

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Benét Family Collection

YCAL MSS 1108



Michael L. Forstrom

2017

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1108

CREATOR: Benét Family

TITLE: Benét Family Collection

DATES: 1866–1979

BULK DATES: 1912–1959

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9.52 linear feet (25 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Benét family collection consists of correspondence, writings, and other material documenting personal and professional activities of members of the literary Benét family. The collection features material by and relating to William Rose Benét and Stephen Vincent Benét.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.benetfamcol>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.benetfamcol>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired by gift and purchase, 1941-1996. For more information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 22: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Benét Family Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Benét Family Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The Benét Family Collection contains material acquired by the library through gift and purchase from 1941 through 1979. Manuscript material formerly classified under multiple call numbers, as well as printed ephemera that had been cataloged separately, was brought together and processed during 2016-2017. Collection materials identified after 2017 were added to Series IX-XI in 2022.

Former call numbers: Za Benét, Uncat Za Ms 143, Uncat Za Ms 294, Uncat Za File 13, Uncat Za File 37, Uncat Za File 225, Uncat Za File 383, Uncat Za File 415, and Za B436 +1.

Related Materials

Material by or relating to the Benét family acquired by the library from family sources is located in the Benét Family Papers (YCAL MSS 1107). Additional material by or relating to Stephen Vincent and Rosemary Benét can be found in the Stephen Vincent Benét and Rosemary Benét Papers (YCAL MSS 1046). Additional material by or relating to William Rose Benét can be found in the William Rose Benét Papers (YCAL MSS 1100).

Benét family

Brigadier General S. V. (Stephen Vincent) Benét was born 22 January 1827 in St. Augustine, Florida. He studied at Hallowell's school in Alexandria, Virginia and then at the University of Georgia and the United States Military Academy, where he graduated in 1849. He was appointed to the Ordnance Corps, and served at the Watervliet Arsenal, at Washington, at Frankford Arsenal, again at Washington, and then at the St. Louis Arsenal. In 1859 he became Assistant Professor of Geography, History, and Ethics at West Point, and from 1861 until 1864 was instructor of Ordnance and the Science of Gunnery. From 1865 until 1869 he was in command of Frankford arsenal. In 1869 he became Assistant to the Chief of Ordnance, and in 1874 he succeeded to Chief of Ordnance with the rank of Brigadier General. He translated Jomini's "Political and Military History of the Campaign of Waterloo" (New York, 1853) and he is the author of a treatise on "Military Law and the Practice of Courts-Martial" (1862) and "Electro-Ballistic Machines and the Schultze Chronoscope" (1866).

He married Laura Amanda Walker and together they had two sons, James Walker Benét and Laurence Vincent Benét.

James Walker Benét (1857-1928), a Colonel in the U.S. Army, was born 16 July, 1857 in Richmond, Kentucky. He graduated from West Point Academy in 1880 and went on to serve most of his military career in the Army Ordnance Department. From 1890 until his retirement in 1921, he served at the Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia (1890-1984); Bethlehem Iron Works, South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (1894-1898); Ordnance Headquarters, Buffalo, New York (1898-1899); Watervliet Arsenal, New York (1904-1905, 1919-1921); Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois (1904-1905), Benicia Arsenal, California (1905-1911), and Augusta Arsenal, Georgia (1911-1918).

James Walker Benét married Frances Neill Rose (1860-1940) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1883. Ms. Rose, born 23 October, 1860 in Washington, D.C., was the child of William John Rose and Mary Lee Mahon. She attended Mrs. Sutton's School for Girls. Their children include authors Laura Benét, William Rose Benét, and Stephen Vincent Benét.

Laura Benét (1884-1979) was educated at the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, and at Vassar and Moravian colleges. She worked at the Spring Street Settlement in New York City from 1915 to 1917 and at the American Red Cross in Augusta, Georgia from 1917 to 1919. She later took on editorial and free-lance writing assignments. She was the author of several poetry collections, fiction, and biographical works.

William Rose Benét (1886-1950) was educated at Albany Academy and Yale College (1903-1907). After college, Benét worked for *Century Magazine* as a reader. He served in the U.S. Air Services during the First World War, and after the war took work as a copy writer for an advertising firm. In 1920, Henry Seidel Canby brought Benét on as an assistant editor at the *New York Evening Post* and in 1923, Canby, Benét, and their fellow editors left the *Post* to form the *Saturday Review*.

William Rose Benét was the author of several collections of poetry, a novel, and a collection of essays. His autobiography in verse, *The Dust Which Is God* (1941), was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1942. In addition to his long-standing (1923-1950) position with the *Saturday Review*, Benét contributed to several compilations of English-language poetry and literature.

