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ACCESSION SHEET

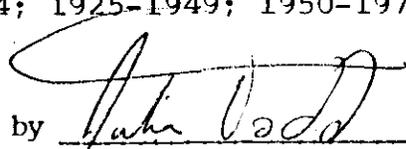
Accession # See attached sheet Location 26-1-4.5
Title Lewis M. Isaacs Collection. Edwin Arlington Robinson Papers.
Approximate inclusive dates 1896-1967
Date of receipt 1947-1958 Received from Edith J.R. Isaacs; Lewis
M. Isaacs, Jr.
Volume on arrival Unknown
Number of boxes (after reboxing) 12 boxes; 1 package
Condition Good
Restrictions None

Description Lewis^M Isaacs (1877-1944), a lawyer, musician, and composer, and his (1878-wife, Edith J.R. Isaacs^J, an editor of various literary and theatrical publications including "Theatre Arts Monthly", were close friends of the poet E.A. Robinson (1869-1935). Robinson grew up in Maine, then attended Harvard 1891-1893 as a special student; he moved to New York City in 1896, the same year that his first book of poems The Torrent and the Night Before appeared. The volumes The Children of the Night and Captain Craig followed, attracting praise from various quarters along with patronage from Theodore Roosevelt. Robinson first met the Isaacs in 1911 at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, an artist's retreat where the poet spent many of his summers and produced much of his work; he spent the rest of the year in New York City where he often visited the Isaacs. Isaacs became Robinson's financial advisor and eventually the joint executor of his will with Louis Ledoux, the literary executor. Robinson placed many of his manuscripts into the safe-keeping of the Isaacs who in addition collected material independently. After Isaacs' death, ~~Isaacs~~ his wife donated the collection in stages to the New York Public Library; their son continued to oversee the collection and donated a few documents which had been overlooked.

(CONTINUED)

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) Microfilm

Temporary catalog card added entries poetry, Modern; Poets, American-20th century;
Robinson, Edwin Arlington; 1875-1899; 1900-1924; 1925-1949; 1950-1974

Accessioned by 

Date November 26, 1985

and photographs.

The collection is divided into five categories; Robinson's correspondence, Robinson's writings, unsorted papers, and the Isaacs' correspondence. Robinson's correspondence, 1899-1935, includes letters, 1920-1935, between Robinson and Laura Richards (1850-1943), and from William Vaughn Moody (1869-1910), during the years 1899-1908; both writers were close friends of the poet. In addition there are about twenty letters, 1905-1909, to the writer Richard Watson Gilder, (1844-1909), and one to Witter Bynner, (1881-1968); notes from William James and Thornton Wilder; and letters from Theodore Roosevelt, Walter de la Mare, Mark van Doren, Robert Frost, and Robinson Jeffers, among others. Robinson's extensive correspondence with the Isaacs began in 1911 and continued until his death. In addition to many originals, there are transcripts for most letters. Robinson writes in his role as a poet; various matters of his personal and professional life are mixed with an epistolary style; frequent examples of his humor occur throughout. The writings include manuscripts, galleys, and published works. The collection incorporates over 600 pages of originals and drafts in Robinson's miniscule script, along with several typescripts and a few galleys. Many of the manuscripts are edited with author's corrections and revisions. Among the published volumes are first editions of everything which Robinson wrote, books about the poet, some editions containing samples of the his work, and other's simply inscribed to Robinson. Robinson's contracts with his publishers and his will number among the unsorted papers; also of interest are two printed copies of two songs, one composed by Robinson with words by Louis Ledoux, the other a rendition by Isaacs of a Robinson poem; Edith Isaacs' notes to Robinson's letters, and an essay by Lewis Isaacs discussing Robinson's knowledge of music; various articles, ^{and} clippings of Robinsoniana, and ~~photographs~~. Finally, there are notes and other documents from the New York Public Libraries 1948 exhibition of this collection. The Isaacs correspondence, 1921-1967, is between the Isaacs family and various friends and acquaintances of Robinson, including some of the individuals mentioned above; the correspondence begins with a 1921 letter to Edith Isaacs and ends with a 1967 letter to Lewis Isaacs, Jr., both from Thornton Wilder. Other letters are between the Isaacs and Robinson's sister-in-law, Emma Robinson and Ruth Nivison his neice. Many of these documents, ca. 1935-1940, are concerned with prospective biographers and researchers; the remaining correspondence is also of Robinson interest. Photographs of Robinson include photographs of the poet as a young man, including a photo-gravure print, and later photographs and photographic portraits including a 1923 photograph of a PEN club dinner in London. There is also a drawing of Robinson which appears again on a poster announcing an exhibition of his work. Other photographs include several of various places and buildings associated with Robinson.

