

Guide to the Argus Book Shop Correspondence

YCAL MSS 427



by Sandra Markham

2010

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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 427

CREATOR: Argus Book Shop (Chicago, Ill.)

TITLE: Argus Book Shop correspondence

DATES: 1857–1955

BULK DATES: 1930–1944

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 linear feet (18 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Argus Book Shop Correspondence consists of the shop's "author correspondence" files holding letters between Ben Abramson and his staff and more than four hundred writers, artists, printers, critics, and illustrators. While some of the folders hold single or just a few letters, Abramson had more extensive relationships with many writers and artists, including John Austen, Faith Baldwin, March Cost, Frederic Dannay, Norman Davey, Rhys Davies, August Derleth, Robin Douglas, Joan Marshall Grant, W. G. Hardy, Claude Houghton, William McFee, Henry Miller, Frank Cheyne Papé, Louis Paul, Frederic Prokosch, William Saroyan, Harold Sinclair, and John Steinbeck. Hundreds of Abramson's typed carbon replies are present in the files; in them, he discusses business and literary concerns, along with his philosophies and opinions on a wide range of topics. While the lack of financial, inventory, vendor, and publishing records keep the collection from being a complete record of the Argus Book Shop, the correspondence files present reveal how Ben Abramson developed business and personal relationships with authors, illustrators, and shop patrons, and in particular with British authors, the obstacles he encountered while conducting business during World War II.

The collection also includes, in Series II, more than forty undated literary essays, poems, and book reviews which may have been submitted for an "Argus miscellany" that Abramson often discussed in his correspondence but apparently never produced. The writings do not appear in Abramson's journal *Reading and collecting*, and likely date after 1938. The Argus Book Shop correspondence files were acquired by Philip D. Sang (1902-1975), a Chicago businessman, philanthropist, and collector of historical and literary manuscripts, who then donated the material to Yale.

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

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.argus>.

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

Gift of Philip D. Sang in 1955 and 1956.

Custodial History

Deborah B. Covington's biography of her father, *The Argus Book Shop: a Memoir* (1977), reveals that Abramson's will instructed that "all records were to be destroyed and the stock sold within six months after his death" (p. 50). She wrote that "Going through six four-drawer file cabinets of correspondence was a big job. The author correspondence Ralph Newman purchased and arranged to have donated to Yale, Ben's favorite university" (p. 52), a choice likely influenced by Abramson's long friendship with Argus patron Norman Holmes Pearson (1909-1975), a professor of English at Yale University. Ralph Newman (1911-1998) was proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago. Philip D. Sang (1902-1975), the donor of the collection, was a Chicago businessman, philanthropist, and collector of historical and literary manuscripts. Sang appears to have transferred the bulk of Abramson's "author correspondence" to Yale in 1956, but had given a few letters the previous year with another part of his manuscript collection. Covington mentioned in a 1957 letter to Yale curator Donald Gallup that Abramson had given some of Steinbeck's letters to collectors. The New York Public Library holds three folders of Abramson's correspondence with authors whose names begin with L through Z (MSS Col. 5).

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Boxes 15-18: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Argus Book Shop Correspondence 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

Argus Book Shop Correspondence. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The Argus Book Shop Correspondence was formerly two separate collections which were created by the library's curators after Philip Sang donated the papers to Yale in 1955: "Za Sang-Abramson" held letters between Abramson and American writers and was kept in the Yale Collection of American Literature; "Uncat MS Vault Argus" held those with British authors and was kept in the Yale University Library's Rare Book Room. The two collections were moved into the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library when the building opened in 1963, and were reconstituted as the Argus Book Shop Correspondence in 2010. Eleven letters to Ben Abramson from John Dos Passos, Henry Miller, William Saroyan, and John Steinbeck, a gift from Philip Sang in 1955, were retrieved from the YCAL Za Letter File and incorporated into those authors' files.

Six letters and two postcards to Abramson from John Steinbeck had been retained by Deborah Covington, daughter of Ben Abramson; photostats of these items were made for Yale in June 1957 and are present in the Steinbeck folders. The original letters and postcards are now in the John Steinbeck Collection at the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Ben Abramson and his Argus Book Shop

The American book seller and publisher Ben Abramson was born in Lithuania in 1898, and immigrated to the United States with his parents after the turn of the century. The family settled in Chicago, where Abramson attended the Jewish Training School, a special academic and manual training program for underprivileged children of refugees. In 1916 he took a job as a clerk at the Economy Bookstore, where he learned enough about the trade to establish his own business, the Argus Book Shop, at 434 South Wabash Avenue in 1920. The shop moved to 333 South Dearborn Street in October 1928, and in February 1940 to 16 North Michigan Avenue. Abramson sold new and second-hand books, specializing in modern literature and rare books including fine bindings, first and limited editions, and private press volumes. In addition to selling books, he was a publisher and literary agent for several writers, and was the editor and publisher of *Reading and Collecting: a Monthly Review of Rare and Recent Books*, which he issued from 1936 to 1938. Also interested in the visual arts, he regularly exhibited prints and paintings in his shops, and in 1942 made a notable acquisition of more than 1,300 original wood blocks engraved by Thomas Bewick.

In 1944 Abramson closed his Chicago operations and moved to New York; on November first of that year he opened the Argus Book Shop at 3 West 46th Street. By 1947 he began to suffer what would become chronic health and financial problems. Acknowledging that much of his business was accomplished through the mail, Abramson moved with his daughter Deborah Benson Covington to Mohegan Lake, near Peekskill, New York, in April 1949. However, country life held little appeal and he returned to Chicago in March 1953 to reopen the Argus Book Shop at 218 South Wabash Avenue. Deteriorating health and financial situations continued to plague him there, and Abramson died by suicide on July 16, 1955. He was survived by five siblings, his wife Mollie, and their daughter Deborah.