William Rose Benét married four times, to: Teresa Frances Thomson (1912-1919), with whom he had three children, James Walker Benét (1914-2012), Kathleen Anne (Benét) Fry, and Frances Rosemary (Benét) Dawson; poet Elinor Wylie (1923-1928); actress Lora Baxter (1932-1937); and children's book author Majorie Flack (1941-1950).

Stephen Vincent Benét (1898-1943), educated at Summerville Academy and Yale College (1915-1919), was a well known and widely read author in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s. After the success of his long poem, *John Brown's Body* (1928), for which he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1929, he regularly published poems, short stories, and other work in popular magazines such as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. His short story, "The Devil and Daniel Webster" (1936) was awarded the O. Henry Memorial Award in 1937. In addition to poetry and short stories, he is the author of novels, book reviews, essays, radio and stage plays, screenplays, and speeches.

Stephen Vincent Benét and Rosemary Carr married in 1921. They had three children, Thomas, Stephanie Jane, and Rachel.

Biographical information taken from Arlington National Cemetery website and other sources.

Scope and Contents

The Benét family collection consists of correspondence, writings, and other material documenting personal and professional activities of members of the literary Benét family. The collection features material by and relating to William Rose Benét and Stephen Vincent Benét.

Noteworthy correspondence files for Stephen Vincent Benét can be found with Yale College classmates Shreve Cowles Badger and John Chipman Farrar, with the literary agency Brandt & Brandt, for which there are approximately 227 pieces of correspondence, and with publishers Doubleday, Doran & Company and Farrar & Rinehart.

Larger correspondence files for William Rose Benét can be found with his third wife, Lora Baxter, the poets Jeremy Ingalls and Starr Nelson, and the *Saturday Review*. There are approximately 92 pieces of correspondence from Benét to Baxter, and the Starr Nelson gift consists of six scrapbooks containing approximately 360 letters between Nelson and Benét, as well as photographs, drafts or fair copies of writings, clippings, and printed ephemera.

The two largest groups of manuscript writings for Stephen Vincent Benét can be found in the Farrar & Rinehart Gift, which includes approximately 200 reader reports, and in the Material from Other Sources series, which includes drafts and printed versions of several works. For example, there are drafts of the poetry collection, *Songs of Dear Old Yale*, and a musical score, "The Headless Horseman," done in collaboration with Douglas Moore.

Drafts of poems and other writings by William Rose Benét can be found in the Reese Baxter and Wallace G. Fiske gifts. Other writings in the collection include a draft, typescript and autograph manuscript, of an autobiography by Colonel James Walker Benét.

Arrangement

Organized into eleven series: I. Shreve Cowles Badger Gifts, 1918-1944. II. Reese Baxter Gift, 1932-1958. III. Brandt & Brandt Gift, 1930-1943. IV. John Chipman Farrar Gifts, 1918-1960. V. Farrar & Rinehart Gift, 1933-1957. VI. Wallace G. Fiske Gift, 1914-1959. VII. Henry R. Hallowell Gifts, 1920-1958. VIII. Starr Nelson Gift, 1942-1950. IX. Material from Other Sources, 1909-1979. X. John Franklin Carter Gifts, 1917-1943. XI. Seven Gables Bookshop Gift, 1866-1912.

Collection Contents

Series I: Shreve Cowles Badger Gift, 1918–1944

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

The Shreve Cowles Badger gift contains correspondence to Badger from members of the Benét family and others and writings by and about Stephen Vincent Benét. Correspondence features 30 pieces of correspondence to Badger from Stephen Vincent Benét, a Yale College classmate.

Gift of Shreve Cowles Badger, 1944.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Babb, James T. (James Tinkham)	1944 July
b. 1, f. 2	Benét, Frances Rose	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Benét, Laura	1943
b. 1, f. 4	Benét, Rosemary	1921-1943, undated
b. 1, f. 5-6	Benét, Stephen Vincent	1918-1943, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Benét, William Rose	1921 December 2
b. 1, f. 8	Carter, John Franklin	1917–1933
b. 1, f. 9	Lambert, Samuel W.	1943
b. 1, f. 10	<i>Life</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 11	MacLeish, Archibald	1943 November 12
b. 1, f. 12	Scott, Arthur P.	1921 December 31

Writings

Badger, Shreve Cowles

b. 1, f. 13	"Stephen Vincent Benét and His Yale Contemporaries," essay, draft, typescript carbon, corrected	undated
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Benét, Stephen Vincent

b. 1, f. 14	"The Proud Huntsmen," poem, printed version, <i>Parabalou</i>	[1920?]
b. 1, f. 15	"The Veteran," poem, draft, typescript carbon	undated

Series II: Reese Baxter Gift, 1932–1958*0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The Reese Baxter gift contains correspondence, writings, and other material relating chiefly to William Rose Benét and Lora Baxter. Benét and Baxter were married from 1932 until 1937, and the group features approximately 92 pieces of correspondence from Benét to Baxter dating from 1932 until the year of his death, 1950. There are drafts and printed versions of poems by Benét and, among other materials, there is a copy of Benét's last will and testament.

