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American Literature

Guide to the

Christopher Isherwood collection of papers

1926-1975

Berg Coll MSS Isherwood

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986

Title: Christopher Isherwood collection of papers

Date: 1926-1975

Size: 75 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, and portraits.

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

Christopher Isherwood was a British expatriate who emigrated to America in 1939. He authored novels, plays, screenplays, expositions, and translations of the Vedanta.

Custodial History

Some material was previously owned by Caroline Newton and the Group Theatre Archive.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, and portraits. The manuscripts and typescripts consist of plays written with W. H. Auden, articles by Howard Griffin and James Stern about Isherwood, and reviews by John Maynard Keynes. Also present is correspondence, dating from 1926 to 1975, from the author to Benjamin Britten, Rupert Doone, Howard Griffin, Alfred Kazin, Olive Mangeot, Elizabeth Mayer, Judith Moffett, and Glenway Wescott, as well as letters from Herbert Mitgang to Isherwood, dating from 1967 to 1975. There are letters to Isherwood from W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, Herbert Mitgang, D. A. Parry, and Glenway Wescott, dating from 1939 to 1975.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Britten, Benjamin, 1913-1976
Doone, Rupert, 1903-1966
Griffin, Howard, 1915-1975
Kazin, Alfred, 1915-1998
Keynes, John Maynard, 1883-1946
Mangeot, Olive
Mayer, Elizabeth
Mitgang, Herbert
Moffett, Judith, 1942-
Newton, Caroline, 1893-
Stern, James, 1904-1993
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987
Group Theatre (U.S.)

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts with contributions by Isherwood

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Cased | Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The ascent of F6. A tragedy in two acts. Typescript revisions with ms. correction by Auden. Dated "Marshall's typing and translation service, April 28, 1936" 1936 Apr. 28 (29 p) (29 p)
With 1 TLS (photocopy) from Edward Mendelson to P. G. Phillips, April 13, 1985. 1 p. |
| Cased | Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The ascent of F6. A tragedy in two acts. Typescript with Isherwood's ms. corrections n.d. (85 p) (85 p)
With Robert Medley's ms. note: "Presumably pre publication copy found amongst Rupert Doone's papers."; Published, London: Faber, 1936. Came with the Group theatre archive |
| Cased | Auden, W. H. The chase: a play in three acts. Holograph n.d. (121 p) (121 p)
Signed. With 4 pages in Isherwood's hand and part of manila cover |
| Oversize (+) | Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The dog beneath the skin or Where is Francis? A play in three acts. Typescript with ms. corrections and stage directions in unidentified hands. Prompt copy n.d. (108 p) (108 p)
Published, London: Faber, 1935. Came with the Group theatre archive |
| Oversize (+) | Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The dog beneath the skin or Where is Francis? A play in three acts. Holograph insertions and re-writes by Auden n.d. (36 p) (36 p)
Came with the Group theatre archive |
| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. and Christopher Isherwood. The enemies of a bishop, or, Die when I say when: a morality in four acts. Typescript (carbon) with Christopher Isherwood's ms. corrections n.d. (79 p) (79 p)
With original wrapper |
| Cased | Auden, W. H. Poems [1928] Typescript (carbon) of 10 poems with the author's, Christopher Isherwood's, and Stephen Spender's ms. corrections n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
Caroline Newton bookplate |
| In his: Poems [1928] | Auden, W. H. ["We saw in spring."] Holograph transcript by Christopher Isherwood of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
- #### Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Isherwood
- | | |
|---|---|
| Manuscript box (Isherwood) | Griffin, Howard. [A portrait of a novelist] Holograph and typescript drafts (incomplete) of article with the author's ms. corrections. A conversation with C. Isherwood 1957 Oct. 11 (29 p) (29 p) |
| Manuscript box (Isherwood) | Griffin, Howard. [A portrait of a novelist] Typescript draft of article with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (15 p) (15 p)
Signed |
| Oversize (+) | Spender, Stephen. [Fable and reportage] Left review article. Holograph draft. Review of The ascent of F6 by W. H. Auden and C. Isherwood, and Auden's Look, stranger! n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
In volume with his: [The destructive element. TS Eliot in his criticism] Holograph draft. Pages [2-8] at end. Published in The Left Review, v. 2, no. 14, Nov. 1936, p. [779]-782 |
| Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham book mart, New York. We moderns. Folder 68 | Stern, James. [Christopher Isherwood] Typescript of contribution to We Moderns. Included in his TLS to Frances Steloff, Oct. 10, 1939 n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940 |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box	Britten, Benjamin. 2 TLS (photocopy), 1 postcard to [1940] Mar. 18 - [1942] Feb. 18 (3 letters) (3 letters)
Manuscript box	Doone, Rupert, 2 ALS to. Letter of Sept. 1 [ca. 1937] mentions W. H. Auden, Rosamund Lehmann, John Maynard Keynes and Stephen Spender [ca. 1937], [1950 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)] Came with the Group theatre archive
Manuscript box	Griffin, Howard. 2 ALS, 1 TLS, 3 postcards to [1952] Jan. 6 - [1957] Jan. 26 (6 letters) (6 letters)
Manuscript box	Griffin, Howard. TLS to Sept. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Kazin, Alfred. ALS to [1946] Feb. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Mangeot, Olive ("Mop"). 4 ALS, 5 TLS, 9 postcards to 1926 Aug. 11 - [1945] Dec. 29 (18 letters) (18 letters)
Manuscript box	Mayer, Elizabeth. 1 ALS, 1 TLS, 1 telegram to [1941] Dec. 31 - [1942] Apr. 23 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Manuscript box	Moffett, Judith. ALS to. Relates to James Merrill 1975 Jan. 14 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Manuscript box. In: Wescott, Glenway. 37 ALS, 4 ANS, 7 TLS to William Maxwell. May 1, 1957-Sept. 24, 1976. Folders 9 and 10	Wescott, Glenway. 1 TLS (copy), 1 ALS (copy) to 1970 Nov. 19, 1971 Mar. 2 (2 letters) (2 letters)

