

Guide to the Attila Kotányi Papers

GEN MSS 1499



by Beinecke staff

March 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1499

CREATOR: Kotányi, Attila , author

TITLE: Attila Kotányi papers

DATES: 1940–2000

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10.33 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In Hungarian, German, and English.

SUMMARY: The collection consists of correspondence, notes, index cards, notebooks, photographs, artwork, architectural drawings, blueprints, research materials, printed material, and other papers by or relating to Attila Kotányi and documenting his life, work, and involvement with the Situationist International.

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

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.kotanyi>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Jan Ceuleers on the Frederick W. Hilles Fund, 2012.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Attila Kotányi Papers 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

Attila Kotányi Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Attila Kotányi

Attila Kotányi (1924-2003) was a Hungarian poet, philosopher, and architect associated with the Situationist International.

Content Description

The collection consists of correspondence, notes, index cards, notebooks, photographs, artwork, architectural drawings, blueprints, research materials, printed material, and other papers by or relating to Attila Kotányi and documenting his life, work, and involvement with the Situationist International.

Arrangement

Materials collection roughly maintain the order found at time of acquisition.

Collection Contents

b. 1	Correspondence Contains letters to and from Attila Kotányi. Also contains: a letter to Guy Debord (1963 October 11); a letter from Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Institute of Design in Chicago (1946 November 11); a postcard to Szabo (1957 August 21); a note from Hannes Böhringer (1983); a letter from Roberto Ohrt (1984 September 28); a letter from Raoul Vaneigem (circa 2000); letters in Hungarian from different correspondents (circa 1950s-1980s).	circa 1946-2000s
	Notes <i>3.67 linear feet (4 boxes)</i>	1947-1990
b. 1	Megbeszélés műszaki-pedgogiai A debate on technical-pedagogical matters. Contains: a transcript of the debate, which concerned the teaching of architecture. Attila Kotányi was one of the participants.	1947
b. 1	Notes	1956
b. 1	Notes Contains notes, written in English, about the uses of psychology, psychotherapy and its links to architecture. Also contains notes on the Brussels World Fair of 1958, and the role of UNESCO.	1958
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on psychology, alternatives for religion, and "la grande révision". Also contains notes on the "irrational" elements in Marxism.	1959
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on Asger Jorn's interpretations on dialectics, the uses of a situationist critique, the meaning of de Sade for the urban planner, Friedrich Nietzsche's warnings concerning "socialism", the dangers of subtlety and of unnecessary complicated reasoning, and "la beauté c'est la promesse d'une fonction." Also contains notes on the danger and necessity of irrational factors.	1960
b. 1	Notes Contains notes taken during the fifth conference of the Situationist International, held in Göteborg, Sweden (1961 August 28-30).	1961
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on the themes discussed within the Situationist International. Also contains notes on the abolishing of reigning information systems in order to liberate general consciousness from the "raison d'état", real spontaneousness as opposed to the fake version that comes with the official addiction (i.e. television), the rhythm of meetings and separations within the Situationist International, and the role of time in art.	1962

b. 1	Notes Contains a typescript entitled "Introduction et Apostyle à la critique cacoteuse." Also contains a draft of an announcement of "grand spectacle antisituationniste," as well as notes regarding "contre l'idéologie du hasard," and "pour la révalorisation commerciale de l'art, antisituationniste, ou l'art tout simplement."	1963
b. 1	Notes	1965
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on architecture, urban planning, philosophical subjects, Martin Heidegger's ideas on dwellings, and architecture as "oeuvre totale".	1966
b. 1	Notes Contains a notebook, titled "Ingolstadt," as well as handwritten notes.	1967
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on philosophy, gangsters, an illustrated fable of the wahlfish, and other related subjects.	1968
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on Dada, and other related subjects.	1969
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on architecture, with drawings and self portraits, as well as other related subjects.	1970
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on Joseph Beuys and the Akademie of Düsseldorf, along with self-portrait drawings, and other related subjects.	1971
b. 1	Notes	1972
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on Michel Foucault, as well as Max Taut in Japan.	1973
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on the contradictions of rational planning, as well as freedom and cybernetics. Also contains notes on the contradictions between scientific and religious attitudes regarding reality.	1974
b. 1	Notes Contains notes regarding Guy Debord, the Baader-Meinhof Group, violence, and urban planning.	1975
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on "form and function," technological and economical contexts, the search for meaning, art, and other related subjects.	1976
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on social complexity, Paul Rudolph and mega structures, postmodernism, Venturi and Rauch, and other related subjects.	1977