Gift of Reese Baxter, 1990.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 143.

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material.

Correspondence		
b. 2, f. 16	Amisano, Dorothy to Mr. Malicoat	1956 February 18
b. 2, f. 17	Baxter, Lora to Dorothy Amisano	1948-1953, undated
b. 2, f. 18	Benét, William Rose to Dorothy Amisano	1938-1950, undated
b. 2, f. 19-24	Benét, William Rose to Lora Baxter	1932-1950, undated
b. 2, f. 25	Benét, William Rose to Mrs. Hugh Bullock	1936 March 19
b. 2, f. 26-27	Mitchell, Alice (Baxter) to Lora Baxter	1948-1954, undated
b. 2, f. 28	Wescott, Glenway to Mrs. Benét	1950 June 8
b. 2, f. 29	Others	1948-1958, undated
Writings		
Writings of Lora Baxter		
b. 2, f. 30	"The Personal Touch," story, draft, typescript carbon	undated
b. 2, f. 31	"What Is It?" poem, draft, typescript, corrected	undated
Writings of William Rose Benét		
b. 2, f. 32	Poems, drafts, typescript and autograph manuscript, and printed versions	1932-1947, undated
Writings of Others		
Nelson, Starr		
b. 2, f. 33	"In the Boulder on the Shore," tribute, typescript carbon	1950 October 10
Salomon, Isidor Lawrence		

Writings > Writings of Others > Salomon, Isidor Lawrence (continued)

b. 2, f. 34	"W.R.B. (1886-1950)," poem, typescript, inscribed	1950 May 11
Unidentified		
b. 2, f. 35	Poems, drafts, typescript and autograph manuscript	undated
b. 2, f. 36	Unidentified	undated
Other Material		
b. 2, f. 37	Cancelled check	1952 December 12
b. 2, f. 38	Clippings	1932-1957, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 273	Clippings	1932-1955, undated
b. 3, f. 39	Drawings	1933, undated
b. 3, f. 40	Invitation list	1951
b. 3, f. 41	Legal documents	1937-1955
b. 3, f. 42	Manuscript notes	undated
b. 3, f. 43-44	Printed material	1943-1951, undated

Series III: Brandt & Brandt Gift, 1930–1943

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

The Brandt & Brandt gift consists of the literary agency's correspondence file for Stephen Vincent Benét for the period from 1930 through 1943. There are approximately 227 pieces of correspondence from Benét to various representatives of the firm, including many to founder Carl Brandt. Letters concern literary and personal topics, with many relating to stories and articles for publication.

Gift of Brandt & Brandt, 1955.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 4, f. 45-50 Correspondence

1930-1943,
undated

Series IV: John Chipman Farrar Gifts, 1918–1960*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Correspondence, writings, and printed material relating to Stephen Vincent Benét assembled by Yale college classmate, and publisher, John Chipman Farrar.

Gifts of John Chipman Farrar, 1941-1960.

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material.

Correspondence		
b. 5, f. 51-52	Benét, Stephen Vincent	1918-1942, undated
b. 5, f. 53	Engel, Gabriel	1946 January 11
b. 5, f. 54	Yale University. Library	1941 April 24
Writings		
Benét, Stephen Vincent		
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 274	"Listen to the People," printed version	circa 1941
Chamberlain, John		
b. 5, f. 55	"The New Books," review of <i>Western Star</i> by Stephen Vincent Benét, proof, corrected	[1943] June
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 275	"The New Books," review of <i>Western Star</i> by Stephen Vincent Benét, proof, corrected	[1943] June
Other Material		
b. 5, f. 56	Clippings	1928–1960
b. 5, f. 57	Printed ephemera	1939, 1947

Series V: Farrar & Rinehart Gift, 1933–1957*2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)*

The Farrar & Rinehart gift comprises the publisher's files for Stephen Vincent Benét. There are general correspondence files for Rosemary and Stephen Vincent Benét containing original letters, carbons of letters from Farrar & Rinehart, and third party correspondence with other publishers and the literary agency Brandt & Brandt. There are also files relating to a memorial, permissions, publicity, and individual works by Benét.

Other material features approximately 200 reader reports written by Benét on different titles. This group of material would appear to represent what amounts to Benét's unpublished literary criticism. Reports, typewritten, vary in length from a few lines to several pages. Most reports are written in an epistolary style, addressed to John Farrar or others in the firm. In reports, Benét highlights or criticizes aspects of the work, offers his opinion on whether or not Farrar & Rinehart should publish the work, and sometimes either identifies areas needing attention or offers advice to authors on how to move forward.

Gift of Farrar & Rinehart, 195[?].

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Other Material.