Throughout his career Abramson employed several assistants who interacted with patrons and authors in person and through the mail. One employee was George M. Dashe (1904-1984), who left Argus to open his Georgian Book Shop on South Michigan Avenue in Chicago in 1940.

Scope and Contents

The Argus Book Shop Correspondence consists of the shop's "author correspondence" files holding letters between Ben Abramson and his staff and more than four hundred writers, artists, printers, critics, and illustrators; the remainder of the shop's records were destroyed following instructions he had written into his will. While some of the folders hold single or just a few letters, Abramson had more extensive relationships with many writers and artists, including John Austen, Faith Baldwin, March Cost, Frederic Dannay, Norman Davey, Rhys Davies, August Derleth, Robin Douglas, Joan Marshall Grant, W.G. Hardy, Claude Houghton, William McFee, Henry Miller, Frank Cheyne Papé, Louis Paul, Frederic Prokosch, William Saroyan, Harold Sinclair, and John Steinbeck. Hundreds of Abramson's typed carbon replies are present in

the files, and discuss business and literary concerns, along with his philosophies and opinions on a wide range of topics. To many of the writers with whom he became close, Abramson freely dispensed personal advice. On the business end, his letters show that he regularly recommended and shipped literature to Argus patrons, including Alfred Kinsey and other scholars and authors, as well as searched for and obtained from other vendors books specifically requested by patrons. Contracts in the folders for John Anthony Carr and Stanley Marks reveal the existence of the Argus Agency: A Service for Writers, wherein Abramson acted "as a personal representative for authors and as an agent for any and all literary, dramatic, motion picture or other such material produced by them." The largest group of letters present is those between Abramson and the writer Henry Miller (1900-1968), which cover in detail many aspects of Miller's career, finances, and travels between 1937 and 1955. Abramson published some of Miller's writings and sold most of his publications, as well as providing a mail-order service for sending Miller (and Miller's friends, on Miller's account) his own works and new titles by other authors. With the Miller correspondence is a folder holding Connecticut Anthroposophical Society membership lists and redacted letters from people across the country who were attempting to purchase Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* (1938). In addition to publishing and retailing books, Abramson handled the sale of literary manuscripts for authors such as W. Somerset Maugham, whose file contains a price list of works available for purchase at Argus.

The collection also includes, in Series II, more than forty literary essays, poems, and book reviews which may have been submitted for an "Argus miscellany" that Abramson often discussed in his correspondence but apparently never produced. They do not appear in Abramson's journal *Reading and Collecting* (1936-1938), and likely date after 1938.

While the lack of financial, inventory, vendor, and publishing records keep the collection from being a complete record of the Argus Book Shop, the correspondence files present reveal how Ben Abramson developed business and personal relationships with authors, illustrators, and shop patrons, and, in particular with British authors, the obstacles he encountered while conducting business during World War II.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1857, 1920-1955. II. Manuscripts, 1937, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1857, 1920-1955

5.0 linear feet (13 boxes)

The files contain two-way correspondence between Abramson (and his staff) and the shop's patrons, primarily occurring during the period when the store was located in Chicago. The earliest item in the collection, and a true outlier, is an 1857 demand note enclosed in a letter from author Helen Headland; otherwise, the material in the series dates from 1920 to 1955, the span of Abramson's career.

Series I is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	Adamic, Louis	1934-1943
b. 1, f. 2	Adams, George Matthew	1943 Jul 30
b. 1, f. 3	Ade, George	1938
b. 1, f. 4	Adler, Mortimer Jerome	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 5	Aldington, Richard	1939 Nov 24
b. 1, f. 6	Allen, Hervey	1938
b. 1, f. 7	Altrocchi, Julia Cooley	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 8	Anderson, John Redwood	1941
b. 1, f. 9	Angle, Paul M. (Paul McClelland)	1940 Dec 3
b. 1, f. 10	Arms, George Warren	1942-1943
b. 1, f. 11	Armstrong, Margaret	1940
b. 1, f. 12	Armstrong, Martin	1932 Aug 28
b. 1, f. 13	Arnold, Julian Biddulph	1943-1944
b. 1, f. 14	Aronin, Cele	1943
b. 1, f. 15	Atwater, Montgomery M. (Montgomery Meigs)	1941
b. 1, f. 16	Austen, John	1927-1936
b. 1, f. 17	Babcock, Frederic	1943 Jan 5
b. 1, f. 18	Bach, Marcus	1942
b. 1, f. 19	Bahnc, Salcia	1941-1942
b. 1, f. 20	Bailey, J. O. (James Osler)	1941-1947
b. 1, f. 21	Balch, Jack S.	1941
b. 1, f. 22-27	Baldwin, Faith	1934-1944
b. 2, f. 28-29	Baldwin, Faith	1934-1944

