

# Guide to the C. K. Williams Papers

YCAL MSS 661



by Beinecke staff

December 2019

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 661

**CREATOR:** Williams, C. K. (Charles Kenneth), 1936-2015, author

**TITLE:** C. K. Williams papers

**DATES:** 1950s-2011

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 80.48 linear feet (114 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Writings, correspondence, notebooks, journals, teaching materials and other papers by, to, or relating to poet C. K. Williams.

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

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## 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.ckwilliams>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from James S. Jaffe Rare Books on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2012.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 111-112 (audiovisual materials): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 113 (computer media): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The C. K. Williams 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.

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## 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.

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## C. K. Williams

C. K. Williams (1936-2015) was an American poet and translator.

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## Content Description

Writings, correspondence, notebooks, journals, teaching materials and other papers by, to, or relating to poet C. K. Williams.

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## Arrangement

Organized into seven series: I. Writings, 1950s-2011. II. Correspondence, 1950s-2011. III. Writings of Others, 1980s-2010. IV. Photographs and Personal Papers, 1966, 1980s. V. Printed Materials, 1971-1996. VI. Audiovisual Materials, 1970s-1980s. VII. Electronic Media, circa 2000-2007.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, 1950s-2011

|       |  |                                |
|-------|--|--------------------------------|
| b. 1  | Writings, poems, proofs, typescripts   | circa<br>1950s-1960s           |
| b. 2  | "Nico's papers - Basement": manuscripts and correspondence<br>Includes poetry and prose typescripts and manuscripts, with related correspondence.  | 1950s-1960s                    |
| b. 3  | Poetry and prose drafts  | 1960s-1970s                    |
| b. 4  | Notebook, calendar, and bound proof  | 1960s-1980s                    |
| b. 5  | Notebooks and notes  | circa<br>1960s-2000s           |
| b. 6  | Small notebooks and miscellaneous writings with correspondence   | 1960s, 1973-4,<br>2001-2009    |
| b. 7  | Notebooks containing corrected typescripts   | 1963-1990                      |
| b. 8  | Notebooks and drafts<br>Includes folders with the following title: King; "The Poet;" various; Claire; Zipes; Translations from Anthologie Personnelle; Rage; Bits and Pieces and Essays; Heine, Adam; essays for book; notes to August '69; notes Oct. '63 - Apr. 66 to about '79 - '80. | 1963-1990s                     |
| b. 9  | Notebooks containing corrected typescripts   | 1964-1882                      |
| b. 10 | Drafts of poems and other writings including "In the Forest," "The Night Santa Clause Cried," and "The Past," as well as business correspondence   | 1968, 1984-1985,<br>1996, 2006 |
| b. 11 | Printed materials, notebooks, typescript for "Common Knowledge, galley proof, and other papers   | 1970s-1980s                    |
| b. 12 | Drafts and printed material  | 1970s-1980s                    |
| b. 13 | Early reviews of first books and essays, other reviews, and essays with related correspondence<br>Includes comments on "Repair" by Alicia Ostriker.  | circa 1970s-1998               |
| b. 14 | Incomplete manuscripts of "Lies" and "I Am Me Bitter Name"<br>Also contains drafts and rejected poems from "I Am Me Bitter Name".  | circa 1971                     |
| b. 15 | Incomplete manuscripts of "Lies" and "I Am Me Bitter Name"<br>Also contains drafts and rejected poems from "I Am Me Bitter Name".  | circa 1971                     |
| b. 16 | Notebooks with corrected typescript  | 1972-1980                      |
| b. 17 | Drafts: "Further Noted to Dionysus Monologue" and "The Bacchae of Euripides"   | 1978-1981                      |
| b. 18 | Pocket notebooks and drafts relating to Flesh & Blood  | circa 1980s                    |
| b. 19 | Drafts and proofs, with some faxed correspondence  | 1980s-1990s                    |