Correspondence

General Correspondence

b. 6, f. 58-59	Benét, Rosemary	1936-1947, undated
b. 6, f. 60-69	Benét, Stephen Vincent	1934-1945
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 276	Material removed from Benét, Stephen Vincent	1942, [1944?]
b. 7, f. 70-73	Benét, Stephen Vincent	1945-1957, undated
b. 7, f. 74-78	"Memorial folder"	1943, undated
b. 7, f. 79	"Permissions"	1937-1955, undated
b. 7, f. 80-82	"Promotion booklet"	1943-1944, undated

By Title

b. 8, f. 83-85	<i>America</i>	1943-1956, undated
b. 8, f. 86	<i>The Beginning of Wisdom</i>	1948 October 28
b. 8, f. 87	"Biography"	1948-1949, undated
b. 8, f. 88-92	<i>A Book of Americans</i>	1933-1957, undated
b. 8, f. 93	<i>Burning City</i>	1934-1937, undated

Correspondence > By Title (continued)

b. 8, f. 94	"A Child Is Born"	1942-1946, undated
b. 8, f. 95	"Companion to 'A Book of Americans' (Never Published)"	1934
b. 8, f. 96	<i>Dear Adolf</i>	1942
b. 9, f. 97-98	<i>The Devil and Daniel Webster</i>	1937-1956, undated
b. 9, f. 99	"The Devil and Daniel Webster" libretto	1939-1953, undated
b. 9, f. 100	<i>James Shore's Daughter</i>	1935-1937
b. 9, f. 101-103	<i>John Brown's Body</i>	1933-1957, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 277	Clipping removed from <i>John Brown's Body</i>	undated
b. 9, f. 104	<i>John Brown's Body</i> revised edition	1954-1956, undated
b. 9, f. 105	<i>Johnny Pye and the Fool-killer</i>	1938-1939, undated
b. 9, f. 106-107	"Listen to the People"	1941-1954, undated
b. 9, f. 108	"Nightmare at Noon"	1940-1941, undated
b. 9, f. 109	"Poetry Anthology (Never Published)"	1939-1940, undated
b. 10, f. 110	"The Power and the Land"	1940-1943, undated
b. 10, f. 111-112	<i>The Selected Works of Stephen Vincent Benét</i>	1938-1955, undated
b. 10, f. 113-114	<i>The Selected Works of Stephen Vincent Benét</i> copyright information	1941-1955, undated
b. 10, f. 115	"Sing a Song of Americans"	1942-1946
b. 10, f. 116	<i>Tales Before Midnight</i>	1939-1942, undated
b. 10, f. 117-118	<i>They Burned the Books</i>	1942-1943, undated
b. 10, f. 119	<i>Thirteen O'Clock</i>	1937-1945
b. 10, f. 120	We Stand United, and Other Radio Scripts	1941-1957, undated

Correspondence > By Title (continued)

b. 10, f. 121-122	<i>Western Star</i>	1934-1956, undated
b. 10, f. 123	<i>Young Adventure</i>	1945
b. 11, f. 124-127	<i>Zero Hour</i>	1940-1941, undated
Other Material		
b. 11, f. 128	Radio scripts	undated
b. 11, f. 129-138	Reader reports	1936-1943, undated
b. 12, f. 139-140	Reader reports	1940-1942, undated
b. 12, f. 141	"Speeches"	1942, undated
b. 12, f. 142	Other work	undated

Series VI: Wallace G. Fiske Gift, 1914–1959*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The Fiske gift contains material relating to the Benét family, and William Rose Benét in particular, assembled by the Reverend Emerson Hugh Lalone. Correspondence includes subdivisions for letters to Lalone and to William Rose Benét. There are several pieces of writing by Benét, including corrected typescript drafts of a possible story, "Gowden Elspie," and article, "Night Thoughts of a Goldsmith." Miscellaneous other material, such as biographical information, clippings, and photographs, relate chiefly to William Rose Benét.

Gift of Wallace G. Fiske, 1957 date unknown.

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material.

Correspondence

Emerson Hugh Lalone Correspondence

b. 13, f. 143	Benét, James, 1914-	1957 March 28
b. 13, f. 144	Benét, Laura	1957
b. 13, f. 145	Benét, William Rose	1949-1950, undated
b. 13, f. 146	Cady, Harrison	1957 April
b. 13, f. 147	Coe, Lloyd Includes letter to Coe William Rose Benét and material relating to <i>The Dust Which Is God</i>	1940 July 24
b. 13, f. 148	Fry, George Blanchard, Mrs.	1957 April 16
b. 13, f. 149	Pearson, Norman Holmes	1956-1958, undated
b. 13, f. 150	Smythe, Daniel	1957
b. 13, f. 151	St. Lawrence University. Library	1957
b. 13, f. 152	Yale University. Library	1957

