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

Guide to the

Louis MacNeice collection of papers

1934-1966

Berg Coll MSS MacNeice

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: MacNeice, Louis, 1907-1963

Title: Louis MacNeice collection of papers

Date: 1934-1966

Size: 82 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, notebooks for 1945 through 1959, and a portrait photograph.

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

Louis MacNeice was a British poet, playwright, literary critic, screenwriter, and translator.

Custodial History

Former owners include Stephen Spender and the Group Theatre Archives.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, notebooks for 1945 through 1959, and a portrait photograph. The manuscripts and typescripts include plays, lecture notes, poems, synopses of stories for broadcast, translations, and reviews of the author's work by W. H. Auden and George Barker. The correspondence, dating from 1934 to 1937, includes letters from the author to Rupert Doone, Geoffrey Grigson, Michael Roberts, and Edward Sackville-West, as well as an undated letter from Georgios Sepheriades to Rex Warner relating to the author.

Key Terms

Names

MacNeice, Louis, 1907-1963
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Barker, George, 1913-1991
Doone, Rupert, 1903-1966
Grigson, Geoffrey, 1905-1985
Roberts, Michael, 1902-1948
Sackville-West, Edward, 1901-1965
Seferis, George, 1900-1971
Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995
Warner, Rex, 1905-1986
Group Theatre (U.S.)

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by MacNeice

Manuscript box	Miscellaneous manuscript material: envelope with deleted manuscript note n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Cased	Another part of the sea. Typescript of play with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (88 p) (88 p) With the author's signed ms. note: Produced for B. B. C. T. V.
Manuscript box	Arnold and Pater. Holograph lecture notes with the author's signed ms. note n.d. (9 p) (9 p) Signed ms. note
Oversize (+)	Autumn sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft n.d. (8 p) (8 p) Signature added later. With Autumn Sequel. Cantos II-IV, XXVI. Final holograph draft. 22 p. In same case his: Autumn sequel: a rhetorical poem in XXVI cantos; Canto in memoriam Dylan Thomas; "Data for Autumn sequel." Holograph notebook; "first drafts..."; etc.
Oversize (+)	Autumn sequel: Cantos II-IV, XXVI. Final holograph draft n.d. (22 p) (22 p) Signature added later. With Autumn Sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft. 8 p. In same case his: Autumn sequel: a rhetorical poem in XXVI cantos; Canto in memoriam D. Thomas; "Data for Autumn sequel." Notebook; "first drafts..."; etc.
Manuscript box	[Autumn sequel] Canto in memoriam Dylan Thomas (Eighteenth canto from a work in progress). Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. Date "19 Nov. 1953" at end deleted n.d. (4 p) (4 p) Signature added later. Accompanied by LS from David Hughes of the London magazine to MacNeice, London, Dec. 1, 1953, 1 p.
Manuscript box	Blacklegs. Holograph play. "First draft." "Unpublished." "Accepted at the Abbey Theatre but never performed." n.d. (24 p) (24 p) Signed. With the author's signed ms. note dating his work 1939
Manuscript box	Christopher Columbus. Typescript (carbon) of play n.d. (74 p) (74 p) Signed. With Appendix, 4 p.
Manuscript box	Faerie queene, The. Provisional scheme for twelve [B.B.C.] broadcasts. Holograph synopsis. Author's marginal ms. note: "Notes for series of broadcasts of Faerie Queene, produced by Louis MacNeice." n.d. (3 p) (3 p) With typescript with author's ms. corrections. 5 p.
Manuscript box	Faerie queene, The. Provisional scheme for twelve [B.B.C.] broadcasts. Another, shorter, draft n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Manuscript box	[Group theatre, The] Typescript n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf) With Robert Medley's signed ms. note: "Possibly by Louis MacNeice?"; Came with the Group theatre archive
Manuscript box	Herbert and Herrick. Holograph notes for a radio programme. Folder identified and signed by the author n.d. (13 p) (13 p) Accompanied by his: Return to school. Holograph draft of radio play, undated. 19 p.
(MacNeice)	[Introductory talk (?) on the Agamemnon of Aeschylus] Holograph n.d. (4 p) (4 p) With: Aeschylus. The Agamemnon of Aeschylus; translated by Louis MacNeice. Typescript. Came with the Group theatre archive
Manuscript box	"Lecture notes for Cambridge--re drama." Incomplete holograph. Pages numbered 7-25. Discusses Yeats, Synge, T. S. Eliot and others and contains an analysis of Samuel Beckett's work n.d. (19 p) (19 p) Signature added later

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by MacNeice (cont.)

