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

Guide to the

Edmund Wilson collection of papers

1922-1978

Berg Coll MSS Wilson

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972

Title: Edmund Wilson collection of papers

Date: 1922-1978

Size: 424 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 typescripts, a manuscript, correspondence, 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

Edmund Wilson was an American novelist, poet, essayist, and literary critic.

Custodial History

Some material was formerly owned by the publisher Harper & Row.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of typescripts, a manuscript, correspondence by and about the author, and a portrait photograph. The typescripts consist of an essay by the author, as well as drafts of a biography and an article about him by Alfred Kazin, Valdimir Nabokov, and Allen Tate. The manuscript is a review of the author's work by Wystan Hugh Auden. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dated 1923 to 1971, to Sylvia Beach, Mary Maguire Colum, Anne Fremantle, Alfred Kazin, Samuel Menashe, Vladimir Nabokov, Frances Steloff, and others, as well as letters relating to the author, dated from 1922 to 1978, between various correspondents including Louise Bogan, Alfred Kazin, Harry Levin, John Wain, Elena Wilson, and others. There are letters to Wilson from Christian Gauss, Vera Nabokov, Vladimir Nabokov, Ernest J. Simmons, Sara Teasdale, Louis Untermeyer, Edward Weeks, Katharine S. White, Peter H. Salus, and Helen Woodward, dating from [1940] to 1971.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972
Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
Beach, Sylvia
Bogan, Louise, 1897-1970
Colum, Mary
Fremantle, Anne, 1909-2002
Gauss, Christian, 1878-1951
Kazin, Alfred, 1915-1998
Levin, Harry, 1910-1965
Menashe, Samuel, 1925-2011
Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977
Nabokova, Vera
Salus, Peter H.
Simmons, Ernest J. (Ernest Joseph), 1903-1972
Steloff, Frances, 1887-1989
Teasdale, Sara, 1884-1933
Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977
Wain, John
Weeks, Edward, 1898-1989
White, Katharine Sergeant Angell
Wilson, Elena, 1906-1979
Woodward, Helen, 1882-
Harper & Row, Publishers

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Wilson

Manuscript box
(Gotham) In:
Gotham book
mart, New York.
We moderns.
Folder 74

[John Peale Bishop] Typescript of contribution to We moderns with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. Published in Gotham book mart catalog, no. 42, New York, 1940

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Wilson

Oversize (+) In
his:
Commonplace
book, p. 144, 146,
148, 150, 152

Auden, Wystan Hugh. [Review of To the Finland station, by Edmund Wilson] Holograph n.d. (5 p) (5 p)

Cased

Kazin, Alfred. A walker in the city. Earlier typescript (incomplete) with the author's ms. corrections. Dated "1st draft of Walker, written Jan. - 1947" Paginated 1-54, 1-62 1947 Jan. (81 p) (81 p)

Cased

Kazin, Alfred. A walker in the city. Early typescript (incomplete) with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (97 p) (97 p)
With folder inscribed on cover "Original draft"

Cased

Kazin, Alfred. A walker in the city. Later typescript with the author's ms. corrections. Bound 1951 May 8 (180 p) (180 p)

Cased

Kazin, Alfred. A walker in the city. Final typescript (carbon) with the author's and Edmund Wilson's ms. corrections. Paginated i-v, 1-155 n.d. (160 p) (160 p)
Signed. Published, New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1951

Manuscript box

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich. The strange case of Nabokov and Wilson. Typescript (carbon) of article with the author's ms. corrections. Written as letter to the editor of the New York Review of Books n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
With clipping of published version. Published in the New York Review of books, Aug. 26, 1965

Manuscript box
(Gotham) In:
Gotham book
mart, New York.
We moderns.
Folder 70

Tate, Allen. Edmund Wilson. Typescript of contribution to We Moderns n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed. Enclosed in his ALS to Frances Steloff, Nov. 13, 1939. 1 p.; Published in Gotham Book Mart catalog, no. 42, New York, 1940

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box

Beach, Sylvia. TLS to. Relates to Adrienne Monnier's essay [Joyce's Ulysses and the French public] The humanism of Joyce 1931 May 18 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box

Colum, Mary Maguire. 1 ALS, 2 TLS to 1923 July 1 - 1927 May 18 (1 p.; 2 p.; 1 p) (1 p.; 2 p.; 1 p)