b. 1	Notes Contains notes on religion as an antidote for reductionism, and other related subjects.	1978
b. 1	Notes Contains notes on Christopher Lasch, Jean Baudrillard, Zen discipline, and other related subjects.	1979
b. 1	Notes	1980
b. 1	Notes	1981–1990
b. 1	Notes	1988
b. 2	Index cards Contains index cards with handwritten notes.	circa 1982-1989
b. 3	Index cards Contains index cards with handwritten notes.	circa 1981-1990
b. 4	Index cards Contains index cards with handwritten notes.	circa 1985
	Notebooks <i>2.17 linear feet (2 boxes)</i>	1955–1979 June 17
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1955–1956
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1957 August 18
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings and clippings.	1958–1959
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1959–1960
b. 5	Notebooks <i>(2 folders)</i> Contains two notebooks, with drawings.	1964
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1964–1965
b. 5	Notebooks <i>(2 folders)</i> Contains drawings.	1965
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1965–1966
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1966

b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1966 January– 1966 April
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1966 May 25
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1966 June
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1966 June 20
b. 5	Notebook	1966 August
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1966 August 13
b. 5	Notebook	1966 September 16
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	circa 1967
b. 5	Notebook	1967 January 18
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1967 January 20
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings. Also contains a newspaper clipping.	1967 February
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1967 May 9
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1967 May 28
b. 5	Notebooks (2 folders) Contains two notebooks, with drawings.	circa 1968
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings and newspaper clippings.	1968 January 17
b. 5	Notebook	1968 March
b. 5	Notebook Contains a newspaper clipping.	1968 March 12
b. 5	Notebook	1968 March 22
b. 5	Notebook	1968 March 28– 1968 April 1

b. 5	Notebook	1968 April 1
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 April 4
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 April 7
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 April 9
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 April 18
b. 5	Notebook	1968 May 3
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 May 18
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 June 17
b. 5	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 June 29
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 July 10
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 July 23
b. 6	Notebook Contains clipping and drawings.	1968 July 25
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 August
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 August 14
b. 6	Notebooks (2 folders) Contains drawings.	1968 September
b. 6	Notebook	1968 September 7
b. 6	Notebook Contains clippings and drawings.	1968 September 13
b. 6	Notebook	1968 October 7
b. 6	Notebook	1968 October 20

b. 6	Notebook	1968 November 1-1968 November 10
b. 6	Notebook	1968 November 22
b. 6	Notebook	1968 November 28
b. 6	Notebook	1968 December 6
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1968 December 16
b. 6	Notebook	1968 December 31
b. 6	Notebook Contains clippings.	circa 1969
b. 6	Notebook Includes drawings.	1969 February 1
b. 6	Notebook Includes drawings.	1969 February 26
b. 6	Notebook Includes drawings.	1969 March 24
b. 6	Notebook	1969 April 28
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1969 June 25
b. 6	Notebook	1969 July 15
b. 6	Notebook	1969 July 17
b. 6	Notebook Contains drawings.	1969 August 7
b. 6	Notebook	1969 October 3
b. 6	Notebook	1973 January 31
b. 6	Notebook	1975
b. 6	Notebook Includes drawings.	1975 June 16
b. 6	Notebook	1975 August 3
b. 6	Notebook	1975 December 1

b. 6	Notebook Includes drawings.	circa 1976
b. 6	Notebook	1976 March 25
b. 6	Notebook	1976 May 5
b. 6	Notebook	1976 May 18– 1976 May 25
b. 6	Notebook	1976 December
b. 6	Notebook	1976 June 3
b. 6	Notebook	1978 February 23
b. 6	Notebook	1979 April 4– 1979 June 17
b. 7	Photographs Contains photographs of architectural models, as well as a photograph of a drip painting, and a photographic negative.	undated
	Drawings <i>3.42 linear feet (2 boxes)</i>	1956–1980
b. 7	Architectural drawings <i>(2 folders)</i> Contains sketches for architectural and urban projects.	circa 1956-1962
b. 7	Artistic drawings Contains stylized portraits and self portraits, as well as landscapes and abstracts.	circa 1956-1980s
b. 8 (Oversize)	Artistic drawings <i>(3 folders)</i> Contains large format impressionist and abstract artwork.	circa 1956-1980s
b. 7	Blueprints <i>(2 folders)</i> Contains drawings and blueprints for an urban project, created when Attila Kotányi worked at the Herbosch architectural office within Brussels (circa 1957). Also contains blueprints of a project designed by Attila Kotányi of artists' studios and apartments (circa 1965).	circa 1957-1965
b. 7	Bibliographie Contains bibliographical notes.	circa 1957
b. 7	Sanierung des Lebens, Sanierung der Stadt Contains notes, in German, on city planning.	1979 May 22
b. 7	Szabo Lajos Kepiro Dialektikaja Contains photocopied document with handwritten corrections and additions.	circa 1988-1992