Manuscript box	Memoranda to Horace. Goodbye to London. Star gazer. Holograph drafts of three poems with the author's signed and dated (1936) ms. note 1936 (16 p) (16 p) Blue notebook from which poems were clipped laid in
Manuscript box	On the four masters. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Oversize (+)	One for the dead; a modern morality play. Holograph n.d. (79 p) (79 p) With the author's signed ms. note: "At the moment (1961) unpublished and unproduced" and "(a complete first draft of a stage play--probably many alterations to come. 1961)"
Manuscript box	Prologue to "Dido and Aeneas" [by Henry Purcell] Holograph draft. In verse. Written for the Group theatre production at the Arts theatre, London, March 14, 1942. 1942 (3 p) (3 p) Came with the Group theatre archive
Manuscript box	[Prose poem] Holograph n.d. (10 p) (10 p) On verso of p. [1] author's signed ms. note: "Kind of prose poem c. 1925"
Manuscript box	Ravenna. Typescript (carbon) of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signature added later. With later typescript (carbon), signed (later) undated. 1 p.
Manuscript box	Return to school. Holograph draft of a radio play n.d. (19 p) (19 p) With his: Herbert and Herrick. Holograph notes for a radio programme
Manuscript box	Round the corner. Typescript (carbon) of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signature added later
Manuscript box	[Solstices] Holograph poem n.d. (5 p) (5 p) Signed
Manuscript box	Spring cleaning. Typescript of poem with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signature added later
Manuscript box	[station bell, The] Holograph fragment of play. Unpublished. Produced in 1936 by the Birmingham university dramatic society n.d. (14 p) (14 p)
Manuscript box	streets of Laredo, The. Typescript (carbon) of poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signed
Manuscript box	synopses for 12 radio programs, Holograph. n.d. (12 p) (12 p)
Manuscript box	[Trimalchio's feast] Music clues (probable). Holograph outline for B.B.C. broadcast n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
Notebooks	
Oversize (+) In case his: Autumn sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft	[Autumn sequel] "Data for Autumn Sequel. Cantos XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV." Holograph notebook n.d. (1 v) (1 v) Signature added later
Oversize (+) In case his: Autumn sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft	Autumn sequel: first drafts of Cantos III-VIII. Holograph notebook. Also includes some miscellaneous notes and addresses n.d. (1 v) (1 v) Signature added later

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by MacNeice (cont.)

Notebooks (cont.)

- Oversize (+) In case his: Autumn sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft [Autumn sequel] "first drafts of parts of Autumn Sequel." Holograph notebook. Also includes "Notes for films, The conquest of Everest," some miscellaneous notes and addresses n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Signature added later
- Oversize (+) In case his: Autumn sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft [Autumn sequel] "Poss inserts for Autumn sequel." Holograph notebook. Also includes "Notes for Autumn Sequel & rough or partial drafts of Cantos XVIII, XIX, XXI. Also scheme for projected anthology of modern verse." n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Signature added later
- Oversize (+) In case his: Autumn sequel: portions of Cantos [III] XVII-XVIII, XX [XXII] Early holograph draft [Autumn sequel] "Rough drafts of Autumn Sequel incl. XX-XXIII." Holograph notebook. Covers wanting. Also includes miscellaneous notes and addresses n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Signature added later
- Manuscript box [Christopher Columbus; a radio play in verse] Holograph notes n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
With the author's signed ms. note, identifying it. Includes at back of same notebook 5 p. of notes on play on Vienna
- Cased "1945 notes for radio programmes etc." Holograph notebook, lettered "BBC" 1945 (116 p) (116 p)
Signed
- Cased "1947 notes for radio programmes about India." Two holograph notebooks, lettered "BBC" 1947 (2 v) (2 v)
Signed on labels on covers
- Cased "Notes for radio programmes." Holograph notebook, lettered "BBC" n.d. (112 p) (112 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box "Notes for university lectures in Cape Town. 1959." Holograph notebooks, numbered 1-7. Notebooks 1, 5 and 6 mutilated. Written in the University's examination books 1959 (7 v) (7 v)
Signature added later on wrapper of book 1
- In one case [Visitations] Four holograph notebooks, containing the first drafts of various poems 1954 - 1956 (4 v) (4 v)
Signed (later) on the covers

