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

Guide to the

Robert Lowell collection of papers

1943-1977

Berg Coll MSS Lowell, R

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Lowell, Robert, 1917-1977

Title: Robert Lowell collection of papers

Date: 1943-1977

Size: 88 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, a notebook for 1970, as well as correspondence.

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.

Related Materials:

Consult the Berg Collection staff for additional unprocessed materials including manuscripts, correspondence, and printed materials with the author's manuscript emendations.

Creator History

Robert Lowell was an American poet, playwright, and translator.

Custodial History

One of the translations was contained among Randall Jarrell's papers.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, a notebook for 1970, as well as correspondence by and about the author. The manuscripts and typescripts include poems and translations. The correspondence, dating from 1943 through 1976, is from the author to Babette Deutsch, Anne Fremantle, Randall Jarrell, Alfred Kazin, Marianne Moore, Ruth Witt-Diamant, and others. Also present are letters relating to the author, dating from 1950 to 1977, between various correspondents, including Elizabeth Bishop, Philip Booth, Richard Eberhart, Randall Jarrell, and others. There are letters to Lowell from William Meredith, Peter Salus, and Louis Untermeyer, dating from 1960 to 1971.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Notebooks

Names

Lowell, Robert, 1917-1977

Bishop, Elizabeth, 1911-1979

Booth, Philip, 1925-2007

Deutsch, Babette, 1895-1982

Eberhart, Richard, 1904-2005

Fremantle, Anne, 1909-2002

Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965

Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965

Kazin, Alfred, 1915-1998

Meredith, William, 1919-2007

Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972

Salus, Peter H.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977

Witt-Diamant, Ruth

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts & Typescripts written by Lowell

Manuscript box	Beyond the Alps. Typescript (carbon) of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Commander Lowell. 1888-1949. Typescript of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p) With another, uncorrected (carbon) draft. 2 p.; with fragment of draft, on verso of which his: The drive from West Street to Danbury
In his: A declaration of personal responsibility. Typescript (carbon) of statement, signed and undated. 3 p.	Declaration of personal responsibility, A. Typescript (carbon) of statement n.d. (3 p) (3 p) Signed. Accompanied by his: TL (carbon) to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Sept. 8, 1943. 1 p.
Manuscript box	[For] George Santayana. Typescript of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p) With another version of the last 17 lines, on verso of which his Sailing home from Rapalle. [Part] III
Manuscript box	Life studies [New York, 1959] Typescript for title-page, dedicatory page and table of contents n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
Manuscript box	Meditation. Typescript of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) On verso his: [To the reader. After Baudelaire] Typewritten draft of first four lines with the author's ms. corrections
Manuscript box	Memories of West street and Lepke. Typescript of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p) With another, uncorrected (carbon) draft. 1 p.
Manuscript box	[My last afternoon with uncle Devereux Wilson] Aunt Laura. Typescripts (3) of three drafts for the poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Cased	Notebook. Typescript of collection of poems with the author's ms. corrections. Many pages are carbons and photocopies of typescript; many are photocopies of proof sheets sent to the printer for expanded 1970 edition of the poems 1970 Jan. (221 p) (221 p)
Manuscript box. In his: 2 ANS, 9 TLS, 1 TN to William Doreski, April 10, 1965-March 4, 1976. 3 folders	Poems (7). Typescript and typescript (photocopy) some with the author's ms. corrections: Ants; For Theodore Roethke 1908-1963; Return in March; Baudelaire I. The abyss; Recollections; Alcohol 2; Marriage n.d. (7 items) (7 items) Some signed
Manuscript box	Skunk hour. Typescript of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) With his: 1 AL, 1 ALS, 12 TLS to Randall Jarrell, [194-]-1965. Enclosed in letter of Oct. 11, 1957. Folder 1
Manuscript box	[To the reader. After Baudelaire] Typewritten draft of first four lines with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 item) (1 item) On verso of his: Meditation. Typescript of poem
Manuscript box	To the reader. (After Baudelaire). Typescripts (3) of three drafts for the poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p. each) (1 p. each) Published in his Imitations, N.Y., 1961
Manuscript box	Words for Hart Crane. Typescript of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts & Typescripts relating to Lowell

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| Manuscript box | Connolly, Cyril. Poets in neurosis. Holograph draft of review of three collections of verse: For the Union dead by Robert Lowell, Notes from Sicily by Alan Ross, and Ariel by Sylvia Plath n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
Signed |
| Manuscript box
(Lowell, R.) | Hugo, Victor. Russia 1812. Typescript (carbon) of poem translated by Robert Lowell, with ms. transcription of translator's revisions by William Meredith. Dated by Wm. Meredith 1961 Mar. (2 p) (2 p) |
| In Jarrell's: Auden.
Holograph
notebook, p. [133]