William Rose Benét Correspondence

b. 13, f. 153	Canby, Henry Seidel	1943 September 17
b. 13, f. 154	Eaton, Walter Prichard	1920 January 12
b. 13, f. 155	Flanner, Hildegarde	1932 June 16
b. 13, f. 156	Foley, John L.	1942 July 12
b. 13, f. 157	Fry, Kathleen Anne (Benét)	1941 January 13
b. 13, f. 158	Hobson, Dorothy	1942 July 16
b. 13, f. 159	Pratt, E. J.	1948 November 17

Correspondence > William Rose Benét Correspondence (continued)

b. 13, f. 160	<i>Saturday Review</i>	1951 [October?]
b. 13, f. 161	Sutton, E. F. (Edward Forrester)	1914 July 27
b. 13, f. 162	Updegraff, Allan	1915 January 28
b. 13, f. 163	Others	1931-1948, undated
b. 13, f. 164-165	Copies of letters to others	undated
Other Correspondence		
b. 13, f. 166	Others	1950-1958, undated
Writings		
Writings by William Rose Benét		
b. 13, f. 167	"[Gowden?] Elspie," draft, typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 13, f. 168	"Maurois, Andre: Aspect of Biography," [lecture?] notes, typescript	circa 1928
b. 13, f. 169	"Night Thoughts of a Goldsmith," draft, typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 13, f. 170	"Pan and the Children," poem, typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 13, f. 171	"Reviewing Ten Years: A Personal Record of <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i> ," essay, printed version	undated
b. 13, f. 172	"Summa," poem, typescript, signed	undated
Writings of Others		
Cousins, Norman		
b. 13, f. 173	"Don't Resign from the Human Race," essay, printed version, <i>Saturday Review of Literature</i>	1948 August 7
Henderson, Archibald		
b. 13, f. 174	"Mathematics and the Physical Sciences," essay, printed version, signed	undated
Hillyer, Robert		
b. 13, f. 175	"Poetry's New Priesthood," article, printed version, <i>Saturday Review of Literature</i>	1949 June 18
Lampson, Oliver Locker		
b. 13, f. 176	"Frederick Locker Lampson," essay, printed version	undated
Lowell, Amy		
b. 13, f. 177	"Walt Whitman and the New Poetry," essay, printed version, <i>The Yale Review</i>	undated
Nelson, Starr		

Writings > Writings of Others > Nelson, Starr (continued)

b. 13, f. 178	"In the Boulder on the Shore," tribute, typescript, signed	1950 October 10
Other Material		
b. 13, f. 179	Addresses	undated
b. 13, f. 180	Bibliographical information	undated
b. 13, f. 181	Biographical information	undated
b. 13, f. 182	Certificate	1945 January 18
b. 13, f. 183	Clippings	1922-1948, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 278	Clippings	1918-1942, undated
b. 13, f. 184	Empty envelope	undated
b. 13, f. 185	Genealogical information	undated
b. 13, f. 186	Manuscript notes	undated
b. 13, f. 187	Photographs	undated
b. 13, f. 188-190	Printed material	1934-1959, undated
b. 13, f. 191	Quotes	undated
b. 13, f. 192	Scrapbook page	1914, undated

Series VII: Henry R. Hollowell Gifts, 1920–1958*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

The Hollowell gifts contains a small amount of material relating to Stephen Vincent Benét.

Gifts of Henry R. Hollowell, 1979.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Other Material.

Correspondence

b. 14, f. 193	Benét, Stephen Vincent	1928-[1936?]
b. 14, f. 194	Fenton, Charles A.	1958 July
b. 14, f. 195	House of Books, Ltd.	1939-1944, undated
b. 14, f. 196	Empty envelope	1943 April 21

Other Material

b. 14, f. 197	Printed ephemera	1920–1939
b. 14, f. 198	Receipts	1939–1945

Series VIII: Starr Nelson Gift, 1942–1950*1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)*

The Starr Nelson gift features six scrapbooks (“volumes”) containing correspondence between Nelson and William Rose Benét. Correspondence, including approximately 360 original letters between Nelson and Benét, is arranged in chronological order from 1942 until 1950. Volumes also contain photographs, drafts or fair copies of writings, clippings, and printed ephemera.

The correspondence between the two appears to start with a short autograph letter from Benét (1886-1950) to Nelson (1910-?), dated August 12, 1942, in which Benét informs Nelson that he is accepting her poem, “The Lovers in Ascension,” for publication in the *Saturday Review*.

Gift of Starr Nelson, date unknown.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Other Material.

