. ALS to 1965 Mar. 30 (1 p) (1 p)  
Inserted in: New coin poetry. Vol. 1, No. 1 (Jan. 1965)
- Manuscript box [Nowell-Smith], Simon. ANS to 1965 June 15 (1 p) (1 p)  
With dust jacket for The Phoenix Cup by John Morris, published in 1947

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Sansom, William. 4 ALS, 1 postcard to 1945 Aug. 30 - 1946 Dec. 13 (5 letters) (5 letters)
- Manuscript box Schwartz, Jacob. 5 ALS to 1961 Nov. 14 - 1961 Dec. 8 (1 leaf; 2 leaves; 1 leaf; 2 leaves; 1 leaf) (1 leaf; 2 leaves; 1 leaf; 2 leaves; 1 leaf)  
Accompanied by his: Museum pieces. Holograph fragment (photocopy), undated. 2 p.; Rosenberg, Isaac. [Fragment xix] "Where the rock's heart is hidden from the sea." Holograph poem (photocopy), undated. 1 p.; Published in his Collected works, London, Chatto and Windus, 1937, p. 221
- Manuscript box Szladits, Lola. ALS to. Relates to Lord Byron 1969 May 26 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Woolf, Leonard Sidney. 6 ALS to 1929 Dec. 14 - 1930 Dec. 5 (6 letters) (6 letters)
- Manuscript box Woolf, Leonard Sidney. ALS to 1951 Oct. 24 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Woolf, Virginia. 3 ALS to. One dated June 14 [n.y.] 1937 June 19, 1937 Sept. 18 (2 leaves; 3 leaves; 4 p) (2 leaves; 3 leaves; 4 p)
- Manuscript box (Vietnam) Woolf, Cecil and John Bagguley, eds. Authors take sides on Vietnam. Correspondence with William Plomer 1967 (1 folder) (1 folder)
- Incoming Correspondence
- Manuscript box Maugham, William Somerset. ALS (photocopy) to Plomer 1934 Sept. 30 (2 p) (2 p)  
Came with Plomer's correspondence with Jacob Schwartz