|       |  |                      |
|-------|--|----------------------|
| b. 20 | Drafts: Film, The Operated Jew, The Vigil.   | circa 1989-1996      |
| b. 21 | Flesh and Blood (French proof), Criminals, The Situation of Poetry in America  | circa 1989-1996      |
| b. 22 | Page proofs, The Bacchae of Euripides: A New Version by C. K. Williams, with corrections   | 1990                 |
| b. 23 | Drafts of various poems  | 1980s                |
| b. 24 | Drafts and proofs, including Flesh and Blood.  | 1980s-1990s          |
| b. 25 | Drafts: "She Through," "Dream of Mind," Paul Zweigs "Selected," Essay on Tragedy   | 1989-1991            |
| b. 26 | Manuscript drafts including "The Operated Jew"   | circa 1990s          |
| b. 27 | Worksheets, newspapers, and various drafts   | 1990s                |
| b. 28 | Drafts early version of "Dream of Mind," drafts labelled "A Little Loneliness," and other drafts   | circa 1990s          |
| b. 29 | Novel Poetry and other drafts  | 1990s                |
| b. 30 | Miscellaneous drafts, poems, essays, and traslations   | 1993                 |
| b. 31 | Miscellaneous drafts   | 1993-1994            |
| b. 32 | Drafts: "Creatures of Love," early version of "Bacchae," and "Vigil"   | circa 1993-1996      |
| b. 33 | Drafts<br>Also contains writings by others including Alan Shapiro, Ted Weiss, Renee Weiss, Stephen Dunn, Marina Shron, Louise Glück, James Richardson, Laurie Scheck, and Robert Pinsky. | circa 1996-2002      |
| b. 34 | Corrected drafts, including: Repair and The Operated Jew.  | circa 1997-1998      |
| b. 35 | "On Whitman" drafts, Berlin drafts, and orrespondence with Ellen Foos  | 1997-2010            |
| b. 36 | Drafts, corrected manuscripts  | 1998, 2000           |
| b. 37 | Drafts   | 1998-1999, n.d.      |
| b. 38 | Drafts   | 1999                 |
| b. 39 | Drafts and proofs for Misgivings   | 1999                 |
| b. 40 | Drafts and a proof   | 1999-2000            |
| b. 41 | Drafts<br>Includes wwritings by Jane Hirshfield, Clair Malroux, and Barbara Ras.   | circa 2000           |
| b. 42 | Drafts and personal papers   | 2000s                |
| b. 43 | Drafts of Misgivings   | 2001                 |
| b. 44 | Drafts including "War," Conversations with CK Williams and Alan Fox, "Letter to a German Friend," "The Operated Jew," and others   | 2001 January-October |
| b. 45 | Drafts and writings of others  | 2001, 2004           |

|        |   |                            |
|--------|---|----------------------------|
| b. 114 | Drafts (mixed with correspondence)  | 2002                       |
| b. 46  | Drafts: "The Singing," Virgil<br>Also includes drafts by other writers including Isabelle Miller, Peter Campion, Paul Muldoon, Louise Glück, Daisy Fried, and Jim Quinn; and business correspondence. | 2002-2004                  |
| b. 47  | Drafts  | 2003                       |
| b. 48  | Drafts  | circa 2004                 |
| b. 49  | Drafts including "On Whitman," Wait, and others   | 2004-2010                  |
| b. 50  | Poetry and prose drafts   | 2005                       |
| b. 51  | Matter for Collected Poems 2006; drafts 2005-2006   | 2005-2006                  |
| b. 52  | "Collected Poems, 1963-2006" proofs, master pages, first pass, final pass, setting pass, and other proof types  | 2006                       |
| b. 53  | Various drafts, including material from "The Operated Jew," "The Singing"   | circa 2006,2007            |
| b. 54  | Drafts  | May 2007 -<br>October 2008 |
| b. 55  | Drafts, including Walt Whitman  | 2008-2009                  |
| b. 56  | Drafts and notes relating to essays, book chapters, and other writings  | 2011                       |

