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

Guide to the

**E. E. Cummings collection of papers**

1916-1962 [bulk 1939-1959]

Berg Coll MSS Cummings

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Cummings, E. E. (Edward Estlin), 1894-1962

**Title:** E. E. Cummings collection of papers

**Date:** 1916-1962 [bulk 1939-1959]

**Size:** 430 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, financial documents, portraits, pictorial works and a sketchbook.

**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

Edward Estlin Cummings was an American poet, novelist, playwright and essayist.

## Custodial History

The bulk of the materials are from the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, financial documents, portraits, pictorial works and a sketchbook. The manuscripts and typescripts include the author's poems, essays, and notes toward works, as well as essays, notes, and articles by various individuals, including John Dos Passos, Randall Jarrell, and Louis Zukofsky, about the author and his works. The correspondence, dating from 1916 to 1962, includes letters from the author to James Light, Muriel Rukeyser, May Sarton, Frances Steloff, and Hildegard and James Watson, Jr., and others. The collection also includes a letter from Richard P. Blackmur to Frances Steloff relating to the author, as well as a 1947 letter from Cyril Connolly and another from William Brown Doherty, dated 1961, both addressed to Cummings.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

Sketchbooks

### **Names**

Cummings, E. E. (Edward Estlin), 1894-1962

Blackmur, R. P. (Richard P.), 1904-1965

Connolly, Cyril, 1903-1974

Doherty, William Brown, 1891-

Dos Passos, John, 1896-1970

Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965

Light, James F.

Morehouse, Marion, 1906-1969

Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913-1980

Sarton, May, 1912-1995

Steloff, Frances, 1887-1989

Watson, Hildegard Lasell, -1976

Watson, James S. (James Sibley), 1894-

Zukofsky, Louis, 1904-1978

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Cummings

- "Boys I mean are not refined", The. Holograph poem n.d (1 p) (1 p)  
Poem 44 in his: No thanks. New York: Golden Eagle press, 1935. Holograph edition
- Manuscript box Casualty list: "Dead on the field of honor." Typescript (carbon) of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
Removed from: Eight Harvard poets. New York, L. J. Gomme, 1917. Copy 2. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Ezra Pound. Typescript of contribution to We moderns n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
Gotham Book Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940  
Mart, New York.  
We Moderns.  
Folder 18
- Him. Typescript notes n.d (1 p) (1 p)  
Removed from his: Him. New York, 1927. Copy 1
- Manuscript box [i]. 10 limited edition statements for i: six nonlectures (1) and Eimi (9) n.d. (10 items) (10 items)  
Accompanied by: Grove Press, 2 TN to Edward Estlin Cummings. May 1 and Oct. 4, 1958. 1 p. each. Note of May 1, 1958 and accompanying envelope annotated by Cummings. I: Six Nonlectures was published by Harvard University Press, 1953; Eimi, New York, Grove Press, 1958. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Manuscript box Maerchen; uebersetzt von Hanne Gabriele Reck. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (20 p) (20 p)  
Accompanied by: Reck, Hanne Gabriele. TLS to [Marion Morehouse] Cummings, Oct. 31, 1966. 1 p.; with ANS at bottom by Michael Reck, relating to Ezra Pound; From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- #### Manuscripts and Typescripts related to Cummings
- Manuscript box Barrows, Herbert C. and W. R. Steinhoff. Cumming's Anyone lived in a (Cummings) pretty how town. Typescript of article n.d. (4 p) (4 p)  
Accompanied by: The Explicator. TL, signed John P. Kirby, to Brandt & Brandt, Aug. 29, 1950. 1 p.; Brandt & Brandt. TN, signed Sally M. King, to E. E. Cummings, Sept. 1, 1950. 1 p.; From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Manuscript box Dos Passos, John. [e. e. cummings] Typescript of contribution to We (Gotham) In: Moderns with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
Gotham Book Signed. Enclosed in his ANS to Frances Steloff [n.d.] 1 p.; Published in Gotham Book Mart  
Mart, New York. catalog no. 42, New York, 1940  
We Moderns.  
Folder 19
- Manuscript box Jarrell, Randall. [E. E. Cummings] Holograph notes n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box Jarrell, Randall. A poet's own way. Holograph notes and draft, incomplete, of review. Review of E. E. Cummings' Poems: 1923-1954 n.d. (17 p) (17 p)
- Manuscript box Jarrell, Randall. A poet's own way. Typescript, incomplete, with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
With clipping of review extracted from The New York Times Book Review, Oct. 31, 1954, p. 6
- Manuscript box Unidentified manuscripts. For Cummings review. Holograph extract "from a (Cummings) letter in 1950" in an unidentified hand 1950 (1 item) (1 item)  
Removed from: Cummings, E. E. [khi-ra]. New York, 1950. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts related to Cummings (cont.)

Manuscript box  
(Gotham) In:  
Gotham book  
mart, New York.  
We moderns.  
Folder 75

Zukofsky, Louis. [Ezra Pound and e. e. cummings] Holograph. Submitted for publication in *We moderns*, Gotham book mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940; not included n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
Included in his ALS to Frances Steloff, Sept. 25, 1939, 1 l.

