

Guide to the Vachel Lindsay Collection

YCAL MSS 493



by Beinecke staff

2011

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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 493

CREATOR: Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931

TITLE: Vachel Lindsay collection

DATES: 1913-1932

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.54 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Vachel Lindsay collection contains original correspondence and manuscripts by early twentieth-century American poet Vachel Lindsay. The collection features letters from Lindsay to poet Sara Teasdale, dating from 1913 to 1931, documenting their early courtship and ongoing friendship. Writings appear to have been sent to Teasdale as enclosures to the letters. There are also letters to Teasdale from Lindsay's widow, Elizabeth Connor Lindsay, following his death in late 1931.

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

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.lindsay>.

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

Vachel Lindsay's letters and writings to Sara Teasdale purchased from Margaret Conklin, Teasdale's executor, in 1958, with additional gifts and purchases from other sources, 1944 to 1961.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Vachel Lindsay 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

Vachel Lindsay Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing around the time of acquisition in 1958. During baseline processing of the collection in 2011, the small number of original letters and manuscripts acquired from sources other than Margaret Conklin were removed from the existing alphabetical runs of correspondence and writings and established in Series II. Material from Other Sources.

Formerly classed as Za Lindsay.

Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931)

Vachel Lindsay, American poet and writer, was born on November 10, 1879, in Springfield, IL. He attended Hiram College (1897-1900), Chicago Art Institute (1900-1903), and New York School of Art (1904-1905). Lindsay married Elizabeth Conner in 1925, and they had two children, Susan Doniphan and Nicholas Cave. Lindsay died in Springfield, IL on December 5, 1931.

Scope and Contents

The Vachel Lindsay collection contains original correspondence and manuscripts by early twentieth-century American poet Vachel Lindsay. The collection features letters from Lindsay to the poet Sara Teasdale, dating from 1913 to 1931, documenting their early courtship and ongoing friendship. Many of the writings appear to have been sent to Teasdale as enclosures to the letters. There are also letters from Lindsay's widow, Elizabeth Connor Lindsay, following his death in late 1931.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Margaret Conklin Purchase, 1913-1932. II. Material From Other Sources, 1917-1921.

Collection Contents

Series I: Margaret Conklin Purchase, 1913-1932

1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I. contains correspondence from Vachel Lindsay to the poet Sara Teasdale and writings. The letters from Lindsay to Teasdale (later Mrs. Ernst B. Filsinger) document their early courtship and ongoing friendship over nearly two decades. There are also letters from Lindsay's widow, Elizabeth Connor Lindsay, following Lindsay's death in 1931. Most if not all the writings here, chiefly carbons of poems, were originally sent to Teasdale as enclosures to the letters.

Purchased from Margaret Conklin, 1958.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

	Correspondence	1913-1932
b. 1	1913	1913
b. 1	1914 Jan	1914 January
b. 1	1914 Feb	1914 February
b. 1	1914 March	1914 March
b. 1	1914 April	1914 April
b. 1	1914 May	1914 May
b. 1	1914 June	1914 June
b. 2	1914 July	1914 July
b. 2	1914 Aug	1914 August
b. 2	1914 Sep-Dec	1914
b. 2	1915-1919	1915-1919
b. 2	1920-1922	1920-1922
b. 2	1923	1923
b. 2	1924	1924
b. 2	1925 Jan	1925 January
b. 2	1925 Feb-Dec	1925
b. 3	1926-1932 Includes letters to Teasdale from Elizabeth Connor Lindsay	1926-1932
	Writings	
b. 3	"Babylon, Babylon, Babylon the Great"	undated
b. 3	"The Buggy-Breaking Doctor"	undated

Writings (continued)

b. 3	"The Chandelier"	undated
b. 3	"The Chinese Nightingale"	undated
b. 3	"The Empire of China Is Crumbling Down"	undated
b. 3	"The Firemen's Ball"	undated
b. 3	"From a Sweat-shop Hand ..."	undated
b. 3	"I Heard Immanuel Singing"	undated
b. 3	"A Kaleidoscope"	undated
b. 3	"A Moonlight Transformation"	undated
b. 3	"Old Andrew Jackson"	undated
b. 3	"On the Garden Wall"	undated
b. 3	"Rain in the High Mountains"	undated
b. 3	"The Red Gods"	undated
b. 3	"The Santa Fe Trail"	undated
b. 3	["Seraphim"]	undated
b. 3	"Sew the Flags Together"	undated
b. 3	"The Shield of Faith"	undated
b. 3	"The Tale of the Tiger Tree"	undated
b. 3	"To the Living Princess (S. T. F.)"	undated
b. 3	"Yankee Doodle"	undated

Series II: Material From Other Sources, 1917-1921*0.5 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series II. contains a small number of original letters and manuscripts from other sources. There are also typescript copies and photocopies of the entire correspondence from Lindsay to Teasdale held in Series I.

Acquired from various sources, 1944 to 1961.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

Correspondence

b. 4	Emerson, John and Anita Loos (photostats)	undated
b. 4	Morley, Christopher	1921 February 21
b. 4	Copies of letters from Lindsay to Teasdale in Series I <i>2 Folders</i>	undated

Writings

b. 5	"Adventures While Preaching Hieroglyphic Sermons"	undated
b. 4	"The Ghosts of the Buffaloes"	1917 April 28
b. 4	"So Much the Worse for Boston"	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.

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

Occupations

Authors
Poets

Names

Lindsay, Elizabeth Conner, 1901-1954
Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931
Teasdale, Sara, 1884-1933