Correspondence		
b. 15, f. 199-200	Volume I Includes copies of poems and photographs	1942–1944
b. 15, f. 201-202	Volume II	1944–1945
b. 15, f. 203-204	Volume III	1945–1946
b. 16, f. 205-206	Volume IV	1947
b. 16, f. 207-208	Volume V	1948–1949
b. 16, f. 209-210	Volume VI	1949–1950
Other Material		
b. 17, f. 211	Scrapbook	1947-1950, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 279	Material removed from scrapbook	1950, undated

Series IX: Material from Other Sources, 1909–1979*1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Material from Other Sources contains other small gifts and purchases of material relating to the Benét family. Correspondence is subdivided for Stephen Vincent and William Rose Benét correspondence and consists chiefly of outgoing letters. The largest files can be found for correspondence between Stephen Vincent Benét and the publisher Doubleday and Company, and for correspondence between William Rose Benét and the poet Jeremy Ingalls and the *Saturday Review*. The *Saturday Review* file contains original letters to Benét and other staff members at the journal, original letters from Benét to other staff, and carbons of outgoing letters. A good amount of *Saturday Review* correspondence is with translator Rae Dalven.

Writings feature multiple works, including drafts and printed versions, by Stephen Vincent Benét, as well as drafts of several poems by Elinor Wylie. Other noteworthy writings include a draft, typescript and autograph manuscript, of an autobiography by James Walker Benét (1857-1928) and a setting copy, corrected and with printer's annotations, of Muriel Rukeyser's *Theory of Flight* (Yale University Press, 1935). Rukeyser's collection was awarded the Yale Younger Poets Prize in 1934. Stephen Vincent Benét, who served as editor of the series from 1933 to 1942, made the selection and wrote a foreword to the 1935 publication.

Acquired by gift and purchase, 1941-1979.

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material.

Correspondence

Stephen Vincent Benét Correspondence

b. 18, f. 212	Allan, [Ralph D.]	undated
b. 25, f. 341	Andrews, John Williams	1920–1933
b. 18, f. 213	Babb, James T. (James Tinkham)	undated
b. 18, f. 213a	Belitt, [Ben?]	undated
b. 18, f. 213b	Bradley, Mrs. Franklin T.	1939 February 27
b. 18, f. 214	Carter, John Franklin	undated
b. 18, f. 215	Crawford, Jack Randall	1934, undated
b. 18, f. 215a	Davidson, [Eugene]	[1935 July 14?]
b. 18, f. 216-217	Doubleday, Doran & Company	1927–1942
b. 18, f. 218	Hart, M. M.	undated
b. 18, f. 219	Jackson, Stuart W. (Stuart Wells)	1940 February 11
b. 18, f. 220	Knollenberg, Bernard	undated
b. 18, f. 221	Morison, Samuel Eliot (transcription)	undated
b. 18, f. 222	Price, Allan	1942, undated
b. 18, f. 223	Samson, H.	undated

Correspondence > Stephen Vincent Benét Correspondence (continued)

b. 18, f. 224	Shaw, Thomas S.	[1933?] September 6
b. 18, f. 225	Stephens, Pauline Frances	1933-1934
b. 18, f. 226	Taylor, William	undated
b. 18, f. 227	Tuttle, H. E. (Henry Emerson) (transcription)	undated
b. 18, f. 228	Ware, [John N.]	undated
b. 18, f. 229	Wing, Donald Goddard	1942 January 25
b. 18, f. 230	Yale University Press	[1928?]-1935
b. 18, f. 231	Unidentified	undated
William Rose Benét Correspondence		
b. 18, f. 232	Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.	1931
b. 18, f. 233	Bacon, Leonard	1913 December 2
b. 25, f. 342	Benét, Frances Rose	1909 September 10
b. 18, f. 234	Cady, Harrison	1943-1950, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 280	Clipping removed from Cady, Harrison	1950 April 23
b. 18, f. 235	Cushing, John P.	1922 December 24
b. 18, f. 236	Davidman, Joy	1949
b. 18, f. 237	Fisher, A. Hugh (Alfred Hugh) Includes photographs	1912-1926
b. 18, f. 238	Fletcher, John Gould (photostats)	undated
b. 18, f. 239-240	Ingalls, Jeremy	1942-1950, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 281	Envelope removed from Ingalls, Jeremy	1951 January 8
b. 18, f. 241	Jackson, Stuart W. (Stuart Wells)	1946 September 8
b. 18, f. 242	Johnson, Robert Underwood	[1913 May 28]
b. 18, f. 243	Lindsay, Vachel	1913-1932
b. 18, f. 244	Loveman, Amy	1935-1950, undated

