Summary

Creator: Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972
Title: Edmund Wilson collection of papers
Date: 1922-1978
Size: 424 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 typescripts, a manuscript, correspondence, and a portrait photograph.
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
Edmund Wilson was an American novelist, poet, essayist, and literary critic.

Custodial History
Some material was formerly owned by the publisher Harper & Row.

Scope and Content Note
This is a synthetic collection consisting of typescripts, a manuscript, correspondence by and about the
author, and a portrait photograph. The typescripts consist of an essay by the author, as well as drafts of a biography and an article about him by Alfred Kazin, Vladimir Nabokov, and Allen Tate. The manuscript is a review of the author's work by Wystan Hugh Auden. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dated 1923 to 1971, to Sylvia Beach, Mary Maguire Colum, Anne Fremantle, Alfred Kazin, Samuel Menashe, Vladimir Nabokov, Frances Steloff, and others, as well as letters relating to the author, dated from 1922 to 1978, between various correspondents including Louise Bogan, Alfred Kazin, Harry Levin, John Wain, Elena Wilson, and others. There are letters to Wilson from Christian Gauss, Vera Nabokov, Vladimir Nabokov, Ernest J. Simmons, Sara Teasdale, Louis Untermeyer, Edward Weeks, Katharine S. White, Peter H. Salus, and Helen Woodward, dating from [1940] to 1971.

**Key Terms**

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
Correspondence

**Names**
Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Beach, Sylvia
Bogan, Louise, 1897-1970
Colum, Mary
Fremantle, Anne, 1909-2002
Gauss, Christian, 1878-1951
Kazin, Alfred, 1915-1998
Levin, Harry, 1910-1965
Menashe, Samuel, 1925-2011
Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977
Nabokova, Vera
Salus, Peter H.
Simmons, Ernest J. (Ernest Joseph), 1903-1972
Steloff, Frances, 1887-1989
Teasdale, Sara, 1884-1933
Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977
Wain, John
Weeks, Edward, 1898-1989
White, Katharine Sergeant Angell
Wilson, Elena, 1906-1979
Woodward, Helen, 1882-
Harper & Row, Publishers
Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Wilson

[John Peale Bishop] Typescript of contribution to We moderns with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. Published in Gotham book mart catalog, no. 42, New York, 1940

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Wilson


Kazin, Alfred. A walker in the city. Early typescript (incomplete) with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (97 p) (97 p)
With folder inscribed on cover "Original draft"


Signed. Published, New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1951

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich. The strange case of Nabokov and Wilson. Typescript (carbon) of article with the author's ms. corrections. Written as letter to the editor of the New York Review of Books n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
With clipping of published version. Published in the New York Review of books, Aug. 26, 1965

Tate, Allen. Edmund Wilson. Typescript of contribution to We Moderns n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed. Enclosed in his ALS to Frances Steloff, Nov. 13, 1939. 1 p.; Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog, no. 42, New York, 1940

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Beach, Sylvia. TLS to. Relates to Adrienne Monnier's essay [Joyce's Ulysses and the French public] The humanism of Joyce 1931 May 18 (1 p) (1 p)

Colum, Mary Maguire. 1 ALS, 2 TLS to 1923 July 1 - 1927 May 18 (1 p.; 2 p.; 1 p)
(1 p.; 2 p.; 1 p)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Encounter. TL (copy) to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Fremantle, Anne. ALS to 1968 July 29 (2 p) (2 p)
With Anne Fremantle's ms. note on the verso of p. 2

Gordan, John D[ozier]. Postcard to 1941 Oct. 7 (1 card) (1 card)

Hanlin, Frances Midner. AL (draft) to. Relates to Djuna Barnes 1965? Oct. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

With two TL (carbon) to Wilson. From the files of Harper & Row, inc.

Kazin, Alfred. 25 ALS, 2 ANS, 7 TLS, 2 postcards, 1 Christmas card to 1942 Nov. 22 - 1970 Dec. 16 (37 letters in 8 folders) (37 letters in 8 folders)

Menashe, Samuel. TNS to 1957 May 15 (1 p) (1 p)

Nabokov, Vera. 1 ALS, 1 ANS, 1 TLS to 1942 Nov. 7 - 1952 May 27 (3 letters) (3 letters)

Nabokov, Vladimir. 90 ALS, 13 ANS, 29 TLS, 5 postcards to 1940 Nov. 12 - 1971 Mar. 8 (137 letters in 37 folders) (137 letters in 37 folders)

Nelson, Howard. TNS to. Relates to Ernest Hemingway 1963 May 3 (1 p) (1 p)