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to MacNeice

- (MacNeice) Aeschylus. The Agamemnon of Aeschylus; translated by Louis MacNeice. Typescript with the translator's ms. corrections n.d. (76 p) (76 p)
With MacNeice's ms. draft of preface and notes on the chorus and scene, 2 p.; accompanied by: MacNeice, Louis. [Introductory talk (?) on the Agamemnon of Aeschylus] Holograph, undated. 4 p.; Came with the Group theatre archive
- In his: Holograph notebook [1965-1968], p. 156-158, 160, 161 Auden, W. H. [Introduction to Persons from Porlock and other plays for radio by Louis MacNeice] Holograph n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham book mart, New York. We moderns. Folder 4 Auden, W. H. [Louis MacNeice] Holograph contribution to We Moderns n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. With Gotham Book Mart's TL (carbon) to Auden, Oct. 7, 1939. 1 p.; Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to MacNeice (cont.)

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| Manuscript box | Auden, W. H. [Louis MacNeice: 1907-1963] Typescript of memorial address with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
Came with his 75 ALS, etc. to Stephen Spender |
| Manuscript box | Barker, George. [Reviews] One for the grave. By Louis MacNeice. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (4 p) (4 p) |
| Manuscript box | Barker, George. [Reviews. Persons from Porlock by Louis MacNeice] Typescript draft with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (5 p) (5 p) |
| Manuscript box
(MacNeice) | Homer. Iliad. The Iliad. Book I. Manuscript translation in the hand of Louis MacNeice n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signature added later. With typescript (carbon) with the author's signed marginal ms. note: "Project abandoned." |
| Oversize (+) | Lee, Laurie. Black Saturday, red Sunday. A programme of Easter in Andalusia. Produced by Louis MacNeice. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections and the producer's (?) ms. directions n.d. (22 p) (22 p)
Signed by both |
| Manuscript box
(MacNeice) | Pocock, Robert. Louis MacNeice: a radio portrait. Typescript (mimeographed) of script with Robert Pocock's ms. revisions. Contributions by W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, John Betjeman, Cyril Connolly, and William Empson 1966 Sept. 7 (26 p) (26 p)
Signed |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

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| Manuscript box | Doone, Rupert. 5 ALS and 2 postcards to [1936] Feb. 8 - [1937] Apr. 19 (7 letters in 2 folders) (7 letters in 2 folders)
Came with the Group theatre archive |
| Manuscript box | Grigson, Geoffrey. 8 ALS and 2 postcards to [1934] Jan. 24 - [1935] Oct. 20 (10 letters in 2 folders) (10 letters in 2 folders) |
| Manuscript box | Roberts, Michael. ANS to. Relates to The Faber book of modern verse, 1936 [1935] July 14 (1 p) (1 p)
With envelope |
| Manuscript box | Sackville-West, Edward. ALS to June 18 (1 p) (1 p) |

Related Correspondence

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Manuscript box
(Warner, Rex) | Sepheriades, Georgios. ALS to Rex Warner. Mentions Louis MacNeice. From benefit auction for P.E.N. International Writer's Fund n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf) |
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Portraits

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Manuscript box | Photograph of MacNeice. 23 x 27 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Signed |
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