

Guide to the Frederic Prokosch Collection

YCAL MSS 685



by Beinecke staff

January 2013

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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 685

CREATOR: Prokosch, Frederic, 1908-1989

TITLE: Frederic Prokosch collection

DATES: 1908–1968

BULK DATES: 1935–1952

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.17 linear feet (14 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Frederic Prokosch collection contains material by or relating to American novelist and translator Frederic Prokosch. There are corrected drafts and proofs to several early novels, including *The Asiatics* (1935), *The Seven Who Fled* (1937), *The Conspirators* (1943), *Age of Thunder* (1945), *The Idols of the Cave* (1946), and *Storm and Echo* (1948). There are also drafts of shorter works, including stories and individual poems, as well as three collections of poetry dating from the same period, specifically, *The Assassinations* (1936), *The Carnival* (1938), and *Death at Sea* (1940). Additional materials include correspondence, photographs, printed material, such as clippings and reviews, and personal and family papers.

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

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.prokosch>.

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

Acquired by gift and purchase from various sources, 1941-1999. For additional information see the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Frederic Prokosch 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

Frederic Prokosch Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including in some instances rehousing and minimal organization, when it arrived at the library.

In 2013, each acquisition was listed separately in the Collection Contents section below according to date of acquisition. As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former call numbers: Za Prokosch, Uncat Za MS 288, Uncat Za MS 388, and Uncat MSS 16.

Existence and Location of Copies

Microfilm available for portions of the collection.

Frederic Prokosch (1908-1989)

Frederic Prokosch, novelist and translator, was born May 17, 1908, in Madison, Wisconsin, to Edouard and Mathilde (Daprich) Prokosch. He was educated at Haverford College (1926, 1928), the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University (1933), and Cambridge University. Prokosch served as an instructor in English at Yale University (1932-1934), a faculty member at New York University (1936-1937), and a cultural attache for the U.S. Office of War Information in Stockholm (1943-1944) before spending most of the rest of his life in Europe. His first novel, *The Asiastics* (1935), a picaresque novel about a young man's travels from

Lebanon to China, drew praise from established literary figures, and his second novel, *The Seven Who Fled* (1937), earned the Harper Prize. Prokosch's memoir, *Voices*, appeared in 1984. He died June 2, 1989, in Plan de Grasse, France.

Biographical information taken from "Frederic Prokosch." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2003. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 4 Jan. 2013.

Scope and Contents

The Frederic Prokosch collection contains material by or relating to American novelist and translator Frederic Prokosch. There are corrected drafts and proofs to several early novels, including *The Asiatics* (1935), *The Seven Who Fled* (1937), *The Conspirators* (1943), *Age of Thunder* (1945), *The Idols of the Cave* (1946), and *Storm and Echo* (1948). There are also drafts of shorter works, including stories and individual poems, as well as three collections of poetry dating from the same period, specifically, *The Assassinations* (1936), *The Carnival* (1938), and *Death at Sea* (1940). Additional materials include correspondence, photographs, printed material, such as clippings and reviews, and personal and family papers.

Arrangement

Organized into ten groupings by date of acquisition: I. August 1941 Acquisition. II November 1941 Acquisition. III October 1944 Acquisition. IV. 1945-1948 Acquisitions. V. March 1963 Acquisition. VI. October 1963 Acquisition. VII. July 1992 Acquisition. VIII. November 1993 Acquisition. IX. December 1999 Acquisition. X. Other Acquisitions.

Collection Contents

I. August 1941 Acquisition, [1935?]-undated

4 Folders

The August 1941 Acquisition consists of drafts of three manuscripts, including Prokosch’s first published novel, *The Asiatics* (1935).

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Gift of William Ruff.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 1	<i>The Asiatics</i> , draft, typescript carbon, corrected 2 Folders	[circa 1935]
b. 1	"Elizabeth Island," draft, typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1	Untitled autograph manuscript (incomplete), corrected	undated

II. November 1941 Acquisition, 1929-1933*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The November 1941 Acquisition consists of shorter writings by Prokosch, including stories and collections of poems.