b. 7	Biographical information Also contains documents related to Attila Kotányi's teaching at the Düsseldorf Academy.	1962–1982
b. 7	Scientia sacra Contains bound typescripts regarding the spiritual tradition of mankind, especially regarding cults and culture, and the anthropology of antiquity.	circa 1940s
b. 7	Paul Wiener. Une manifestation du malaise dans la civilisation: le salopart Contains a critique of pop art and nouveau réalisme.	undated
b. 7	Eckehardt Contains material regarding Friedrich Nietzsche and Meister Eckhardt.	undated
b. 7	Works by other authors Contains material regarding Győző Határ, Magyar Balázs, Günter Rösch, and Gerhard Fehl.	undated
	Printed material <i>2.17 linear feet (2 boxes)</i> Contains books with extensive marginalia, as well as exhibit catalogs and school material.	1950–1999
b. 7	Printed material Contains a 1982 program from the Akademie der Architektenkammer Nordrhein-Westfalen, a photocopy of "Grundgedanken des Buddhismus," by Martin Brauen (1983 February), a photocopy of "Im Zeichen des Buddhismus" (1982), a photocopy of "Wir sind die Autoren unserer eigenen Geschichte," by Monica Moebius, a newspaper clipping, a photocopy of "Proof In Philosophy," by Professor Charles Perelman (Hibbert Journal, 1954), Endre Bíró translation work regarding James Joyce, a photostat of "Renate Marschner: Die Frankfurter Schule," a photostat of "Bodenproben," by Hannes Böhringer (1987), and a photocopy of "Noten Zum Surrealismus," by Jacob Taubes (1966).	circa 1954-1999
b. 9	Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, printed material <i>(3 folders)</i> Contains school catalogs, with handwritten marginalia and placed-in notes.	1976–1989
b. 9	Zeitung 2, Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, newspaper	1982 December
b. 9	Anschlag, Nos. 1 and 2, periodicals Both periodicals have extensive marginalia, by Attila Kotányi.	1964 August– 1964 November
b. 9	Der Französische Strukturalismus, by Günther Schiwy, book Contains extensive marginalia, with a laid-in note.	1969
b. 9	A l'ombre des majorités silencieuses ou la fin du social, by Jean Baudrillard, book Contains extensive marginalia.	1978
b. 9	Paul Ricoeur ou la liberté selon l'espérance, by Michel Philibert, book Contains extensive marginalia, with a placed-in note.	1971

b. 9	Warum schaffen sie es nicht wie wir Klangkörper den glücksbringenden Pfad zu erwischen, by Attila Kotányi, book.	1999
b. 9	Retrospective de Lajos Vajda (1908-1941), exhibit catalog	1978 July–1978 September
b. 9	Kommunikáció: Kovács Tibor, exhibit catalog	1999
b. 9	Origine et fonction de la culture, by Géza Róheim, book Contains extensive marginalia.	1972
b. 9	Die Seele im technischen Zeitalter, by Arnold Gehlen, book Contains extensive marginalia, with laid-in notes.	1957
b. 9	L'Effet Beaubourg, by Jean Baudrillard, book Contains extensive marginalia, with laid-in notes.	1977
b. 9	La Dialectique de la durée, by Gaston Bachelard, book Contains extensive marginalia.	1950
b. 9	La dialectique, by Paul Foulquié, book Contains extensive marginalia, with placed-in notes.	1953
b. 9	Burano Kommunikation Sozio-Ökonomie Städtebau..., by Christof von Delleman, book	1973
b. 9	Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Studienarbeiten aus den Architekturklassen, exhibition catalog	1979
b. 9	Ästhetik der Landschaft: Gesamthochschule Kassel, catalog Contains marginalia.	1977

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

Counterculture -- Europe
Situationism -- France

Genres / Formats

Architectural drawings
Drawings (visual works)
Photographs

Names

Kotányi, Attila

Corporate Body

Internationale situationniste