

# Guide to the James Branch Cabell Collection

YCAL MSS 566



by Beinecke Staff

2012

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

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
James Branch Cabell (1879-1958) .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1918-1951 .....	6
Series II: Writings, 1928-1949 .....	7
Series III: Printed Material and Photographs, 1912-1971 .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	10

---

## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 566

**CREATOR:** Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958

**TITLE:** James Branch Cabell collection

**DATES:** 1912-1971

**BULK DATES:** 1927-1954

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.1 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters, manuscripts, and printed material related to the life and work of James Branch Cabell. The letters in Series I were written by Cabell to his publishers, literary collaborator, and colleagues; in most cases the folders include carbon copies of responses sent back to Cabell. Writings in Series II are typescripts and proofs of several works, and include correspondence related to their publication, as well as designs by John O'Hara Cosgrave for the cover and end papers of Cabell's work *There Were Two Pirates*. Series III holds published material about Cabell, including reviews of his work, in the form of clippings, pamphlets, and other ephemera, and portrait photographs by Carl Van Vechten and Foster Studio, Richmond.

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

---

## 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 <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cabell>.

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

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was assembled by library staff and was acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Source information is recorded at the folder level in the contents list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The James Branch Cabell 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

James Branch Cabell Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

---

### Processing Information

Collection 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, 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, in 2012.

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call numbers: Za Cabell, Za C109 +1, Za C109 +S1, Za C109 +G1, and Za Obj Art.

---

## James Branch Cabell (1879-1958)

James Branch Cabell, American author of works of fiction and non-fiction, including novels, comedies, short stories, essays, poetry, and writings on genealogy. He was a native of Richmond, Virginia, and a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

For a full biography and bibliography of his work, see Cabell's entry in the online Encyclopedia of Virginia at [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Cabell\\_James\\_Branch\\_1879-1958](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Cabell_James_Branch_1879-1958) (accessed November 12, 2012).

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection contains letters, manuscripts, and printed material related to the life and work of James Branch Cabell. The letters in Series I were written by Cabell to his publishers, literary collaborator, and colleagues; in most cases the folders include carbon copies of responses sent back to Cabell. Writings in Series II are typescripts and proofs of several works, and include correspondence related to their publication, as well as designs by John O'Hara Cosgrave for Cabell's work *There Were Two Pirates*. Series III holds biographical material and published reviews of Cabell's work in the form of clippings, pamphlets, and other ephemera, along with portrait photographs of Cabell by Carl Van Vechten and by the Foster Studio, Richmond.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1918-1958. II. Writings, 1928-1949. III. Printed Material and Photographs, 1912-1971.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1918-1951

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Additional correspondence related to Cabell's publications is filed in Series II.

b. 1, f. 1	Babb, James T. (James Tinkham) Gift of James T. Babb, 1959 and 1961.	1926-1951
b. 1, f. 2	Canby, Henry Seidel Gift of Henry S. Canby, 1953.	1922 Oct 21
b. 1, f. 3	Farrar, John Chipman 65 letters to Farrar and 1 letter to Margaret Petherbridge Farrar; 3 letters to M. B. Sheffield; 1 letter to J. Kempner; 2 letters from Margaret Freeman Cabell to Farrar; 1 telegram and 3 carbon letters from Farrar to Cabell  Also in the folder is Farrar's correspondence with David L. Barnett, William Lawton Maner, and Josephine Pinkney regarding Cabell.  Gift of John Chipman Farrar, 1949, 1950, 1955, 1956, and 1958.	1927-1958
b. 1, f. 4-14	Farrar & Rinehart, and Rinehart & Company, Inc. 112 letters to Farrar & Rinehart (correspondents include: John Chipman Farrar, Stanley M. Rinehart, Philip Wylie, Adelaide A. Sherer, Marguerite J. Reese and William Raney) with carbon copies of the publishers' replies and letters to and from other publishers and agents  Gift of Rinehart & Company, Inc., 1949.	1938-1949
b. 1, f. 15	Gruener, Gustav Acquired on exchange from the German Literature Collection, 1967.	1922 Apr 26
b. 1, f. 16-22	Hanna, Alfred Jackson 154 letters and 4 telegrams to Hanna, with whom Cabell collaborated on <i>The St. Johns</i> for the "Rivers of America" series; 34 letters and 2 telegrams from Hanna to Cabell; and 1 letter to Mrs. Price  Purchased on the George B. Alvord Fund and American Studies' funds, 1965.	1938-1954
b. 1, f. 23	Kane, Lawrence J. Gift of Mrs. Arthur Head, 1948.	1922 Oct 9
b. 1, f. 24	Machen, Arthur	1918 Mar 8
b. 1, f. 25	Swan, Bradford F. (Bradford Fuller) Gift of Bradford F. Swan, 1949.	1946 May 10
b. 1, f. 25a	Van Vechten, Carl Gift of Mrs. Margaret Waller Freeman Cabell, 1962.	1919-1949