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Gift of William Ruff.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 1	"Cupid's Whirligig" and "Hecate's House," typescript	1930
b. 1	"Death In Autumn," poems, typescript	1929
b. 2	"Death of a Poet," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"The Flamingoes," poems, typescript	1933
b. 2	"Fog Over the Wisconsin," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"Idyll in Bavaria," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"The Lagoon," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"The Lonely Unicorn," poems, typescript	1929
b. 2	"A Love Story," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"Mexican Nosegay," story, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"My Friend Waldemar," story, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"Old Fortunatus," poems, typescript carbon, corrected	1931
b. 2	"A Passenger to Asia," poems, typescript	1931
b. 2	"Peninsula Evening," story, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 2	"The Promenade," story, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"The Return From the Picnic," autograph manuscript	undated
b. 2	"The Somnabulists," poems, typescript carbon, and "The Wolves," poems, typescript	1933
b. 3	"The Statue In the Garden," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 3	"The Stranger," typescript	1931
b. 3	"Thief, Thief!" autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 3	"View of Lisbon," story, autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 3	"Visit To the Margravine," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 3	Untitled autograph manuscript, corrected	undated

III. October 1944 Acquisition, [circa 1935]-1942*0.64 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The October 1944 Acquisition consists of corrected drafts and proofs for the three novels *The Asiatics* (1935), *The Conspirators* (1943), and *The Seven Who Fled* (1937).

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Gift of Mrs. Edward Prokosch.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 3	<i>The Asiatics</i> , typescript, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations <i>2 Folders</i>	[circa 1935]
b. 3	<i>The Conspirators</i> , typescript carbon, corrected, with printer's annotations	undated
b. 3	<i>The Conspirators</i> , page proof, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations	1942
b. 4	<i>The Conspirators</i> , page proof, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations	1942 November
b. 4	<i>The Seven Who Fled</i> , typescript, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations <i>2 Folders</i>	[circa 1937]

IV. 1945-1948 Acquisitions, 1945-1948*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The 1945-1948 Acquisitions include drafts of the novels *Age of Thunder* (1945), *The Idols of the Cave* (1946), and *Storm and Echo* (1948).

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Gift of Frederic Prokosch.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 4	<i>Age of Thunder</i> , draft, typescript, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations	1945
b. 5	<i>Age of Thunder</i> , draft, typescript, corrected, with proofreaders' marks and printer's annotations	1945
b. 5	<i>The Idols of the Cave</i> , draft, typescript and autograph manuscript, corrected 2 Folders	[circa 1946]
b. 5	<i>Storm and Echo</i> , draft, typescript, corrected	1948

V. March 1963 Acquisition, 1935-1952

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

The March 1963 Acquisition consists of corrected galley and plate proofs of the novel *The Seven Who Fled* (1937) and a publisher’s correspondence file relating to Prokosch.

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Gift of Harper & Brothers.

b. 6	<i>The Seven Who Fled</i> , galley proof, corrected, with proofreaders’ marks and printer’s annotations	1937
b. 6	<i>The Seven Who Fled</i> , plate proof, corrected, with proofreaders’ marks and printer’s annotations	1937
b. 6	Correspondence	1935-1952, undated

VI. October 1963 Acquisition, [circa 1964]

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

The October 1963 Acquisition consists of a typescript mimeograph draft of *The Dark Dancer* (1964).

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Gift of The Book of the Month Club.

b. 7

The Dark Dancer, draft, typescript mimeograph

[circa 1964]

VII. July 1992 Acquisition, 1935-1940*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The July 1992 Acquisition consists of material relating to the novel *The Asiatics* (1935) and three collections of poems, *The Assassins* (1936), *The Carnival* (1938), and *Death at Sea* (1940). Materials include manuscript notes and draft fragments, correspondence, and printed ephemera.

Former call number: Uncat Za MS 288.

Purchased from Bertram Rota on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 8	<i>The Asiatics</i> , correspondence	1935, undated
b. 8	<i>The Assassins</i> , draft, proofs, printed material, and correspondence 6 Folders	1936, undated
b. 8	<i>The Carnival</i> , proofs, printed material, and correspondence 11 Folders	1938, undated
b. 8	<i>Death at Sea</i> , drafts and correspondence 5 Folders	1940, undated

VIII. November 1993 Acquisition, 1935-1959*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The November 1993 Acquisition consists of manuscript drafts and fragments of poems removed from printed material.

Former call number: Uncat Za MS 388.