b. 2, f. 30	Barker, H. Neville	1933-1938
b. 2, f. 31	Barnard, Harry	1938-1944
b. 2, f. 32	Barnes, Margaret Ayer	1933-1941
b. 2, f. 33	Baron, Joseph L.	1943
b. 2, f. 34	Baronte, Gervée	1939 Jan 6
	Bartlett, Paul Alexander See: Winters, Elizabeth R.	
b. 2, f. 35	Bassett, Norman	undated
b. 2, f. 36	Basso, Hamilton	1939
b. 2, f. 37	Beach, Rex	1935 May 3
	Becker, William See: Miller, Henry (1944)	
b. 2, f. 38	Bell, H. W. (Harold Wilmerding)	1946
b. 2, f. 39	Benét, William Rose	1933-1948
b. 2, f. 40	Benton, Walter and Lillian	1943-1944
b. 2, f. 41	Bessie, Alvah Cecil	1930
b. 2, f. 42	Binder, Pearl	1933-1934
b. 2, f. 43	Binns, Archie	1939-1942
b. 2, f. 44	Blankfort, Michael	1940
b. 2, f. 45	Bleyer, Adrien S.	1940
b. 2, f. 46	Blumenthal, Walter Hart	1938 Aug 17
b. 2, f. 47	Blunden, Edmund	1937 Feb 20
	Boissevain, Eugen See: Millay, Edna St. Vincent	
b. 2, f. 48	Bontemps, Arna	1941-1942
b. 2, f. 49	Boschère, Jean de	1940-1941
b. 2, f. 50	Bowman, Heath	undated
b. 2, f. 51	Boyd, James	1939 Mar 22
b. 2, f. 52	Boyden, Polly	1942-1944
b. 2, f. 53	Braden, Louise	1939-1941
b. 2, f. 54	Bradley, John Hodgdon	1941-1942

	Brasher, Philip and Rex See: Rex Brasher Associates	
b. 2, f. 55	Bristow, Gwen	1944
b. 2, f. 56	Brown, Kenneth	1937-1941
b. 2, f. 57	Brown, Lewis	1943
b. 2, f. 58	Brownell, George Hiram	1944
b. 2, f. 59	Brussel, Minnie	1941
b. 2, f. 60	Bullett, Gerald William	1930-1937
b. 2, f. 61	Burke, Thomas	undated
b. 2, f. 62	Burr, Jane	1935 Jun 11
b. 2, f. 63	Cabell, James Branch	1937-1941
b. 2, f. 64	Cain, James M. (James Mallahan)	1940-1941
	Cairns, Huntington See: Miller, Henry (1941)	
b. 2, f. 65	Caldwell, Erskine and Helen	1933, 1940
b. 2, f. 66	Callaghan, Morley	1937
b. 2, f. 67	Campbell, Lanning	1944
b. 2, f. 68	Carpenter, Lucile Russell	1942-1944
b. 2, f. 69	Carr, John Anthony	1942
b. 2, f. 70	Carus, Helena	1935 Feb 24
b. 2, f. 71	Casey, Robert J. (Robert Joseph)	1941-1943
b. 2, f. 72	Caspary, Vera	1943
b. 2, f. 73	Cather, Willa	1933
b. 2, f. 74	Chappell, George S. (George Shepard)	1941
b. 2, f. 75	Cherne, Leo	1944
b. 2, f. 76	Chevalier, Elizabeth Pickett	1942
b. 2, f. 77	Child, Nellise	1941-1944
b. 2, f. 78	Church, Mary	1943 Sep 2
b. 2, f. 79	Clark, Herma	1941-1942
b. 2, f. 80	Clark, Walter Van Tilburg	1941 Apr 2

	Clarke, Ada See: Lawrence, Frieda von Richthofen	
b. 2, f. 81	Clayborn, Dean	1943
b. 2, f. 82	Coates, Robert M. (Robert Myron)	undated
	Conason, Emil G. See: Miller, Henry (1941)	
b. 3, f. 83	Conklin, Groff	1938
b. 3, f. 84	Conroy, Jack	1940-1941
b. 3, f. 85	Cook, J. B. (John Brown)	1943-1944
b. 3, f. 86	Coppard, A. E. (Alfred Edgar)	1932 Jul 25
b. 3, f. 87	Cost, March	1939-1949
b. 3, f. 88	Cowles, Maud Sherman	1941
b. 3, f. 89	Cozzens, James Gould	1940
b. 3, f. 90	Crane, Frances	1942
b. 3, f. 91	Crawford, Nelson Antrim	1943
b. 3, f. 92	Crowley, Aleister	1930 Oct 4
b. 3, f. 93	Crowell, Evelyn Miller	1941-1942
b. 3, f. 94	Culbertson, Ely	1940 Dec 18
b. 3, f. 95	Cummings, Lewis Vance	1940
b. 3, f. 96	Cunningham, Scott	1944 Jun 22
b. 3, f. 97	Dahlberg, Edward	1941
b. 3, f. 98	Daiches, David	1944
b. 3, f. 99	Daly, Maureen	1942
b. 3, f. 100	Daly, Robert Welter	1940
b. 3, f. 101-103	Dannay, Frederic	1940-1944
b. 3, f. 104	Davey, Norman	1939-1940
b. 3, f. 105	Davidson, L. E.	undated
b. 3, f. 106	Davies, Rhys	1936-1940
b. 3, f. 107	De Camp, L. Sprague (Lyon Sprague)	1946-1947
b. 3, f. 108	De Casseres, Benjamin	1929-1936
b. 3, f. 109	De Vries, Peter	1940