In volume with
Jarrell's: The
stranger [by Albert
Camus]
Holograph notes,
p. [16-21] | Jarrell, Randall. [From the kingdom of necessity] Holograph fragment of review of Lord Weary's castle by Robert Lowell n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Jarrell, Randall. [Poetry and the age. From the kingdom of necessity] Holograph notes for review. Review of Robert Lowell's Lord Weary's castle n.d. (6 p) (6 p) |
| Manuscript box
(Lowell, R.) | Pasternak, Boris. Hamlet in Russia. Typescript (carbon) of poem translated by Robert Lowell with ms. transcription of translator's revisions by William Meredith. Dated by Wm. Meredith 1961 Mar. (1 p) (1 p)
With typescript (carbon) reminiscence of Olga Ivinskaya by [Nicolas Nabokov], Feb. 1961 by William Meredith. 9 p. |
| Manuscript box
(Lowell, R.) | Pasternak, Boris. The landlord. Holograph draft and typescript (3 versions, with carbons) of poem translated by Robert Lowell with the translator's ms. revisions. Dated by William Meredith 1961 Mar. (9 p) (9 p)
Holograph draft also includes Lowell's translation of Pasternak's poem, Wild vines, translated here as Wild wine |
| (Lowell, R.) | Racine, Jean. Racine's Phaedra, translated by Robert Lowell. Duplicated typescript with ms. revisions in an unidentified hand. Cover title; title-page wanting? On cover: New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy ca. 1960 (88 p) (88 p)
Came with Randall Jarrell's papers |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

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| Manuscript box.
In: Burke,
Kenneth. 40 ALS,
9 ANS, 740 TLS,
etc. ... to
Hildegard and
James Sibley
Watson, Jr. Folder
46 | Burke, Kenneth. TNS (carbon transcript) to n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box | Deutsch, Babette. TLS and postcard to. Postcard fo March 18, 1963 relates to May Swenson and William Alfred 1955 Feb. 24, 1963 Mar. 18 (1 leaf; 1 card) (1 leaf; 1 card) |
| Manuscript box | Doreski, William. 2 ANS, 9 TLS, 1 TN to 1965 Apr. 10 - 1976 Mar. 4 (12 letters in 3 folders) (12 letters in 3 folders)
Accompanied by his: Poems (7). Typescript and typescript (photocopy), some with the author's ms. corrections, some signed and dated. Includes: Ants; For Theodore Roethke 1908-1963; Return in March; etc. |

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box. In: Nabokov, Vladimir. 7 TL (carbon), 6 TN (carbon), 4 telegrams (copy) to Encounter, Jan. 18, 1959-June 5, 1966. Folder 4
Encounter. 1 TL (copy), 1 TLS (copy) to n.d. (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
- Manuscript box
Fremantle, Anne. TL to 1968 Aug. 9 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box
Jarrell, Mary von Schrader. TLS to. Mentions Randall Jarrell 1966 June 25 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box
Jarrell, Randall. 1 AL, 1 ALS, 12 TLS to [194-] May 21 - 1965 Apr. 29 (14 letters in 3 folders) (14 letters in 3 folders)
Letter of Oct. 11, 1957, encloses his: Skunk hour. Typescript of poem, undated. 1 p.; With ms. note at bottom. Folder 1
- Manuscript box
Kazin, Alfred. 3 TLS to 1962 Mar. 18 - 1969 Oct. 5 (2 p.; 1 p.; 1 p) (2 p.; 1 p.; 1 p)
- Manuscript box
Moore, Marianne. Transcript of postcard to 1961 Mar. 26 (1 p) (1 p)
- In his: A declaration of personal responsibility. Typescript (carbon) of statement, signed and undated. 3 p.
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano. TL (carbon) to 1943 Sept. 8 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box
Witt-Diamant, Ruth. Postcard to 1966 May 20 (1 item) (1 item)

Incoming Correspondence

- Manuscript box
[Meredith, William]. TL (carbon) to Lowell 1960 Mar. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Auden)
Salus, Peter H. 1 ANS, 1 TL (carbon) to Lowell. Relates to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden 1971 Nov. 24, 1971 Dec. 30 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, R.)
Untermeyer, Louis. TL (carbon) to Lowell 1962 Sept. 5 (1 p) (1 p)

Related Correspondence

- Manuscript box
Bishop, Elizabeth. 2 ALS, 5 TLS (1 mutilated), 1 postcard to Randall Jarrell. Several letters mention Robert Frost and Robert Lowell [1950?] Apr. 26 - 1965 Mar. 20 (8 letters in 2 folders) (8 letters in 2 folders)
- Manuscript box
Booth, Philip E. 2 TLS, 1 postcard to Mary von Schrader Jarrell. Letter of Nov. 3, 1965 mentions Robert Lowell 1965 Nov. 3 - 1967 Sept. 6 (2 p.; 1 card; 1 p) (2 p.; 1 card; 1 p)
- Manuscript box
Eberhart, Richard. TLS to Philip E. Booth. Relates to Robert Lowell 1977 Oct. 1 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by his: TLS to P.E.N., Nov. 9, 1977. 1 p.
- Manuscript box (Jarrell)
Flint, Robert. ALS to Mary von Schrader Jarrell. Mentions Randall Jarrell and Robert Lowell 1967 Apr. 6 (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box
Schwartz, Delmore. ALS to Randall Jarrell. Mentions Robert Lowell 1950 Oct. 4 (3 p) (3 p)