

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Theodore Dreiser Collection

YCAL MSS 665



by Beinecke Staff

2012

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945) .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Correspondence, 1910-1940 .....	5
Series II: Writings, 1923-1935 .....	6
Series III: Printed Material, 1923-1977 .....	7
Oversize .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

---

## 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 665

**CREATOR:** Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945

**TITLE:** Theodore Dreiser collection

**DATES:** 1910-1977

**BULK DATES:** 1910-1940

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.33 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters written by Dreiser to colleagues and friends, two literary manuscripts, seven printed writings from published periodicals, and a group of clippings and ephemera about Dreiser and his work. Correspondents include Ernest Augustus Boyd, Dudley Nichols, Willard Huntington Wright, and the agency Management Ernest Briggs.

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

---

## 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.dreiser>.

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

Acquired from various sources, including library staff, 1949-1977. Source information is recorded at folder level when known. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

The Theodore Dreiser 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

Theodore Dreiser 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 finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call numbers: Za Dreiser and Za D 814 +1.

---

## Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945)

Theodore Dreiser, American author and critic.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection was assembled by the library, and contains letters written by Dreiser to colleagues and friends, two literary manuscripts, seven printed writings from published periodicals, and a group of clippings and ephemera about Dreiser and his work. Correspondents include Ernest Augustus Boyd, Dudley Nichols, Willard Huntington Wright, and the agency Management Ernest Briggs.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1910-1940. II. Writings, 1923-1935. III. Printed Material, 1923-1977.

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1910-1940

7 Folders

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	Boyd, Ernest Augustus Purchased from House of Books on the George B. Alvord Fund, 1952.	1927-1936
b. 1, f. 2	Bramski, Mr. (of London) Gift of Edwin J. Beinecke, 1954.	1928 January 30
b. 1, f. 3	Cochrane, Charles Gift of Frederic C. C. Boyd, 1941; removed from his autograph collection and transferred from the Historical Manuscripts Room in 1953.	1910 October 3
b. 1, f. 4	Management Ernest Briggs (Firm) Purchased from Driscoll on the Elizabeth W. Manwaring Fund, 1951.  Includes flier advertising Dreiser's availability for lectures, and a carbon typescript of one undated lecture on his life and work.	1934-1938
b. 1, f. 5	Nichols, Dudley Gift of Dudley Nichols, 1949 and 1953.  Includes as an enclosure, carbon typescript copies of a telegram from Fred Smith, Finnish Relief Fund, to Dreiser, and Dreiser's reply.	1926-1940
b. 1, f. 6	Richards, Grant Purchased from R. F. Metzdorf on the Francis O. Matthiesen Fund, 1955.	1910 May 27
b. 1, f. 7	Wright, Willard Huntington Purchased with Library Associates Funds.	1912-1913

**Series II: Writings, 1923-1935***3 Folders*

The series contains manuscripts and various writings cut from periodicals.

b. 1, f. 8	Introduction to <i>The Road to Buenos Aires</i> , by Albert Londres Purchased from Myers on the George B. Alvord Fund, 1956.  Typescript, signed and corrected	circa 1928
b. 1, f. 9	"The Teller of the Story" Purchased from The House of El Dieff (Feldman), 1952.  Autograph manuscript with corrections, edits, and corrected carbon typescript and typescript sections attached; later titled: "The Prince Who Was a Thief"	undated
b. 1, f. 10	Clipped writings by Dreiser Also stored in Box 2, folders 13-15  Includes a letter to the editor of the New York <i>Globe</i> (1921), a book review from the <i>Literary Review</i> (1923), "Mark Twain: Three Contacts" (from <i>Esquire</i> , October 1935), and an essay from the <i>Daily News</i> , Los Angeles (undated)	1923-1935, undated

### **Series III: Printed Material, 1923-1977**

*2 Folders*

---

b. 1, f. 11	Clippings about Dreiser and his writings	1923-1977
b. 1, f. 12	Other ephemera Includes printed "Pending Legal Contract" for film version of <i>An American Tragedy</i> , a dust jacket for Jennie Gerhardt, and other printed material	1931-1971

---

**Oversize**

---

b. 2 Oversize, f. 13	In Series II: Clipped writings by Dreiser: "Five Poems," tearsheet from <i>New York Evening Post Literary Review</i>	1924 December 20
b. 2 Oversize, f. 14	In Series II: Clipped writings by Dreiser: "The Great American Novel," in <i>The American Spectator</i> Gift of Carl Van Vechten.	1932 December
b. 2 Oversize, f. 15	In Series II: Clipped writings by Dreiser: Walter Winchell column in <i>New York Daily Mirror</i> , guest-written by Dreiser Gift of Carl Van Vechten.	1933 August 1

---



## **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 -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Boyd, Ernest Augustus, 1887-1946

Cochrane, Charles

Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945

Nichols, Dudley, 1895-1960

Richards, Grant, 1872-1948

Wright, Willard Huntington, 1888-1939

### **Corporate Body**

Management Ernest Briggs (Firm)