b. 3, f. 110	Dean, Elizabeth	1940
b. 4, f. 111-119	Derleth, August William See also: Bailey, J. O. (James Osler)	1931-1949
b. 4, f. 120	Detweiler, S. R.	1932 Jul 22
b. 4, f. 121	Detzer, Karl	1941
b. 4, f. 122	Deval, Jacques	1944
b. 4, f. 123	Dewson, Nelyon Johnson	1941
	Dickinson, Stirling See: Bowman, Heath	
b. 4, f. 124	Dillon, George	1940
b. 4, f. 125	Dobie, Charles Caldwell	1935 Oct 25
b. 4, f. 126	Dodge, Paul Hunter	undated
b. 4, f. 127	Dopp, William H.	1942 Jul 14
b. 4, f. 128	Dos Passos, John	1947, undated
b. 4, f. 129	Douglas, Norman	1941-1942
b. 5, f. 130-131	Douglas, Robin and Viola	1928-1944
b. 5, f. 132	Draper, Elizabeth Fowler	1944 Jul 7
b. 5, f. 133	Drinkwater, John	1933 Dec 29
b. 5, f. 134	Driscoll, Charles B. (Charles Benedict)	1940 May 7
b. 5, f. 135	Drury, John	1941
b. 5, f. 136	Duffus, R. L. (Robert Luther)	1940 Jun 25
b. 5, f. 137	Durant, Will	1940
b. 5, f. 138	Eaton, Evelyn Sybil Mary	1940 Aug 17
b. 5, f. 139	Eberhart, Mignon Good	1940-1942
b. 5, f. 140	Edgley, Leslie	1940 Feb 24
b. 5, f. 141	Edmonds, Walter Dumaux	1940
b. 5, f. 142	Edmondson, Lucia Johnson	1941-1943
b. 5, f. 143	Edwards, Ward Hampton	1932 Aug 2
b. 5, f. 144-145	Eisenschiml, Otto	1940-1944
b. 5, f. 146	Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns)	1944 Jan 17
b. 5, f. 147	Engle, Paul	1941-1949

b. 5, f. 148	Engstrand, Stuart David	1939-1941
b. 5, f. 149	Fadiman, Clifton	1941 Nov 25
b. 5, f. 150	Faherty, Robert	1940-1941
b. 5, f. 151	Fairbank, Janet Ayer	1940
b. 5, f. 152	Falstaff, Jake	1930, 1942
b. 5, f. 153	Fante, John	1939-1940
b. 5, f. 154	Farmar, Constance	1937 Nov 25
b. 5, f. 155	Farr, Hilda Butler	1943 May 26
b. 5, f. 156	Farrell, James T. (James Thomas)	1933-1935
b. 5, f. 157	Faulkner, Fritz	1936-1937
b. 5, f. 158	Feibleman, James Kern	1941
	Feikema, Feike See: Miller, Henry (1944)	
b. 5, f. 159	Felman, Hazel Holds typescript of "Uncle Sam Stands Up"	undated
b. 5, f. 160	Ferber, Edna	1941 Nov 26
b. 5, f. 161	Ferguson, J. De Lancey (John De Lancey)	1943
	Fetzer, Hazel See: Falstaff, Jake	
b. 5, f. 162	Ficke, Arthur Davison	1941 Apr 15
b. 5, f. 163	Fineman, Irving	1939-1942
b. 5, f. 164	Finney, Charles G. (Charles Grandison)	1939-1948
b. 5, f. 165	Fischer, Martin	1937-1941
b. 5, f. 166	Fisher, Vardis	1946-1950
b. 5, f. 167	Fletcher, John Gould	1944 Jun 21
b. 5, f. 168	Fodor, M. W.	1941-1942
b. 5, f. 169	Foster, Michael	1939 Jun 4
b. 6, f. 170-171	Fraenkel, Michael	1939-1948
b. 6, f. 172	Frederick, John T. (John Towner)	1941
b. 6, f. 173	Freehof, Lilian and Solomon Bennett	1942-1944
b. 6, f. 174	Frost, Robert	1941-1942

b. 6, f. 175	Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster)	1940
b. 6, f. 176	George, Ernest	1941 Dec 9
b. 6, f. 177	Gogarty, Oliver St. John	1941
b. 6, f. 178	Golding, Louis	1932-1941
b. 6, f. 179	Goodrich, Marcus	1941-1942
b. 6, f. 180	Grant, Joan Marshall	1940-1946
b. 6, f. 181	Gray, James	1941 Feb 12
b. 6, f. 182	Greenbie, Marjorie Latta Barstow	1940
b. 6, f. 183	Greenslet, Ferris	1943
b. 6, f. 184	Gregory, Alyse	1933 Sep 4
	Gregory, Tappan See: Harrison, Carter H.	
b. 6, f. 185	Griswold, Francis	1939-1940
b. 6, f. 186	Gue, Rubie T.	1944
b. 6, f. 187	Guedalla, Philip	1933-1936
b. 6, f. 188	Guthrie, James	1940
b. 6, f. 189	Haberly, Loyd	1936-1939
b. 6, f. 190	Hackett, Francis	1940 Feb 12
b. 6, f. 191	Hall, James Norman	1940 Jul 22
b. 6, f. 192	Hamilton, Joseph and Josephine	1937 Sep 10
b. 6, f. 193	Hamilton, Patrick	1936-1942
b. 6, f. 194	Hammett, Dashiell	1920-1941
b. 6, f. 195	Handy, W. C. (William Christopher)	1941
b. 6, f. 196	Hansen, E. E.	1932 Aug 17
b. 6, f. 197	Hansen, Harry	1934-1937
b. 6, f. 198	Hardy, Florence Emily	1935
b. 6, f. 199-200	Hardy, W. G. (William George)	1938-1942
b. 6, f. 201	Harris, Frank	1926 Apr 25
b. 6, f. 202	Harrison, Carter H. (Carter Henry)	1939 Oct 10
b. 6, f. 203	Hartley, Marsden	1941

