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.


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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cased</td>
<td>Britten's War Requiem. Holograph draft of preface n.d. (10 p) (10 p)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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)  
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 |
With clipping |
Signed |
Published in The Penguin new writing, no. 4, 1941 |
Signed |
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)  
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)  
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)  
Incomplete ALS and signed title supplied by author, laid in |
| Manuscript box | [John Hampson Simpson] Holograph 1956 (6 p) (6 p)  
With author's note authenticating that it was written for anemorial volume to be published in Madras, Feb. 1956 |
Bound 1961 (51 p) (51 p)  
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) |
Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Plomer (cont.)

Manuscript box
[Limerick] n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

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
With his: 5 ALS to Jacob Schwartz. 1961

(Plomer)
With: Rumbold, Richard. A message in code. Typescript

Manuscript box
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)

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)
Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

[Nowell-Smith], Simon. ALS to 1965 Mar. 30 (1 p) (1 p)

[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

Sansom, William. 4 ALS, 1 postcard to 1945 Aug. 30 - 1946 Dec. 13 (5 letters) (5 letters)

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

Szladits, Lola. ALS to. Relates to Lord Byron 1969 May 26 (1 p) (1 p)

Woolf, Leonard Sidney. 6 ALS to 1929 Dec. 14 - 1930 Dec. 5 (6 letters) (6 letters)

Woolf, Leonard Sidney. ALS to 1951 Oct. 24 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

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)

Woolf, Cecil and John Bagguley, eds. Authors take sides on Vietnam. Correspondence with William Plomer 1967 (1 folder) (1 folder)

Maugham, William Somerset. ALS (photocopy) to Plomer 1934 Sept. 30 (2 p) (2 p)

Came with Plomer's correspondence with Jacob Schwartz