**Series II: Correspondence, 1950s-2011**

|        |   |                         |
|--------|---|-------------------------|
| b. 57  | Correspondence and notebooks  | 1950s-1970s,<br>1994    |
| b. 58  | <a href="#">Selected C. K. Williams correspondence</a>  | 1950s-2000s             |
| b. 59  | Correspondence, including friends, family, and business   | circa<br>1960s-1980s    |
| b. 60  | Correspondence with other writers<br>Includes manuscripts from other writers.   | 1960s-1994              |
| b. 61  | Correspondence  | 1963-1984               |
| b. 62  | Correspondence  | 1963-1964               |
| b. 63  | Correspondence  | 1967-2004               |
| b. 64  | Correspondence, with some typescript poems  | 1970s-1980s             |
| b. 65  | Correspondence with other writers<br>Includes manuscripts from other writers.   | 1971-1991               |
| b. 66  | Correspondence with publishers; news clippings and photocopies of reviews<br>Correspondents includes Tex Williams, Jessie Williams, Claire Malroux, Walter Thümler, Jed Williams, Efe Murat Balikcioglu and others. | 1974-2005               |
| b. 67  | Correspondence, faxes, emails, and letters<br>Also includes materials related to the Teachers and Writers Collaborative.  | circa<br>1980s-1990s    |
| b. 68  | Correspondence from colleagues dealing with publishing, academics and writing;<br>postcards; greeting cards, and other correspondence<br>Also contains photocopies and clippings.                                   | circa 1988-1991         |
| b. 69  | Letters received  | 1989-1991               |
| b. 70  | Correspondence  | 1990s-2000s             |
| b. 71  | Correspondence, photographs from an event at Columbia High School, mail art   | 1990s-2000s             |
| b. 72  | Letters and faxes received  | 1991-1995               |
| b. 73  | Correspondence  | circa 1997-1998         |
| b. 74  | Letters, emails and faxes to and from colleagues and friends with news clippings<br>and photocopies   | 1998-2000               |
| b. 75  | Correspondence  | 1999-2000               |
| b. 76  | Correspondence  | circa 1999-2002         |
| b. 77  | Various correspondence, France  | 2000-2001;<br>2009-2010 |
| b. 78  | Correspondence  | 2002                    |
| b. 114 | Correspondence (mixed with drafts)  | 2002                    |



|       |                                    |            |
|-------|------------------------------------|------------|
| b. 79 | Emails and letters                 | 2003       |
| b. 80 | Correspondence                     | 2004       |
| b. 81 | Emails and letters                 | circa 2005 |
| b. 82 | Emails and letters                 | 2005-2006  |
| b. 83 | Printed emails, letters, and cards | 2007       |
| b. 84 | Correspondence                     | 2007-2008  |
| b. 85 | Correspondence                     | 2007-2009  |
| b. 86 | Correspondence                     | 2010-2011  |
| b. 87 | Printed emails                     | 2011       |

**Series III: Writings of others, 1980s-2010**

|       |   |                 |
|-------|---|-----------------|
| b. 88 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by Jim Moore, Bill Tremblay, Mark Craver, Stephen Berg, Michael Storper, Alan Shapiro, Paul Zweig, Ruth Hammond, Bill P. Root, Agnes Lynch Starrett, William Heyen, S. J. Marks, and R. Goodman   | circa 1980s     |
| b. 89 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by Robert Pinsky, Richard Cole, Galway Kinnel, Roger Lewis, William Pitt Root, Peter Klappert, and Steve Kasdin. Also includes correspondence and course materials.   | circa 1980s     |
| b. 90 | Writings of others, correspondence, and related printed material  | circa 1980s     |
| b. 91 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by Robert Pinsky, Stephen Berg, Alan Shapiro, Galway Kinnell, S.J. Marks, Tzvetan Todorov, Debra Nystrom, Mark Strand, Adam Zagajewski, Stuart Dischell, Jerrold Freedman, Martha Nussbaum, John Deane, Chuck Guilford, Ruth Padel, L.S. Asekoff, and Philip Levine.                        | 1980s-1990s     |
| b. 92 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by L.S. Asekoff, Tzvetan Todorov, Mark Rudman, Stephen Berg, David, Roskies, Alan Shapiro, Galway Kinnell, Jonathan Galassi, Carrie Allen McCray, Robert Pinsky, Lauren Mullen, Paul Muldoon, Tom Sleigh, Mark Craver, Jack Zipes, Chase Twitchell, Nancy, Huston, E.C. Hinsey, and others. | 1980s-1990s     |
| b. 93 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by Mark O'brien, Fredrick Seidel, Tess Gallagher, S.J. Marks, Michael Hofmann, and others.  | 1980s-1990s     |
| b. 94 | Writings of others<br>Contains drafts, including: "The Emerging Figure," by S. BenTov, "Riffs and Reciprocities," by Stephen Dunn, "On Men Weeping," by Alan Shapiro, and "In Quest for the Genuine Storyteller," by Jack Zipes.  | circa 1997      |
| b. 95 | Writings of others<br>Includes drafts by Chase Twichell, Edward Hirsch, Tom Sleigh, David Abram Milanaik, Emily Mann, and Alan Shapiro.   | circa 1997-1998 |
| b. 96 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by Alane Rollings, Elisabeth Minawski, James Richardson, Emily Lundin, Paul Muldoon, Carolyn Forche, Russell Banks, Mark Chaver, Robert Pinsky, Ana Maria Shua, L.S. Asekoff, Tom Sleigh, Sandra Kohler, T.S. Flanagan, Chris Abani, Matthew Arnold, and Lea Weems.                         | circa 1999-2004 |
| b. 97 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by Jack Zipes, Theodore Weiss, Lindsay Knowlton, and Jake Lamar.  | circa 1999-2004 |
| b. 98 | Writings of others<br>Includes writings by David Havird, Dan Chiasson, Russell Banks, Steve Orlen, and Harold Schimmel. Also includes notes and a calendar.   | 1990s-2000s     |

