

# **Guide to the Susannah Colt papers related to Maxine and Victor Kumin**

**YCAL MSS 1633**



by Janet Lopes

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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 1633

**CREATOR:** Kumin, Maxine, 1925-2014 , author

**TITLE:** Susannah Colt papers related to Maxine and Victor Kumin

**DATES:** 1944-2016

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** The Susannah Colt papers related to Maxine and Victor Kumin includes correspondence, photographs, and documents related to Colt's relationship to Maxine as her personal assistant and her friendship with the Kumins. The collection includes correspondence and photographs related to the Manhattan Project, Victor Kumin's association with the Project, and the 50-year anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb. The papers also include documents relating to Colt's travels with Maxine from 2008-2014.

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

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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.colt>.

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  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Susannah Colt, 2024

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Susannah Colt papers related to Maxine and Victor Kumin 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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## Preferred Citation

Susannah Colt papers related to Maxine and Victor Kumin. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Related Materials

These materials are related to the Maxine Kumin papers (YCAL MSS 734).

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## Biographical / Historical

Susannah Colt is an author and former personal assistant to poet Maxine Kumin. As an assistant, Colt traveled with Kumin on speaking engagements, literary festivals, and talks from 2008-2014. Colt created a photo book "My Travels with Max" in 2014 to chronicle her time with Kumin. The correspondence Colt shares in this collection offers insight into the relationship of Colt and that of Maxine and her husband, Victor Kumin. Colt currently lives in New Hampshire.

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## Content Description

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: I. Personal papers, 1944-2016. II. Documents and itineraries, 1977-2014.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Personal papers, 1944-2016

*0.25 linear feet ((1 box))*

This series includes personal correspondence between Maxine and Victor Kumin and Susannah Colt as well as black and white photographs of Maxine Kumin.

Materials also include correspondence from Victor Kumin reflecting on the 50-year anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb, as well as photographs from when Victor Kumin was stationed in Los Alamos as an army scientist on the Manhattan Project.

Materials are arranged chronologically within subject matter areas.

b. 1, f. 1	Photographic prints of Maxine Kumin	circa 1950s
b. 1, f. 2	Photographic print of Maxine Kumin	1976
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence to and from Susannah Colt and Maxine and Victor Kumin	1981-2010
	Los Alamos	1944-2016
b. 1, f. 4-6	Photographic prints <i>3 Folders</i>	1944-1946
b. 1, f. 7	Booklets	1986
b. 1, f. 8	Correspondence	1995-1996
b. 1, f. 9	Clippings	1995-2016

**Series II: Documents and itineraries, 1977-2014***0.50 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains documents relating to Susannah Colt's 2008-2014 travels with Maxine Kumin as her personal assistant. Materials include flyers, itineraries, notes, and a photo book titled "My Travels with Max".

Materials are arranged in chronological order.

b. 2, f. 1	<i>Harvard Magazine</i>	1977 January-February
b. 2, f. 2	Itineraries and presentations	2007-2013
b. 2, f. 3	Poetry Festival booklet	2008 September 25-28
b. 2, f. 4	Flyers and brochures	2008-2011
b. 2, f. 5	"Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark" play, typescript	2009
b. 2, f. 6	Itinerary and other papers for Key West Literary seminar	2010 January
b. 2, f. 7	Correspondence and itinerary notes	2010 April-August
b. 2, f. 8	Tory Hill Readers Series	2010
b. 2, f. 9	Q and A session, Smith College	2011 March
b. 2, f. 10	Clippings	2013-2014
b. 2, f. 11	Maxine Kumin's memorial service	2014
b. 2, f. 12	Poems	undated
b. 2, f. 13	Bookmark and copy of photographic print of Maxine Kumin	undated
b. 2, f. 14	"My Travels with Max", photo book	undated

## **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.

### **Genres / Formats**

Correspondence  
Pamphlets  
Photographic prints  
Photographic prints -- 20th Century

### **Subjects**

American poetry  
Atomic bomb  
Poets -- 20th Century  
Women poets, American -- 20th Century

### **Contributors**

Kumin, Maxine, 1925-2014 , author  
Kumin, Victor , author  
Colt, Susannah , author