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. TL (copy) to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Fremantle, Anne. ALS to 1968 July 29 (2 p) (2 p)
With Anne Fremantle's ms. note on the verso of p. 2
- Manuscript box Gordan, John D[ozier]. Postcard to 1941 Oct. 7 (1 card) (1 card)
- Manuscript box (Gotham) Hanlin, Frances Midner. AL (draft) to. Relates to Djuna Barnes 1965? Oct. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
On the addressee's TLS to Wilson, Oct. 19 [1965]; with his ANS to Frances Steloff at head of page; with his: 16 ALS, 2 ANS, 13 postcards to F. Steloff. March 10, 1935-[Oct. 1965] Folder 6
- Manuscript box Harper & bros. ALS to. Relates to Allan Ross Macdougall's edition of Edna St. Vincent Millay's letters 1952 May 8 (1 p) (1 p)
With two TL (carbon) to Wilson. From the files of Harper & Row, inc.
- Manuscript box Kazin, Alfred. 25 ALS, 2 ANS, 7 TLS, 2 postcards, 1 Christmas card to 1942 Nov. 22 - 1970 Dec. 16 (37 letters in 8 folders) (37 letters in 8 folders)
- Manuscript box Menashe, Samuel. TNS to 1957 May 15 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box. In: Nabokov, Vladimir. 97 ALS (copies), 52 TLS (copies) to Edmund Wilson [Aug. 1940]-March 2, 1971. Folders 6, 23, 28 Nabokov, Vera. 1 ALS, 1 ANS, 1 TLS to 1942 Nov. 7 - 1952 May 27 (3 letters) (3 letters)
- Manuscript box. In: Nabokov, Vladimir. 97 ALS (copies), 52 TLS (copies) to Edmund Wilson [Aug. 1940]-March 2, 1971. 37 folders in 2 boxes Nabokov, Vladimir. 90 ALS, 13 ANS, 29 TLS, 5 postcards to 1940 Nov. 12 - 1971 Mar. 8 (137 letters in 37 folders) (137 letters in 37 folders)
- Manuscript box Nelson, Howard. TNS to. Relates to Ernest Hemingway 1963 May 3 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Salus, Peter H. 1 TLS to 1971 July 19 (1 p) (1 p)
Also, 1 TL (carbon) from Peter H. Salus to Edmund Wilson, July 9, 1971. 1 p.; 1 TL (carbon) of related correspondence to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden
- Manuscript box (Gotham) Steloff, Frances. 16 ALS, 2 ANS, 13 postcards to 1938 Mar. 10 - [1965 Oct (31 letters in 6 folders) (31 letters in 6 folders)
With 9 TL (carbon) replies; also his "Here are some rarities in modern books" and his description of coin collection. Two holographs, undated. 1 p. each; In folder 6 his: AL (draft) to Frances Midner Hanlin [Oct. 1965?] 1 l.
- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham book mart, New York. We moderns. Folder 74 Steloff, Frances. ALS, postcard to 1939 Sept. 28, 1939 Oct. 6 (1 p.; 1 card) (1 p.; 1 card)
Letter encloses clipping of the writer's review of Nathaniel West's The day of the locust
- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Dos Passos, John. 10 ALS, 5 TLS...to Frances Steloff, 1940-1967. Folder 3 Steloff, Frances. ANS to 1965 Dec. (1 p) (1 p)
On publisher's prospectus with ANS by John Dos Passos to Steloff
- Manuscript box (Nabokov) [White], Katherine. TL (carbon) to. Relates to Vladimir Nabokov 1947 Nov. 12 (3 p) (3 p)