b. 6, f. 204	Hawkins, Arthur	1931 Jan 8
	Haxton, Gerald See: Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset)	
b. 6, f. 205	Hayakawa, S. I. (Samuel Ichiyé)	1941, 1944
b. 6, f. 206	Headland, Helen Includes a Bishop Hill Colony three-dollar demand note (1857)	1857, 1943-1944
b. 6, f. 207	Hecht, Ben See also: Felman, Hazel	1939-1954
b. 6, f. 208	Hemingway, W. C.	1940 Sep 13
b. 6, f. 209	Heron, Flodden W.	1932 Aug 5
b. 6, f. 210	Heth, Edward Harris	1940-1941
b. 6, f. 211	Hilton, James	1934-1939
b. 6, f. 212	Hokanson, Nels Magnus	1943
b. 6, f. 213	Holbrook, Stewart Hall	1939-1943
b. 6, f. 214	Holmes, Ernest	1944
b. 6, f. 215	Hopkins, Kenneth	1941
b. 6, f. 216	Horan, Kenneth	1940-1941
b. 6, f. 217	Horn, Edward Newman	1941
b. 6, f. 218	Horney, Karen	1941
b. 6, f. 219	Houghton, Claude	1942-1953
b. 7, f. 220	Household, Geoffrey	1936-1940
b. 7, f. 221	Houseman, Laurence	1934 Sep 20
b. 7, f. 222	Howard, John	1943
b. 7, f. 223	Hughes, Langston	1940-1944
b. 7, f. 224	Hurst, Fanny	1943 May 8
b. 7, f. 225	Hutchins, Robert Maynard	1941 Nov 28
b. 7, f. 226	Huxley, Julian	1939 Dec 4
b. 7, f. 227	Hyatt, Helen	1944 Jun 26
b. 7, f. 228	Jackson, Joseph Henry	1939 Feb 13
b. 7, f. 229	Jeffers, Robinson and Una	1930-1941
b. 7, f. 230	Johnson, Fridolf	1944

b. 7, f. 231	Johnson, Osa	1941 Dec 13
b. 7, f. 232	Jones, Idwal	1941
b. 7, f. 233	Jones, Llewellyn	1941-1944
b. 7, f. 234	Jones, Richard	1936 Mar 27
b. 7, f. 235	Jordan-Smith, Paul	1931-1947
b. 7, f. 236	Kantor, MacKinlay	1942
b. 7, f. 237	Kaufman, Charles	1940
b. 7, f. 238	Kazin, Alfred	1943 Mar 20
b. 7, f. 239	Keeler, Harry Stephen	1943
b. 7, f. 240	Keller, David Henry	1943-1944
b. 7, f. 241	Kent, William	1937 Apr 12
b. 7, f. 242	Kenyon, Charles	1943-1944
b. 7, f. 243	Kinsey, Alfred C. (Alfred Charles)	1947-1948
b. 7, f. 244	Kirkus, Virginia	1942-1943
b. 7, f. 245	Knight, Eric	1941
b. 7, f. 246	Koenigsberg, Moses	1940
b. 7, f. 247	Kraus, Florence	1942
b. 7, f. 248	Krause, Herbert	1939-1940
b. 7, f. 249	Lamb, Dana	1940 Apr 27
b. 7, f. 250	Lamb, Harold	1940
b. 7, f. 251	Lapham, Edward A.	1942
b. 7, f. 252	Laves, Gerhardt	1941 Nov 10
b. 7, f. 253	Lee, Alfred P. (Alfred Pyle)	1940
b. 7, f. 254	Lee, Irving J.	1943 Feb 9
b. 7, f. 255	Lee, Manfred B. (Manfred Bennington)	1940
b. 7, f. 256	Leighton, Clare	1942-1943
b. 7, f. 257	Leonard, William Ellery	1929-1941
b. 7, f. 258	Lesser, Simon O.	1942
b. 7, f. 259	Levant, Oscar	1940 Nov 6
b. 7, f. 260	Levin, Meyer	1940

b. 7, f. 261	Lewis, Herbert Clyde	1940
b. 7, f. 262	Lewis, Sinclair	1932-1940
b. 7, f. 263	Lawrence, Frieda von Richthofen	1933, 1939
b. 7, f. 264	Leacock, Stephen	1943 Mar 19
b. 7, f. 265	Leginska, Ethel	1936 Nov 27
b. 7, f. 266	Lewisohn, Ludwig and Edna	1932-1943
b. 7, f. 267	Lindsay, Norman and Rose	1936-1944
b. 7, f. 268	Lipton, Lawrence	1941
b. 7, f. 269	Little, Shelby	1929 Jul 2
b. 7, f. 270	Lofting, Hugh	1939
b. 7, f. 271	London, Jack Contains only an undated photostat of a 1914 letter from London to Ralph Kasper	undated
b. 7, f. 272	London, Joan	1939-1940
b. 7, f. 273	Lowry, Katherine	1932 Jul 6
	Lowry, Robert See: Miller, Henry (1941)	
b. 7, f. 274	Lundquist, Matthew Nathanael	1944
b. 7, f. 275	Lyons, Eugene	1937, undated
b. 7, f. 276	McAlmon, Robert	1929-1930
b. 7, f. 277	McCullers, Carson	1940-1942
b. 7, f. 278	McCutcheon, John T. (John Tinney) and Evelyn	1943-1944
b. 7, f. 279	MacDonald, Jessica North	1943
b. 7, f. 280	McEvoy, J. P. (Joseph Patrick)	1941 Dec 26
b. 7, f. 281	McFee, William	1930-1942
b. 7, f. 282	MacIntyre, Carlyle Ferren	1939-1940
b. 8, f. 283	Mclver, Claude Searcy	1941
b. 8, f. 284	McKay, Allis	1940-1941
b. 8, f. 285	MacLeish, Archibald	1940-1941
b. 8, f. 286	McWilliams, Carey	1939-1940
b. 8, f. 287	Mann, George	1944
b. 8, f. 288	Mann, Thomas	1940 Aug 1