|        |   |                 |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| b. 99  | <p>Writings of others</p> <p>Includes writings by David Roskies, Alicia Ostriker, David Bonanno, F.C. Swain, Peter Chelnik, Leigh Jackson, Peter Clark, Sarah Maguire, Craig Arnold, Troy Jollimore Emily Mann, Noah Haidle, Pawel Marcinkiewicz, Alan Shapiro, Leon Wieseltier, Anthony Minghella, K.A. Perryman, Galway Kinnell, and Martin Harries. Also includes dead matter from "Repair."</p> | 1990s-2000s     |
| b. 100 | <p>Writings of others</p> <p>Includes writings by Michael Donaghy, Jonathan Galassi, Paul Muldoon, Denise Lanctot, and others</p>   | circa 2000      |
| b. 101 | <p>Poems by Madeline Carr, Gabrielle Levin, Jane Shore, and others</p>  | circa 2000      |
| b. 102 | <p>Writings of others</p> <p>Includes writings by Paul Muldoon, David Groff, Craig Arnold, Eugene Motale, Richard Martin, Gary Adelmann, Fernando Pessoa, Katie Johntz, and Ted Weiss.</p>  | 2000s           |
| b. 103 | <p>Writings of others</p> <p>Includes writings by Alan Shapiro, Fred Wander, Alice Cone, Susan Hahn, Lindsey Knowlton, Elise Paschen, Jeffery Skinner, Jack Klaff, Alicia Ostriker, Robert Pinsky, Mike Blumenthal and others. Also includes a translation by Edmund Keeley.</p>  | circa 2005-2007 |
| b. 104 | <p>Proofs of Hardheaded Weather by Cornelius Eady</p>   | circa 2007      |
| b. 105 | <p>Writings of others</p> <p>Includes writings by E. Pages, R. Pinsky, J. Cone, P. Muldoon, and others.</p>   | circa 2007-2008 |
| b. 106 | <p>Writings of others</p> <p>Includes writings by Robert Pinsky, Alan Shapiro, Stephen Dobyns, Jeffery Shotts, Jeff Dolven, Bruce Weigl, Bill Whelan, Paul Muldoon, Giamco Leopardi, Chenxin Jiang, Rachel Galvin, Michael Grabell, and Don Thompson.</p>   | circa 2009-2010 |

## Series IV: Photographs and Personal Papers, 1966, 1980s

|        |  |             |
|--------|--|-------------|
| b. 107 | Negatives, contact sheets, photographs, address books, and other personal papers | 1966, 1980s |
|--------|--|-------------|

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## Series V: Printed materials, 1971-1996

|        |   |                 |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| b. 108 | Catalogs, magazines, catalogs, event programs, and writings                         | circa 1971-1995 |
| b. 109 | Wheatland Foundation, American Poet Conference Material, and other printed material | 1980s-1990s     |
| b. 110 | Catalogs, clippings, ephemera, magazines, and other printed materials               | 1988-1996       |

## Series VI: Audiovisual materials, 1970s-1980s

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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|        |                         |       |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|
| b. 111 | VHS and audio cassettes | 1980s |
| b. 112 | Reel-ro-reel            | 1970s |

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