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Descriptive Summary

Title: W.H. Auden collection, 1934-1988
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1046
Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes), 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (OP), and AV Masters: .25 linear feet (1 box)
Abstract: Collection of material related to English poet W.H. Auden, including essays, a manuscript poem, newspaper clippings, reviews, programs, and photographs.
Language: Materials primarily in English, with some materials in German.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

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Source

Custodial History
Originally received as part of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library. Additions purchased from dealers, provenance unknown.

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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], W.H. Auden collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Appraisal Note
Acquired by Curator of Literary Collections and the Danowski Poetry Library, Kevin Young, as part of the Rose Library's holdings in Literature and Poetry.

Processing
Processed by Elizabeth Chase, April 2006.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Wystan Hugh Auden, a poet, was born in York, England, on February 21, 1907, to George Augustus (a medical officer) and Constance Rosalie (a nurse) Auden. He attended Christ Church, Oxford, from 1925-1928, then served as a schoolmaster in various institutions in England and Scotland from 1930 to 1935, including The Downs School in Colwell. In 1935 Auden married Erika Mann, a writer and the daughter of Thomas Mann, so that she could gain British Citizenship and escape Nazi Germany. Although the two never lived together, they remained married until Mann's death in 1969. In 1939, two years after he was awarded the King's Gold Medal for poetry, Auden left England for the United States, becoming a citizen in 1946. During the 1940s he won numerous prizes for his work, including two Guggenheim fellowships, a Pulitzer Prize, a National Book Award, and a National Medal for Literature from the National Book Committee. Between 1940 and 1961 Auden also served as a faculty member at numerous academic institutions, including the University of Michigan, Swathmore College, Bryn Mawr College, Bennington College, Barnard College, Smith College, and Oxford University. Throughout his career he collaborated with other artists including Christopher Isherwood and Louis MacNeice, and frequently produced libretti for musical works by Benjamin Britten, Igor Stravinsky, and Mozart with his companion, Chester Kallman. Auden died in Vienna on September 28, 1973, and was buried near his summer home in Kirchstetten, Austria.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the papers of W.H. Auden, papers by others given to Auden, and publications about Auden's life and work from 1934 to 1988. Amongst these items are scripts for essays read over German radio by Auden in the 1960s, typescripts of two class lectures given by Auden, a large range of newspaper clippings of essays and poems by Auden, as well as reviews and commentary by other critics and readers of his work, and numerous programs for performances of Auden's plays and librettos in both the United States and England. The
collection also includes issues of *The Badger*, school magazine of The Downs School, which feature contributions by Auden.

Also included in the collection is a preliminary agreement between the American Library of World Literature, W.H. Auden, and Anne Fremantle for "Protestant Mysticism," later published as *The Protestant Mystics*. Additional items include Chester Kallman's high school yearbook, correspondence from Elizabeth Sewell, George Martin, and Thekla Clark, a typescript with holograph corrections of the interview Auden gave to Arion, the corrected typescript of Auden's speech accepting the National Book Award, and fragments of texts by other writers and critics which Auden collected.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged by record type.
# Container List

## Agreement

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<td>1</td>
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<td>Authorization to Publish the Works, &quot;Thanksgiving For A Habitat, Nos II, III, XII,&quot; in <em>This Is My Best</em>, undated</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>For publication of &quot;Protestant Mysticism&quot; [<em>Protestant Mystics</em>] W.H. Auden and Anne Fremantle, December 11, 1962</td>
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## Announcement

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<td><em>The Dog Beneath the Skin</em>, The Group Theatre, London, Autumn 1935</td>
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<td><em>The Dog Beneath the Skin, or Where is Francis?</em> Harvard Dramatic Club, American Premiere, May 6-8, [1937]</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>reading at The Poetry Center, New York, March 27, 1972 [signed by W.H. Auden and Richard Howard]</td>
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## Articles

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<td>1</td>
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<td>Fraser, G.S., &quot;Auden: The Composite Grant,&quot; <em>Shenandoah</em>, Volume XV, No. 4, Summer 1964</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Grella, George, &quot;Murder and Manners,&quot; <em>Novel</em>, Fall 1970 [inscribed to Auden from Grella]</td>
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<td>Niebuhr, Reinhold, &quot;The Social Myths in the 'Cold War',&quot; excerpted from <em>Journal of International Affairs</em> [Vol. 21, No. 1, 1967] [Inscribed to W.H. Auden from Niebuhr]</td>
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<td>Poole, A.R., &quot;Standing Mute and Fitness to Plead,&quot; excerpted from <em>The Criminal Law Review</em> [1968] [Inscribed to W.H. Auden from Poole]</td>
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Auction Catalog
1  17  Sotheby and Co., July 15-16, 1974
1  18  unknown vendor, undated [Fragment]