b. 8, f. 289	Marks, Stanley J.	1943-1944
b. 8, f. 290	Martin, George Victor	1941-1944
b. 8, f. 291	Martin, John Bartlow and Frances R.	1942-1944
b. 8, f. 292	Mason, F. van Wyck (Francis van Wyck)	1940
b. 8, f. 293	Mason, Walt	undated
b. 8, f. 294	Masters, Edgar Lee and Marcia	1935-1943
b. 8, f. 295	Mathers, E. Powys (Edward Powys)	1933 Oct 23
b. 8, f. 296	Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset)	1937-1942
b. 8, f. 297	Meagher, Maude	1936-1941
b. 8, f. 298	Meeker, Arthur	1941
b. 8, f. 299	Meloney, William Brown	1942
b. 8, f. 300	Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis)	1927-1955
b. 8, f. 301	Merritt, Jesse	undated
b. 8, f. 302	Milburn, George	1939-1942
b. 8, f. 303	Millay, Edna St. Vincent	1933, 1941
	Miller, Henry	
b. 9, f. 304-314	Correspondence See also: Houghton, Claude (1944) Includes photograph of Anais Nin (1941)	1937-1955, undated
b. 9, f. 315	Connecticut Anthroposophical Society letters and membership lists Holds letters requesting copies of Miller's book <i>The Tropic of Cancer</i>	1938-1940
b. 10, f. 316	Mills, Clark	1942 Jan 14
b. 10, f. 317	Millspaugh, C. A. (Clarence Arthur)	1939
b. 10, f. 318	Moore, Doris Langley	1933 Feb 17
b. 10, f. 319	Moore, E. E.	1932 Jul 19
b. 10, f. 320	Moore, Harry Thornton	1942 Jan 28
b. 10, f. 321	Moore, Ward	1941-1942
b. 10, f. 322	Morley, Christopher	1932-1943
b. 10, f. 323	Morris, Constance Lily	1937
b. 10, f. 324	Morrison, Nancy Brysson	1947-1948
b. 10, f. 325	Morse, Samuel French	1941-1944

b. 10, f. 326	Mottram, R. H. (Ralph Hale)	1933 Sep 18
b. 10, f. 327	Mullally, Donn	1941
b. 10, f. 328	Mulqueen, Elizabeth Costa	1941
b. 10, f. 329	Munson, Knox	1944 Jun 5
b. 10, f. 330	Murdoch, Angus	1943 Jan 31
b. 10, f. 331	Neilson, Francis	1943
	Nielson, Helen Swift See: Swift, Helen	
b. 10, f. 332	Nejelski, Leo	1941
b. 10, f. 333	Newhouse, Edward	1941
b. 10, f. 334	Nin, Anais See also: Miller, Henry (1941)	1942-1944
b. 10, f. 335	Nonweiler, Arville	1943
b. 10, f. 336	North, Sterling	1943 Dec 14
b. 10, f. 337	Nott, Stanley Charles	1942
b. 10, f. 338	Odets, Clifford	1947
b. 10, f. 339	Olmsted, Nelson	1943
b. 10, f. 340	Osborne, Donna Byrne Includes photographs of Bunsho Jugaku	1938
b. 10, f. 341-342	Papé, Frank Cheyne	1928-1934
b. 10, f. 343	Parry, Albert	1939-1940
b. 10, f. 344	Patchen, Kenneth	1941-1946
b. 10, f. 345	Paul, Elliot	1942 May 4
b. 10, f. 346-347	Paul, Louis	1936-1943
b. 10, f. 348	Payne, Gabriel	1932 Jul 22
b. 10, f. 349	Pearson, Hesketh	1934 Oct 14
b. 10, f. 350	Pearson, Norman Holmes	1941
b. 10, f. 351	Peattie, Donald Culross	1936-1945
b. 11, f. 352	Peattie, Roderick	1941-1942
b. 11, f. 353	Peck, Elisabeth Sinclair	1937 Sep 20
b. 11, f. 354	Pegler, J. Westbrook (James Westbrook)	1937 Jul 19

b. 11, f. 355	Pennell, Joseph Stanley	1944-1948
b. 11, f. 356	Phelps, William Lyon	1942 Jul 27
b. 11, f. 357	Phillpotts, Eden	1933 Sep 1
b. 11, f. 358	Pierce, Bessie Louise	1940 Oct 2
b. 11, f. 359	Pilgrim, David	1937 Sep 27
b. 11, f. 360	Pinero, Arthur Wing, Sir	1934 Sep 21
b. 11, f. 361	Pound, Ezra	1933 Dec 24
b. 11, f. 362	Prochnow, Herbert V. (Herbert Victor)	1942
b. 11, f. 363	Prokosch, Frederic	1934-1943
b. 11, f. 364	Rascoe, Burton	1932-1941
b. 11, f. 365	Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan	1941-1944
b. 11, f. 366	Rex Brasher Associates	1939-1940
b. 11, f. 367	Rice, Craig	1940-1943
b. 11, f. 368	Ripperger, Helmut	1942
b. 11, f. 369	Robinson, Oliver W.	1943 Aug 7
b. 11, f. 370	Rogers, Virginia Horton	1943
b. 11, f. 371	Ruby, Harry	1943 Aug 10
b. 11, f. 372	Rudy, John Forney	1942 Aug 12
b. 11, f. 373	Running, Lillian	1944
b. 11, f. 374	Sandburg, Carl	1941-1944
b. 11, f. 375	Sandoz, Mari	1941-1944
b. 11, f. 376	Sarett, Lew	1941-1943
b. 11, f. 377	Saroyan, William,	1934-1941
b. 11, f. 378	Schacher, Gerhard	1942
b. 11, f. 379	Schaller, Robert Clark	1942-1943
b. 11, f. 380	Schorer, Mark	1941
b. 11, f. 381	Schwartz, Delmore	1942 Nov 28
b. 11, f. 382	Sheppard, Harriet	1944
b. 11, f. 383	Shores, Nancy	1943
b. 11, f. 384	Shridharani, Krishnalal	1941-1942