Incoming Correspondence

Correspondence (cont.)
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box.
In: Nabokov,
Vladimir. 97 ALS
(copies), 52 TLS
(copies) to Wilson.
[Aug., 1940] - Mar.
2, 1971. Folder 14
- Gauss, Christian. TLS to Wilson 1946 Feb. 15 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box.
In: Nabokov,
Vladimir. 97 ALS
(copies), 52 TLS
(copies) to Wilson.
[Aug., 1940] - Mar.
2, 1971. Folders
22, 31, 36
- Nabokov, Vera. TL (carbon), TLS (copy), TNS (carbon) to Wilson 1950 Apr. 8
- 1959 June 30 (3 letters) (3 letters)
- Manuscript box
- Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich. 97 ALS (copies), 52 TLS (copies) to
Wilson 1940 Aug.] - 1971 Mar. 2 (149 letters in 37 folders in 2 boxes) (149 letters in 37
folders in 2 boxes)
Accompanied by: Wilson, Edmund. 90 ALS, 13 ANS, 29 TLS, 5 postcards to Vladimir
Nabokov. Nov. 12, 1940-March 8, 1971. 37 folders in 2 boxes; with Als, ANS, TLS to Vera
Nabokov. Nov. 7, 1942-May 27, 1952. Folders 6, 23, 28; etc.
- Manuscript box
- Salus, Peter H. 1 TL (carbon) to Wilson 1971 July 9 (1 p) (1 p)
With: Wilson, Edmund. TLS to Peter H. Salus. July 19, 1971. 1 p.; TL (carbon) or related
correspondence. Relates to the Festschrift for W. H. Auden
- Manuscript box.
In: Nabokov,
Vladimir. 97 ALS
(copies), 52 TLS
(copies) to
Edmund Wilson.
[Aug. 1940] -
March 2, 1971.
Folder 27
- Simmons, Ernest J. 2 TLS to Wilson 1952 Jan. 30, 1952 Feb. 5 (2 p. each) (2 p.
each)
- Manuscript box
- Teasdale, Sara. ALS to [Edmund?] Wilson. Relates to Marcel Proust 1928
Mar. 15 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box
(Wilson, E.)
- Untermeyer, Louis. TL (carbon) to Wilson 1962 Aug. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box.
In: Nabokov,
Vladimir. 97 ALS
(copies), 52 TLS
(copies) to
Edmund Wilson.
[Aug. 1940] -
March 2, 1971.
Folder 10
- Weeks, Edward. TLS to Wilson 1944 June 30 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box.
In: Nabokov,
Vladimir. 4 ALS
(copy), TLS, 27
TLS (copy), 160
TL (carbon), 15
TNS (copy), 49
TN (carbon), etc.
... to The New
Yorker. June 18,
1942-Feb. 6,
1970. Folder 2
- White, Katharine S. TLS to Wilson 1944 Jan. 11 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box
(Sinclair, U.)
- Woodward, Helen (Rosen). TL (copy?) to [Wilson]. Relates to William E.
Woodward and Upton Sinclair n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Came with Upton Sinclair's correspondence with William E. Woodward

Related Correspondence

Correspondence (cont.)
Related Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Gotham) In: Gotham book mart, New York. We moderns. Folder 80
Bogan, Louise. TLS to Frances Steloff. Addressed to Kay Steele. Declines to write appreciation of Edmund Wilson for publication in We moderns, Gotham book mart catalog no. 42, New York, 1940 1939 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box
Kazin, Alfred. TL, TLS to Harry Levin. Relates to Edmund Wilson 1977 Oct. 21, 1978 Jan. 3 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
- Manuscript box
Levin, Harry. 3 ALS, 2 TLS to Alfred Kazin. Relates to Edmund Wilson 1969 Mar. 17 - 1978 Jan. 12 (5 letters) (5 letters)
- Manuscript box
Levin, Harry. TLS (photocopy) to William A. Koshland. Relates to Edmund Wilson 1977 Dec. 20 (1 p) (1 p)
With ANS from Martha Kaplan to Alfred Kazin. Postmarked Dec. 29, 1977. 1 p.
- Manuscript box (Rukeyser)
New Republic, New York. 1 TL, 4 TN to Muriel Rukeyser. 1932 Feb. 24 - 1934 June 29 (5 letters in 1 folder) (5 letters in 1 folder)
Signed Edmund Wilson, Malcolm Cowley, Frederic Ridgeley Torrance, Lawrence Brosin, B. E. Bettins respectively
- Manuscript box
Rascoe, Burton. TLS to Howard Irving Young. Mentions Rupert Hughes and Edmund Wilson 1922 Jan. 3 (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box
Wain, John. 2 ALS, 8 TLS, 1 TLS (photocopy, circular), 1 TL (photocopy, circular), 1 TNS, to Alfred Kazin. Relates to Edmund Wilson 1975 Dec. 27 - 1978 June 3 (12 letters in 3 folders) (12 letters in 3 folders)
- Manuscript box (Wilson)
Wilson, Elena. 4 TLS to Alfred Kazin. Writer is the widow of Edmund Wilson 1974 Feb. 6 - 1977 Nov. 3 (4 letters) (4 letters)

Portraits

- Manuscript box
Photograph of Edmund Wilson with Alfred Kazin and Aaron Copeland. 20 x 25 cm. 1964 (1 item) (1 item)
With photograph of Alfred Kazin and Aaron Copeland, inscribed on verso in Kazin's hand "MacDowell Colony, 1964. Presentation of MacDonald medal to Edmund Wilson." 13 x 18 cm.