Book Jacket
1  19  *The Enchafèd Flood, Journey to a War, Letters from Iceland, The English Auden* (2 copies), Faber and Faber

Broadcast Scripts
1  20  "Des Färbers Hand und andere Essays," *Kulturelles Wort*, Frankfurt am Main, May 23, 1965

Correspondence
1  22  W.H. Auden to Frederich Prokosch, ALS, April 28, 1972
1  24  W.H. Auden to Michael Davidson, July 18, 1965
1  25  Thekla Clark to W.H. Auden, ALS, December 27
1  26  George Martin to W.H. Auden, TLS, July 20, 1960
1  27  Elizabeth Sewell to W.H. Auden, ALS, September 2, 1965 [Includes TS of "Cosmos and Kingdom"]
1  28  The Modern Poetry Association to W.H. Auden [Fragment], TL, October 29, 1960

Greeting Card
1  29  "Chorus of Angels," Hallmark, undated

Interview
1  30  ["Arion Questionnaire: The Classics and the Man of Letters"], TS with holograph revisions

Invitations
1  31  Auden, birthday party, February 21, 1960
1  32  Auden, birthday party, February 21 [1963] [2 copies]

Lectures
1  33  "Culture and Leisure, A Lecture Given by W.H. Auden at the Catholic University of America," February 26, 1966, copy of TS
1  34  "The Poetic Process, Notes and Comments," TS
1  35  "Poetry and Freedom," University of Virginia, McGregor Room Seminars in Contemporary Poetry and Prose, February 27, 1948
Memo

1  36    To Members of the Standing Liturgical Commission, *The Ordination of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons*, December 16, 1969

Newspaper clippings

OP1  1    July 2, 1964, Auden, W.H., "Shakespeare's Sonnets," *The Listener*

OP1  1    July 9, 1964, Auden, W.H., "Shakespeare's Sonnets - II," *The Listener*


1  39    February 1-15, 1966, Katzman, Allan, "Poet Arrested on Obscenity," *The East Village Other*


1  41    February 21-March 5, 1982, Whitcomb, Ian, "How could this rumpled badger be a repository of such great wisdom?" [Article on Whitcomb's interview of Christopher Isherwood]

1  42    April 7, 1972, Martinson, Harry, "The Dream City," *The Times Literary Supplement* [Poem translated by W.H. Auden and Leif Sjoberg]

1  43    June 5, 1972, "Cecil Day-Lewis's distinguished contemporary W.H. Auden contributes a salute To An Old Friend," *The Sunday Times*

1  44    June 21, 1972, "The Auden chocolate pudding disaster," *Evening Standard*

1  45    June 22, 1972, Symon, Penny, "Mr. Auden 'cross' at laureate rumours," *The Times*


2  2    October 26, 1972, "Art and the Dead," *The Listener*

2  3    October 26, 1972, Kermode, Frank, "Faithing and Blithing - Frank Kermode discusses Auden," *The Listener* [Review of W.H. Auden's Epistle to a Godson] [October 19, 1972], "Auden shuffles back" [*The Sunday Times*

2  4    [October 1972], "Worthy of a Tun of Sack"


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<td>February 2, 1973</td>
<td>Auden, W.H.</td>
<td>&quot;Unpredictable but providential,&quot; The Times Literary Supplement</td>
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<td>September 30, 1973</td>
<td>Peter, John</td>
<td>&quot;Auden: The voice of his age&quot; and &quot;Auden dies,&quot; The Sunday Times</td>
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<td>September 30, 1973</td>
<td>Wain, John</td>
<td>&quot;Auden - poet of opposites&quot; and &quot;Auden dies,&quot; The Observer Review</td>
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<td>&quot;To know and know not&quot; [The Times Literary Supplement] [Review of Auden's Forewords and Afterwords]</td>
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<td>October 28, 1973</td>
<td>Toynbee, Philip</td>
<td>&quot;Oxford's Farewell to Auden,&quot; The Observer</td>
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<td>November 11, 1973</td>
<td>Strachan, W.J.</td>
<td>&quot;W.H. Auden&quot; [The Times Literary Supplement]</td>
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<td>November 30, 1973</td>
<td>Colvin, Christina</td>
<td>&quot;W.H. Auden,&quot; [The Times Literary Supplement]</td>
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<td>&quot;Life from a dead letter,&quot; [The Sunday Times]</td>
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<td>April 25, 1974</td>
<td>Auden, W.H.</td>
<td>&quot;Lullaby,&quot; The Listener [2 copies]</td>
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<td>April 25, 1974</td>
<td>Gaunt, William</td>
<td>&quot;Auden, Moore and the art of drawing,&quot; The Times</td>
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May 13, 1974, Mullaly, Terence, "Fresh look at Moore and Auden" *Daily Telegraph*