b. 11, f. 385	Siberell, Lloyd Emerson Contains checklist of the publications of the Old Capitol Press of David K. Webb	undated
b. 11, f. 386	Sigerist, Henry E. (Henry Ernest)	1946-1947
b. 11, f. 387	Sinclair, Harold	1932-1941
b. 11, f. 388	Smith, Edgar Wadsworth	1944
b. 11, f. 389	Smith, Robert Paul	1941-1942
b. 11, f. 390	Smith, Solomon A., Mrs.	1941
b. 11, f. 391	Snower, H. B.	1937 Nov 23
b. 11, f. 392	Smyth, Joseph Hilton	1941
b. 11, f. 393	Sorenson, Virginia	1942
b. 11, f. 394	Spectorsky, August	1943 Nov 26
b. 11, f. 395	Starrett, Vincent	1941-1948
b. 11, f. 396	Steele, Dan	1941-1942
b. 12, f. 397-398	Steinbeck, John and Carol See also: Paul, Louis (1938) Includes informal photographs	1935-1941, undated
b. 12, f. 399	Sterling, Alexander Mahan	1932 Jul 25
b. 12, f. 400	Stone, Irving	1941
b. 12, f. 401	Storm, Otto	1941 Apr 10
b. 12, f. 402	Stout, Rex	1943 May 24
b. 12, f. 403	Streit, Clarence K. (Clarence Kirshman)	1944
b. 12, f. 404	Struther, Jan	1943
b. 12, f. 405	Suckow, Ruth	1942 Apr 8
b. 12, f. 406	Swabacker, Leslie	1941-1942
b. 12, f. 407	Swift, Helen	1943
b. 12, f. 408	Symons, A. J. A. (Alphonse James Albert)	1937 Feb 18
b. 12, f. 409	Terrell, John Upton	1942
b. 12, f. 410	Thayer, Tiffany	1941-1944
b. 12, f. 411	Thomajan, Puzant Kevork	1942-1943
b. 12, f. 412	Thomas, Winfield W.	1949
b. 12, f. 413	Thomason, John W. (John William)	1941

b. 12, f. 414	Thompson, Sue	1943
b. 12, f. 415	Thorek, Max	1943
b. 12, f. 416	Thornton, Willis	1941
b. 12, f. 417	Tice, Clara	1936-1941, undated
b. 12, f. 418	Tooker, Richard	1943-1944
b. 12, f. 419	Toor, Frances	1943-1944
b. 12, f. 420	Townshend, Frank	1942 Aug 7
b. 12, f. 421	Truesdale, Bill	1944 Jan 1
b. 12, f. 422	Ulreich, Nura Woodson	1935 Jan 19
b. 12, f. 423	Untermeyer, Louis	1940-1948
b. 12, f. 424	Vaka, Demetra	1943 May 12
b. 12, f. 425	Von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang	1939 Dec 17
b. 12, f. 426	Wagner, Constance	1940 Feb 7
b. 12, f. 427	Walpole, Hugh, Sir	1932, 1941
b. 12, f. 428	Walton, Evangeline	1936-1944
b. 12, f. 429	Watkin, Lawrence Edward	1938-1940
b. 12, f. 430	Waugh, Alec	1941 Oct 3
b. 12, f. 431	Weber, Carl Jefferson	1940
b. 12, f. 432	Welch, Patrick	1940-1942
b. 12, f. 433	Welch, Roy K.	1940 Jun 25
b. 12, f. 434	Wellman, Paul Iselin	1939
b. 12, f. 435	West, Herbert Faulkner	1936-1939
b. 12, f. 436	West, Nathanael	1937-1940
b. 12, f. 437	Wetjen, Albert Richard	1947 Apr 21
b. 12, f. 438	White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks)	1935 Dec 3
b. 12, f. 439	White, Emil	1945
b. 12, f. 440	White, Robb	1942 Aug 6
b. 12, f. 441	White, William Lindsay	1938 Apr 15
b. 12, f. 442	Wiggam, Lionel	1936-1942
b. 12, f. 443	Wigmore, John Henry	1934

b. 12, f. 444	Wilder, Thornton	1935-1941
b. 12, f. 445	Wilkins, Vaughan	1937
b. 12, f. 446	Wilkinson, Louis Umfreville	1928 Feb 13
b. 13, f. 447	Williams, Cecil B. (Cecil Brown)	1944
b. 13, f. 448	Williams, Dorcas	1937 Feb 5
b. 13, f. 449	Williams, Oscar	1940
b. 13, f. 450	Willis, Saul B.	1932 Jul 24
b. 13, f. 451	Wilson, Edmund	1946-1951
b. 13, f. 452	Winchell, Walter	1933 Mar 8
b. 13, f. 453	Winspear, Elizabeth B.	1941
b. 13, f. 454	Winterich, John Tracy	1934 Dec 27
b. 13, f. 455	Winters, Elizabeth R.	1943
b. 13, f. 456	Winwar, Frances	1940-1944
b. 13, f. 457	Wise, Thomas James	1928 Jun 24
b. 13, f. 458	Wolff, Maritta	1943
b. 13, f. 459	Wood, Charles Erskine Scott	1936
b. 13, f. 460	Wood, Clement	1941-1943
b. 13, f. 461	Woodford, Jack	1943
b. 13, f. 462	Woollcott, Alexander	1942 Dec 1
b. 13, f. 463	Wright, Richard	1940
b. 13, f. 464	Wyatt, Edith	1939-1944
b. 13, f. 465	Young, June F.	1943 Aug 20
b. 13, f. 466	Ziff, William B. (William Bernard)	1943 Aug 4
b. 13, f. 467	Miscellaneous papers Includes a printed circular letter from Abramson to his shop patrons (undated); a typed carbon copy of a letter from Van Wyck Brooks to "Max" (1941); press release for book on shells by Maxwell Smith (1941); letter from Abramson to "Percy" [Loring?] (1943); collation of edition of Thackeray's <i>Vanity Fair</i> (undated)	1941-1943, undated

Series II: Manuscripts, 1937, undated*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The series is comprised of a group of literary essays, poems, and book reviews, predominantly original typescripts, that were likely submitted for Abramson's proposed "Argus miscellany." Some of the manuscripts include photographs meant to be used as text illustrations.