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box  
Manuscript box

Kazin, Alfred. TLS to 1951 Nov. 2 (1 p) (1 p)  
Light, James. 2 ANS, 1 TNS, 5 postcards to. Letter of Jan. 8, 1951 mentions Joe Gould 1949 Nov. 19 - 1962 Feb. 7 (8 items) (8 items)

Laid into his: The enormous room. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1922. Author's copy with his autograph

[Morehouse?], [Marion]. ANS to 1957? (1 p) (1 p)  
Signed with initials

Manuscript box

[Nathan], Rhoda Bucholtz. TNS to 1947 March (1 p) (1 p)  
With envelope postmarked March 13, 1947; also with Professor Nathan's account of the occasion for her visit to Cummings. Typescript, Sept. 22, 1994. 1 p.

Manuscript box

Roberts, Michael. TNS to. Relates to *The Faber book of modern verse*, 1936 1935 Aug. 8 (1 p) (1 p)  
With envelope

Manuscript box

Rukeyser, Muriel. Postcard to 1959 Feb. 3 (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box  
(Sarton)

Sarton, May. Telegram to 1943 Sept. 24 (1 item) (1 item)  
With: *The poets speak*. New York: New York Public Library, 1943

Manuscript box  
(Gotham). In:  
Gotham book  
mart, New York.  
We moderns.  
Folder 18

Steloff, Frances. 2 TLS to 1939 Oct. 9, 1939 Oct. 12 (2 items) (2 items)

Manuscript box  
(Gotham)

Steloff, Frances. Postcard to 1952 Oct. 28 (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box

Watson Jr., Hildegard and James. 162 ALS, 4 AL, 11 ANS, 141 TLS, 5 TL, 3 TNS, 2 telegrams, 31 postcards to 1916 June 25 - 1962 Aug. 14 (359 items in 52 folders) (359 items in 52 folders)  
Came with J. S. Watson's papers

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box

Connolly, Cyril ALS to Cummings 1947 Oct. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
Removed from: Cummings, Edward Estlin. 1x1. London [1947]. Copy 2; From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings

Manuscript box  
(Cummings)

Doherty, William Brown. ALS to Cummings 1961 Oct. 23 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
Encloses his: *Big Bertha* is twenty-two, reprinted from the *Phi Chi quarterly* for March, 1961. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box  
(Gotham) In:  
Gotham book  
mart, New York.  
We moderns.  
Folder 79

Blackmur, Richard P. TLS to Frances Steloff. Declines to write appreciation of Hart Crane or e. e. cummings for publication in *We moderns*, Gotham book mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940 1939 Oct. 2 (1 p) (1 p)

Financial Documents

Financial Documents (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Cummings) Amalgamated travel service, Paris. Receipt made out to Edward Estlin Cummings for Paris-Moscow trip 1931 June 6 (1 p) (1 p)  
Removed from his: Eimi. New York, Covici, Friede, 1933. No. 1 of 1381 copies; From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings

Portraits and Pictorial Works

Pictorial Works

- Oversize (+++) Birthday greetings (4) and Welcome sign (1) for Marion Morehouse. Original oil (3), crayon (1), and watercolor (1) drawings. Dated 1947, 1955, and 1961 1947 - 1961 (10 items) (10 items)  
Signed. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Oversize (+++) [Chocaura mountain] Original watercolor. 30 x 45 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
Signed. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Manuscript box [Christmas tree] Original crayon sketch for Christmas card. 30 x 23 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
Accompanied by 2 proofs and 2 copies of the card. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Oversize (+++) [Country scene] Original oil painting. 25 x 35 cm. 1959 May 5 (1 item) (1 item)  
From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Oversize (+++) [Silver lake] Original oil painting. 25 x 35 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
Marion Morehouse Cummings' initials on verso. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Oversize (+++) [Silver lake] Original pencil drawing. 28 x 21 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- (Cummings) Cummings, Edward. Sketch book of original drawings n.d. (1 v) (1 v)  
From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Manuscript box (Cummings) Tschumi, Otto. Original pencil sketch of set design for E. E. Cummings' Him. Drawing of a riverboat name St. Louis. 21 x 28 cm. 1952 May 18 (1 item) (1 item)  
Inscribed by the artist for "M & I [sic] Cummings ... 20.3.52." From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Oversize (+++) Valentines (9). Original crayon and oil drawings. For his wife Marion Morehouse Cummings. Dated 1956, 1957, and 1962 1956 - 1962 (9 items) (9 items)  
From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings

Portraits

- Oversize (+++) Original oil self-portrait. 34 x 26 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
With Steward Mitchell's signed note on verso: "This is the first of many self-portraits of Cummings. It was painted in his room in the rue S. Andre des Arts, Paris."; From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings
- Oversize (+++)(Cummings)-O Watson, Hildegard Lasell. E. E. Cummings. Original pencil portrait. 56 x 39 cm. 1957 Nov. 1 (1 item) (1 item)  
Signed with initials
- Oversize (+++) Original oil portrait on cardboard of Marion Morehouse. 45 x 22 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
Signed. From the estate of Marion Morehouse Cummings