Gift of Jack H. Bady.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 9	"Among the Caves"	undated
b. 9	[Andromeda]	1938 October 11
b. 9	"The Assassins"	1935 November 2
b. 9	"Banquet Song"	undated
b. 9	"The Death Ship"	1958, undated
b. 9	"The Dolls"	undated
b. 9	"The Enemies"	undated
b. 9	"Fable"	undated
b. 9	"Fire Song"	[1955?] November 12
b. 9	"The Flamingoes" <i>2 Folders</i>	1948, undated
b. 9	"The Ghost City"	1959, undated
b. 9	"Going Southward"	undated
b. 9	"The Grotto"	undated
b. 9	"Island Song"	undated
b. 9	"Jungle Song"	undated
b. 9	"The Mirror"	undated
b. 9	"Phantom Song"	undated
b. 9	[The Red Sea]	undated
b. 9	"The Sacred Wood"	undated
b. 9	"Snow Song" <i>2 Folders</i>	1949
b. 9	"Song" <i>2 Folders</i>	1941, undated
b. 9	"Sunburned Ulysses"	1941 July

b. 9	"The Survivors"	undated
b. 9	"Temple Song"	1954
b. 9	[Three Deaths]	undated
b. 9	[Three Images]	undated
b. 9	[Three Mysteries]	undated
b. 9	[Three Sorrows]	undated
b. 9	"The Voyage"	1933 July 12
b. 9	"Wood Song"	1951[December]
b. 9	Works by others <i>5 Folders</i> Contains proofs for limited editions prepared by Prokosch	undated
b. 10	Works by others <i>2 Folders</i> Contains proofs for limited editions prepared by Prokosch	undated

IX. December 1999 Acquisition, 1908-1968*3 linear feet (3 boxes)*

The December 1999 Acquisition consists of correspondence, writings, photographs, printed material, and family papers by or relating to Frederic Prokosch and the Prokosch family.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 16.

Gift of the Prokosch family.

b. 11	Inventory	undated
b. 11	Photographs	[1937-1943]
b. 11	Correspondence	1931-1943
b. 11	<i>Poetry: A Magazine of Verse</i>	1940
b. 11	Assorted journalism and review articles	1936-1968
b. 11	Haverford College Record	1925
b. 11	<i>The Criterion</i>	1934
b. 11	Warning to a Traveller	undated
b. 11	Photographs	undated
b. 11	Silhouetter	undated
b. 11	Notebook, Biology 2	undated
b. 11	Siegfried's Sage, In Bildern	undated
b. 11	A Sunset After a Storm	[1920]
b. 11	Short stories	undated
b. 11	<i>The Haverfordian</i>	1924
b. 11	<i>The Assassins</i>	undated
b. 11	Passport	1935
b. 11	The Enemies, The Mirror	1934-1960
b. 11	Phi Beta Kappa Key	undated
b. 11	Childhood drawings	undated
b. 11	Drawings and water colors	undated
b. 11	Art notes	undated
b. 11	Educational documents	1909-1917
b. 11	Marchen Buch	undated
b. 11	Telephone book	undated

b. 11	Maerchen Charaktere	undated
b. 11	YMCA, American Kennel Club	1908-1930
b. 11	<i>The Carnival</i>	undated
b. 11	<i>Nine Days to Mukalla</i>	undated
b. 11	Writings and articles	1936-1938
b. 11	Reviews of <i>The Assassins</i>	1936
b. 11	Reviews and clippings for <i>The Carnival</i>	1936-1940
b. 11	Reviews of <i>The Night of the Poor</i>	1939
b. 11	Reviews and clippings for <i>The Asiatics</i>	1936-1941
b. 11	The English Novel, edited by Verschoyle	1936
b. 11	Moult Anthology	1936-1940
b. 11	<i>The Skies of Europe</i>	1941-1944
b. 11	<i>Age of Thunder</i>	1945
b. 11	<i>Voices: A Memoir</i>	1983
b. 11	<i>Death at Sea</i>	1941
b. 11	<i>The Seven Who Fled</i>	1937-1943
b. 12	Miscellaneous items 2 Folders	1921-1943
b. 12	<i>Storm and Echo</i>	1948
b. 12	<i>The Conspirators</i> 2 Folders	1943
b. 12	<i>The Skies of Europe</i>	1941-1943
b. 12	Reviews of <i>The Asiatics</i>	1935-1936
b. 12	Correspondence 10 Folders	1916-1939
b. 13	Correspondence 17 Folders	1940-1951, undated

X. Other Acquisitions, 1933-undated

2 Folders

This grouping contains other small acquisitions of material by or relating to Frederic Prokosch.

Former call number: Za Prokosch.

Acquired by gift from various sources. For additional information see the appropriate curator.

Arranged chronologically by acquisition.

b. 14	"Moliere," poem, typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 14	"The Centaur," poems, typescript carbon	1933

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

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Prokosch, Frederic, 1908-1989