Series II is arranged alphabetically by author.

b. 14, f. 468	Bauer, Thorpe: "Streamlined Scripture"	undated
b. 14, f. 469	Bean, Folsom S.: "Written on a Fly"	undated
b. 14, f. 470	Berg, H. M., Jr.: on O. W. Holmes, Washington Irving, Mary Mapes Dodge, and Henry David Thoreau	undated
b. 14, f. 471	Braude, Jacob Morton: "I Like Bad Boys"	undated
b. 14, f. 472	Chapin, Helen Burwell: "Reading and Collecting in China"	undated
b. 14, f. 473	Clarke, Norman E. (Norman Ellsworth): "Huckleberry Finn"	undated
b. 14, f. 474	Conklin, Groff: on Ulysses, Bryant, and James Clarence Mangan	undated
b. 14, f. 475	Dart, Ruth: "We Women Collectors"	undated
b. 14, f. 476	Ege, Otto F.: "The Book Beautiful"	undated
b. 14, f. 477	Guthrie, James: "Edgar Allan Poe: Poet of Landscape"	undated
b. 14, f. 478	Heron, Flodden W.: "An Accidental Portrait of R. L. S."	undated
b. 14, f. 479	Hockin, John Russell Ayescoghe: "John Brown's Bogey"	undated
b. 14, f. 480	Jones, Dan Burne: "Ex Libris: Bookplate Prints"	undated
b. 14, f. 481	Jones, Louise Seymour: "Chaucer's Gardens," "Talesin," and untitled poem	undated
b. 14, f. 482	Kent, William: "Shakespearean Heresy"	undated
b. 14, f. 483	Klinefelter, Walter: "If Ever Falstaff Went to Arthur's Bosom"	undated
b. 14, f. 484	Kuder, Blanche Bane	undated
b. 14, f. 485	Laughlin, James: "The Publishing Business"	undated
b. 14, f. 486	Levine, Isaac: "The Versatile Mr. Laurence Housman" Contains a letter from Laurence Housman to Levine (1937), and a bibliography	1937, undated
b. 14, f. 487	Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis): "On Collecting Henrik Ibsen"	undated
b. 14, f. 488	Moore, Edward Martin: "Authors as Typographers" and "Fashions in Type"	undated
b. 14, f. 489	Perry, Louise S. G. (Louise Sanborn Gifford): "Rich Richard the Bookish Bishop"	undated
b. 14, f. 490	Plumb, Charles S. (Charles Sumner): "Notes by a Collector of Bibles"	undated
b. 14, f. 491	Powell, Lawrence Clark: "The Seven Best Books of D. H. Lawrence," and review of Robinson Jeffers poems	undated

b. 14, f. 492	Prouty, Louise: "The Cleveland Public Library"	undated
b. 14, f. 493	Schultz, William Eben: "A Study in Titles"	undated
b. 14, f. 494	Stone, P. M. (Percival Mason): "Collective Detective Fiction"	undated
b. 14, f. 495	Vaka, Demetra: on first editions	undated
b. 14, f. 496	VanderPoel, Halsted B.: "And Out of Olde Books"	undated
b. 14, f. 497	Vehling, Joseph Dommers: "Apicus: Cookery and Dining in Ancient Rome"	undated
b. 14, f. 498	Wolf, Geraldine: "Outline of History"	undated
b. 14, f. 499	Wolf, Howard: four essays	undated
b. 14, f. 500	Unidentified authors	undated

Restricted Fragile

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

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b. 18, f. 715 Box 13, folder 466

b. 18, f. 716 Box 13, folder 467

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

Authors, American
Authors, English
Booksellers and bookselling -- United States
Bookstores -- United States
Publishers and publishing -- United States

Contributors

Argus Book Shop (Chicago, Ill.)
Abramson, Ben

Names

Abramson, Ben
Austen, John
Bailey, J. O. (James Osler), 1903-1979
Baldwin, Faith, 1893-1978
Cost, March, -1973
Dannay, Frederic, 1905-1982
Davey, Norman, 1888-
Davies, Rhys, 1901-1978
Derleth, August, 1909-1971
Douglas, Robin, 1902-
Eisenschiml, Otto, 1880-1963
Fraenkel, Michael, 1896-1957
Grant, Joan, 1907-1989
Hardy, W. G. (William George), 1895-1979
Houghton, Claude, 1889-1961
Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset),
1874-1965
McFee, William, 1881-1966
Miller, Henry, 1891-1980
Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957
Nin, Anaïs, 1903-1977
Papé, Frank Cheyne, 1878-1972
Paul, Louis, 1901-1970
Prokosch, Frederic, 1908-1989
Rascoe, Burton, 1892-1957
Sang, Philip D.
Sang, Philip D. -- Ownership
Saroyan, William, 1908-1981
Sinclair, Harold, 1907-1966
Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968
Tice, Clara, 1888-1973
Walton, Evangeline
Welch, Patrick

Corporate Body

Argus Book Shop (Chicago, Ill.)