Correspondence > William Rose Benét Correspondence (continued)

b. 18, f. 245	Nettleton, [George Henry] Includes clipping	1943 April 20
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 282	Clipping removed from Nettleton, [George Henry]	1943 March 14
b. 18, f. 246-247	<i>Saturday Review of Literature</i>	1946-1948
b. 19, f. 248-249	<i>Saturday Review of Literature</i>	1948-1950, undated
b. 19, f. 250	Sinclair, Upton (photocopies)	undated
b. 19, f. 251	Stephens, Pauline Frances	1934-1937, undated
b. 19, f. 252-253	Taggard, Genevieve (photostats)	undated
b. 19, f. 254	Taylor, Prentiss	1944 September 12
b. 19, f. 254a	Williams, Esther	1949-1950
Elinor Wylie Correspondence		
b. 25, f. 343	MacDonald, Jessica North Autograph letter, signed, from Wylie to North	1928 April 12
Writings		
Adams, Franklin P.		
b. 25, f. 343a	"Beautiful book on the U.S.A.," review, draft, typescript	circa 1933 November 12
Benét, James Walker		
b. 19, f. 255	[Autobiography], draft, typescript and autograph manuscript	undated
Benét, Rosemary		
b. 25, f. 344	"The Robin's Christmas," draft, typescript	undated
Benét, Stephen Vincent		
b. 19, f. 255a	"Abraham Lincoln," screenplay, typescript mimeograph Written with Gerrut Lloyd	circa 1930
b. 19, f. 256	"The Captive," story, typescript, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations	undated
b. 19, f. 257	"Five Sketches," galley proof, signed	undated
b. 19, f. 258	" <i>The General's Lady</i> by Esther Forbes," review, typescript carbon, corrected	circa 1939
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 283	"Good Wine," review of <i>The Wind Bloweth</i> by Donn Byrne, printed version, <i>The Literary Review</i>	1922 October 28

Writings > Benét, Stephen Vincent (continued)

b. 21 (Oversize), f. 284	"The Headless Horseman," musical score, autograph manuscript Written with Douglas Moore	undated
b. 25, f. 345	["Here, with green trees by my bed..."], poem, draft, typescript, signed	undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 285	"Hymn of a Reader to the New York City Librarians," poem, printed version, <i>The Villager</i>	1952 April 10
b. 25, f. 346	["Ladies and gentlemen..."], address, draft, typescript, corrected and annotated	[1935 February 12]
b. 19, f. 259	"Listen to the People," printed version	1941
b. 25, f. 347	"Resurrection," poem, draft, typescript, signed	undated
b. 19, f. 260	"Songs of Dear Old Yale," poems, typescript carbon, corrected, and autograph manuscript	undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 286	Envelope removed from "Songs of Dear Old Yale"	undated
b. 19, f. 261	"Story Idea," draft, typescript	undated
b. 19, f. 262	"We, the members of the Wolf's Head Society..." printed version	[1942]
b. 19, f. 263	Untitled	undated
b. 25, f. 348	Untitled, draft, autograph manuscript	undated
Benét, William Rose		
b. 25, f. 349	"Elinor Wylie," poem, fair copy, autograph manuscript	[circa 1928?]
b. 25, f. 350	"The Golden day," poem, autograph manuscript Includes drawing	undated
b. 25, f. 351	"The Literary spotlight," draft, typescript	circa 1923 October
b. 19, f. 264	"My Brother Steve," essay, printed version	1943
b. 25, f. 352	"Office building macabresque," poem, printed version and typescript, corrected	undated
b. 25, f. 353	"A Word of introduction," draft, typescript carbon, corrected	1944 November
Bennett, Ethel Harper		
b. 19, f. 265	"Epic Qualities," thesis, typescript carbon	undated
Hackett, Helen		
b. 19, f. 266	"It Happened at the Brick Row," essay, typescript, corrected	undated
Rukeyser, Muriel		
b. 20, f. 267	"Theory of Flight," setting copy, corrected, with printer's annotations	circa 1935
Wylie, Elinor		

Writings > Wylie, Elinor (continued)

b. 25, f. 354	Poems, drafts	undated
b. 25, f. 355	"With a bare bodkin," poem, drafts, typescript Accompanied by typescript letter, signed, from William Rose Benét, dated May 25, 1931, to Russel Crouse, and "Memorandum" by Crouse dated March 2, 1950	[1928]
	Other Material	undated
b. 20, f. 268	Clippings	1941, undated
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 287	Clipping	1977 April 23
b. 20, f. 269	Drawing by William Rose Benét	1938
b. 25, f. 356	Drawings by Elinor Wylie	undated
b. 20, f. 270	"Fourth Floor Funnygraph," typescript and typescript carbon	1915-1916
b. 25, f. 357	"Pedigree of Laura Walker Benét"	undated
b. 25, f. 358	Photographs of Elinor Wylie	undated
b. 20, f. 271	Printed material	1933-1953, undated
b. 20, f. 272	Publicity	1968, 1979
b. 25, f. 359	School exam books in the hand of Stephen Vincent Benét	undated