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box	Auden, Wystan Hugh. AL (incomplete) to Christopher [Isherwood] 1944 Aug. 30 (1 p) (1 p)
In Auden's: Poems [1928]	Auden, Wystan Hugh. ALS to Stephen Spender, Christopher Isherwood, and Walter n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Kallman, Chester. ALS to Christopher [Isherwood] 1939 May 5 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box (Isherwood)	Mitgang, Herbert. Letters to Christopher Isherwood 1967 - 1975 (1 folder) (1 folder) With replies and articles contributed to the New York Times
Manuscript box. In: Wescott, Glenway. 37 ALS, 4 ANS, 7 TLS to William Maxwell. May 1, 1957-Sept. 24, 1976. Folder 10	Parry, D. A. ALS (copy), TLS to Isherwood 1971 Feb.1, 1971 Feb. 28 (2 p.; 1 p) (2 p.; 1 p)
Manuscript box. In: Wescott, Glenway. 37 ALS, 4 ANS, 7 TLS to William Maxwell. May 1, 1957-Sept. 24, 1976. Folder 10	Wescott, Glenway. ALS (copy) to Isherwood 1971 Mar. 9 (5 p) (5 p)

Related Correspondence

Correspondence (cont.)
Related Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box [On the frontier] Keynes, John Maynard. 2 TLS to Rupert Doone. Relate to On the frontier by W. H. Auden and C. Isherwood 1937 Nov. 14, 1938 July 30 (2 p. each) (2 p. each)
Letter of Nov. 14, 1937 encloses: On the frontier. Memorandum of agreement. Typescript (carbon), undated. 3 p.; Came with Group theatre archive

Portraits

- Manuscript box Photograph of Christopher Isherwood. 20 x 13 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Cased Auden, W. H. Album of photographs. Contains photographs of Auden, Louis MacNeice, C. Isherwood, George Augustus Auden, Constance R. Auden, Erika Mann, John Mapson, etc. 1933 Mar. - 1936 June 9 (1 v) (1 v)
Manuscript box. Folder 11 Auden, W. H. Photograph of W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, and C. Isherwood on Fire Island, 1947. 12 x 15 cm. 1947 (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box Auden, W. H. Photographs (11) of W. H. Auden, Chester Kallman, C. Isherwood, and Caroline Newton. Six inscribed on verso by Caroline Newton and dated 1940 1940 (11 items) (11 items)
Inscribed photographs came with Auden's 36 ALS, etc. to Caroline Newton
Manuscript box (Auden) Bramall, Eric. Photograph of W. H. Auden and C. Isherwood at Bryanston School. 12 x 16 cm. ca. 1937 (1 item) (1 item)