**Series II: Writings, 1928-1949***1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Arranged alphabetically by title. Writings by Cabell that were published in newspapers appear in folders 45 and 46 in Series III.

b. 2, f. 26-27	<i>The Devil's Own Dear Son</i> , typescript, corrected Gift of John Chipman Farrar, 1949.	1949
b. 2, f. 28	<i>The Jewel Merchants</i> , preface, typescript, corrected; signed by Cabell on May 21, 1948 Gift of James Branch Cabell, 1948.	1921
b. 2, f. 29-32	<i>Let Me Lie</i> , typescript, page proofs, and galleys, corrected  <i>Sonnets From Antan</i> Gift of Louis M. Rabinowitz, 1944.	1946-1947
b. 3, f. 33	Typescripts, corrected and page proofs, corrected Includes 5 typescript letters to James R. Wells.	1928-1929
b. 3, f. 34	Printed version, signed by Cabell	1929
	<i>There Were Two Pirates</i>	
b. 3, f. 35	Correspondence regarding publishing Correspondents include Roger W. Straus, John Chipman Farrar, and Julius Fleischmann.	1946
b. 3, f. 36	Postcards, some with notes by Cabell regarding various places and objects in Florida and their use as the setting for the story	undated
b. 3, f. 37-38	Typescript and carbon copy	1946
b. 3, f. 39-40	Sample book pages and designs for cover, end papers, illustrations, etc., by John O'Hara Cosgrave Also stored in: Oversize, Box 6, folder 52	1946
b. 3, f. 41	Galley and page proofs	1946
	<i>The Witch Woman</i>	
b. 4, f. 42	Typescript and page proofs, corrected	undated
b. 4, f. 43-44	Galleys, corrected	1947-1948

**Series III: Printed Material and Photographs, 1912-1971***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Printed material arranged chronologically, with photographs at the end.

b. 5, f. 45-46	Clippings and pamphlets by and about Cabell	1912-1979
b. 5, f. 47	Reviews of Cabell's writings	1921-1961
b. 5, f. 48	"Figures of Allegory" by Leon Howard; study of James Branch Cabell reprinted from the <i>Sewanee Review</i>	1934
b. 5, f. 49	<i>The Virginia Author 1819-1969</i> ; University of Virginia Library exhibition checklist	1969
b. 5, f. 50	<i>The Cabellian: A Journal of the Second American Renaissance</i> ; vol. 4, no. 1	1971
	"The Map of Philip Borsdale, circa 1679," by Frank Cheney Papé Stored in: Oversize, Box 6, folder 53 Gift of James T. Babb, 1939.  Title within map image: Poictesme; shows the places mentioned in the novels <i>Figures of Earth</i> , <i>Domeni</i> , <i>Jurgen</i> , <i>The High Place</i> , and <i>The Silver Stallion</i> .	circa 1928
	"James Branch Cabell," by Frank Cheney Papé; portrait etching of James Branch Cabell, signed Stored in: Oversize, Box 6, folder 54  Typescript notation on verso: This is one of the 210 Impressions, of which 200 are for sale, and plate has been destroyed.	1930
b. 5, f. 51	Portrait photographs by Carl Van Vechten (2) and Foster Studio, Richmond	undated



Oversize  
0.13 linear feet (1 box)

b. 6 (Oversize), f. 52	In Series II: <i>There Were Two Pirates</i> , designs for cover, end papers, illustrations, etc., by John O'Hara Cosgrave	1946
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 53	In Series III: "The Map of Philip Borsdale, circa 1679," by Frank Cheney Papé	circa 1928
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 54	In Series III: "James Branch Cabell," by Frank Cheney Papé; portrait etching of James Brand Cabell, signed	1930

---

## 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 -- Virginia -- 20th Century --  
Archives

### Genres / Formats

Galley proofs  
Layouts (printer matter)  
Page proofs  
Photographs -- United States -- 20th Century  
Studio portraits -- United States -- 20th  
Century

### Occupations

Authors -- Virginia -- 20th Century

### Names

Babb, James T. (James Tinkham), 1899-1968  
Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958  
Canby, Henry Seidel, 1878-1961  
Cosgrave, John O'Hara, II, 1908-1968  
Farrar, John Chipman, 1896-1974  
Hanna, Alfred Jackson, 1893-  
Machen, Arthur, 1863-1947  
Swan, Bradford F. (Bradford Fuller)  
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964

### Corporate Bodies

Farrar & Rinehart  
Foster Studio

### Contributors

Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958  
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964  
Foster Studio