Series X: John Franklin Carter Gifts, circa 1917-1943

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Writings of Stephen Vincent Benét

b. 23, f. 290	"Chemistry," poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 291	"Geology," poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 292	"Hofbrau sonnet," poem, printed version, [<i>The Yale record?</i>]	undated
b. 23, f. 293	"Latin and Greek," poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 294	"The Lotus eaters," poem, printed version, <i>The Yale record</i>	undated
b. 23, f. 295	"Ode to Dwight Hall," poem, printed version, <i>The Yale record</i>	undated
b. 23, f. 296	"Sheff monthly," poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 297	"Song at which all good news editors shudder," draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 298	"The Uncollegiate damned," poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 299	"The Vorpall blades," poem, draft, typescript	undated

Writings of John Franklin Carter

b. 23, f. 300	"Apology for anonymity," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 301	"The Big men," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 302	"Chi delta theta," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 303	"The Darling of the news," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 23, f. 304	"The Elizabethan Club," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected and annotated by Stephen Vincent Benét	undated
b. 23, f. 305	"English," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 23, f. 306	"Epithalamion for Steve and Rosemary," draft, typescript carbon	circa 1920s
b. 23, f. 307	"The Fine arts," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 23, f. 308	"A Fine candidate for Sigma beta," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 309	"History," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 310	"Modern languages," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	circa 1917
b. 23, f. 311	"Mory's," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 312	"The 'News' Committee ode," poem, printed version, [<i>The Yale record?</i>]	circa 1919
b. 23, f. 313	"The Owlet," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 314	"Physics," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 315	"Psychology," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	

Writings of John Franklin Carter (continued)

b. 23, f. 316	"The Pushed," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 317	"Wild geese that stormed the gale," essay, draft, typescript carbon, corrected	circa 1941-1943
b. 23, f. 318	"You're a drunk!" poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
Writings of Stephen Vincent Benét and John Franklin Carter		
b. 23, f. 319	"Byers," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 23, f. 320	"The Courant," poem, draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 321	"Good-bye summer," poem, draft, typescript, corrected and annotated	undated
b. 23, f. 322	"The Grand old battle hymn of the Sigma beta," poem, draft, typescript, corrected and annotated	undated
b. 23, f. 323	"The Men who dare," draft, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 324	"Oh! Have you a friend on the News?" poem, draft, typescript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 325	"The Painful episode of corporal evarts and the commandant," poem, draft, typescript	undated
b. 23, f. 326	"Recessional 1919," poem, draft, typescript, corrected	undated
b. 23, f. 327	"Songs of dear old Yale," table of contents, drafts, autograph manuscript	1917-1918
b. 23, f. 328	"The Tapiad," poem, draft, autograph manuscript	undated

Series XI: Seven Gables Bookshop Gift, 1866–1912*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series XI contains material relating to several members of the Benét and Rose families, including S. V. (Stephen Vincent) Benét (1827-1895) and his wife Frances (Rose) Benét, James Walker Benét (1857-1928), Laura Benét (1884-1979), Teresa Frances Benét, and Elizabeth Neill Rose. Materials include correspondence, printed ephemera, and school papers and records.

Gift of Seven Gables Bookshop, 1961.

Arranged alphabetically by name.

	Benét, Frances Rose	
b. 24, f. 329	School papers	1876-1878, undated
	Benét, James Walker	
b. 24, f. 330	School records	1866–1873
	Benét, Laura	
b. 24, f. 331	Correspondence	1903–1909
b. 24, f. 332	Notes	undated
b. 24, f. 333	Notes from "Miss B's schoolmates"	undated
b. 24, f. 334	Physical measurements	1898–1899
b. 24, f. 335	Printed ephemera	1895-1906, undated
b. 24, f. 336	School records	1894–1899
b. 24, f. 337	[Signature?]	undated
	Benét, S. V. (Stephen Vincent)	
b. 24, f. 338	Autograph letter, signed, from [Jane Crawford?]	1866 October 6
	Benét, Teresa Frances	
b. 24, f. 339	Autograph letter, signed, to an unidentified recipient	1912 January 6
	Rose, Elizabeth Neill	
b. 24, f. 340	Autograph letter, signed, to [?] J. W. Benét	1907 June 29

Restricted Fragile Papers

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Box 22: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 22, f. 288 Box 2, folder 19

b. 22, f. 289 Box 2, folder 22

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Authors and publishers -- United States
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century -- Archives
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Publishers and publishing

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Badger, Shreve Cowles, 1897-1958
Benét, James, 1914-
Benét, Laura
Benét, Rosemary, 1900-1962
Benét, S. V. (Stephen Vincent), 1827-1895
Benét, Stephen Vincent, 1898-1943
Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950
Farrar, John Chipman, 1896-1974
Ingalls, Jeremy, 1911-2000
Lalone, Emerson Hugh
Nelson, Starr
Wylie, Elinor, 1885-1928

Families

Benét Family

Corporate Bodies

Brandt & Brandt
Doubleday, Doran & Company
Farrar & Rinehart
Yale University. Alumni