Salus, Peter H. 1 TLS to 1971 July 19 (1 p) (1 p)
Also, 1 TL (carbon) from Peter H. Salus to Edmund Wilson, July 9, 1971. 1 p.; 1 TL (carbon) of related correspondence to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden

Steloff, Frances. 16 ALS, 2 ANS, 13 postcards to 1938 Mar. 10 - [1965 Oct (31 letters in 6 folders) (31 letters in 6 folders)
With 9 TL (carbon) replies; also his "Here are some rarities in modern books" and his description of coin collection. Two holographs, undated. 1 p. each; In folder 6 his: AL (draft) to Frances Midner Hanlin [Oct. 1965?] 1 l.
Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Steloff, Frances. ALS, postcard to 1939 Sept. 28, 1939 Oct. 6 (1 p.; 1 card) (1 p.; 1 card)
Letter encloses clipping of the writer's review of Nathanel West's The day of the locust

Steloff, Frances. ANS to 1965 Dec. (1 p) (1 p)
On publisher's prospectus with ANS by John Dos Passos to Steloff

[White], Katherine. TL (carbon) to. Relates to Vladimir Nabokov 1947 Nov. 12
(3 p) (3 p)

Incoming Correspondence

Gauss, Christian. TLS to Wilson 1946 Feb. 15 (1 p) (1 p)

Nabokov, Vera. TL (carbon), TLS (copy), TNS (carbon) to Wilson 1950 Apr. 8
- 1959 June 30 (3 letters) (3 letters)

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich. 97 ALS (copies), 52 TLS (copies) to Wilson
Accompanied by: Wilson, Edmund. 90 ALS, 13 ANS, 29 TLS, 5 postcards to Vladimir
Nabokov. Nov. 12, 1940-March 8, 1971. 37 folders in 2 boxes; with Als, ANS, TLS to Vera

Salus, Peter H. 1 TL (carbon) to Wilson 1971 July 9 (1 p) (1 p)
With: Wilson, Edmund. TLS to Peter H. Salus. July 19, 1971. 1 p.; TL (carbon) or related
correspondence. Relates to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden

Simmons, Ernest J. 2 TLS to Wilson 1952 Jan. 30, 1952 Feb. 5 (2 p. each) (2 p. each)

Teasdale, Sara. ALS to [Edmund?] Wilson. Relates to Marcel Proust 1928
Mar. 15 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Untermeyer, Louis. TL (carbon) to Wilson 1962 Aug. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
Weeks, Edward. TLS to Wilson 1944 June 30 (1 p) (1 p)

White, Katharine S. TLS to Wilson 1944 Jan. 11 (1 p) (1 p)


Came with Upton Sinclair's correspondence with William E. Woodward

Bogan, Louise. TLS to Frances Steloff. Addressed to Kay Steele. Declines to write appreciation of Edmund Wilson for publication in We moderns, Gotham book mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940 1939 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1 p)


Levin, Harry. TLS (photocopy) to William A. Koshland. Relates to Edmund Wilson 1977 Dec. 20 (1 p) (1 p)


New Republic, New York. 1 TL, 4 TN to Muriel Rukeyser. 1932 Feb. 24 - 1934 June 29 (5 letters in 1 folder) (5 letters in 1 folder)

Signed Edmund Wilson, Malcolm Cowley, Frederic Ridgeley Torrance, Lawrence Brosin, B. E. Bettins respectively

Rascoe, Burton. TLS to Howard Irving Young. Mentions Rupert Hughes and Edmund Wilson 1922 Jan. 3 (2 p) (2 p)

Wain, John. 2 ALS, 8 TLS, 1 TLS (photocopy, circular), 1 TL (photocopy, circular), 1 TNS, to Alfred Kazin. Relates to Edmund Wilson 1975 Dec. 27 - 1978 June 3 (12 letters in 3 folders) (12 letters in 3 folders)

Wilson, Elena. 4 TLS to Alfred Kazin. Writer is the widow of Edmund Wilson 1974 Feb. 6 - 1977 Nov. 3 (4 letters) (4 letters)

Portraits
Portraits (cont.)

Manuscript box

Photograph of Edmund Wilson with Alfred Kazin and Aaron Copeland. 20 x 25 cm. 1964 (1 item) (1 item)

With photograph of Alfred Kazin and Aaron Copeland, inscribed on verso in Kazin’s hand

“MacDowell Colony, 1964. Presentation of MacDonald medal to Edmund Wilson.” 13 x 18 cm.