[August 15, 1974], Auden, W.H., "Nocturne," *The Listener*


October 6, 1974, Heyworth, Peter, "The opera that Auden inspired," *Observer Magazine*

[January 21, 1975], "Chester Kallman, Poet and Librettist" *The Times*


[April 18, 1975], Hobson, A.R.A., "Auden's 'Spain,'"," *The Times Literary Supplement*

May 31, 1975, Raine, Craig, "Conflict between Christianity and a poet's gifts," *The Times*


February 20, 1976, Porter, Peter, "Bunyan's Progress," *The Times Literary Supplement*

June 11, 1976, "Considered trifles," *The Times Literary Supplement*


June 18, 1976, Fuller, John, "A Strict and Adult Pen," *The Times Literary Supplement* [Review of Samuel Hynes's The Auden Generation]

June 20, 1976, Toynbee, Philip, "Five young writers who changed my world," *Observer Magazine*

[1976], "Austrian cottage becomes a poet's memorial"

March 4, 1977, Wade, Nicholas, "Nicholas Wade's Trousers," *The Times Literary Supplement*

April 3, 1977, Toynbee, Philip, "Herr issyvoo comes clean," *The Observer Review*


April 11, 1980, Auden, W.H. [untitled; photograph of Benjamin Britten and Auden with quote from Auden]

[December 9, 1980], Leapman, Michael, "Engrossing record of Auden's vigour and achievement" [*The Times*]


February 1, 1981, Porter, Peter, "Strains of collaboration," *The Observer* [Review of Donald Mitchell's Britten and Auden in the Thirties]


[March 21, 1988], Lenton, John, "W.H. Auden" [*The Times Literary Supplement*]

[February 28], Mendelson, Edward, "W.H. Auden," [*New Statesman*]

undated, Abse, Dannie, "Auden on Form" [Review of W.H. Auden's Epistle to a Godson]


undated, Berlins, Marcel, "Auden to be buried in Austrian Village," and "W.H. Auden, The outstanding English poet of his generation"

undated, Burstall, Christopher, "Portrait Gallery"

undated, Callan, Edward. "W.H. Auden" and Adam Smith, Janet, "W.H. Auden" [2 letters to the Editor regarding a review of Epistles to a Godson]

undated, Davies, Tom, "My glimpse of Auden's wisdom," *The Observer Review*

undated, Devlin, Tim, "A poet out to cause a bit of bother"

undated, Dickinson, Peter, "Look, Stranger!"

undated, "Herr Brandt to see friend's opera premiere"

undated, Howard, Philip, "Stone to Auden unveiled"

undated, "Later Auden"

undated, Mendelson, Edward, "Look, Stranger!"

undated, "Poet's Corner" [The Times]

undated, "Poetry"

undated, Raymond, John ["A work of magic…"]

undated, Schuyler, James, "Wystan Auden"

undated, Swindell, Daisy, "W.H. Auden's grave"

undated, Symons, Julian ["Forewords and Afterwords"]


undated, "Two Masters"

Pamphlet Publication

Poetry Society of America, Prize-winning Poems, 1955-1956

Photographs

Auden, W.H., Oxford, 1928

Auden, W.H., undated

Poems

Ekelöf, Gunnar, "Fem Dikter," All Världens Berättare, December 1955

Etsy, Jane, "On Making a Visit in Mid-Afternoon," Prairie Schooner, Winter, 1964/65 [inscribed to Auden from Etsy]

Horace, The Odes and Epodes, (Bennett, C.E., translator), Loeb Classical Library edition, 1914 [poor condition, back cover and title page through xviii missing]

Postcard

Auden, W.H. circa 1936

Poster

"W.H. Auden reads Auden and Dryden," National Book League, Faber and Faber, November 21, 1972

Press Release

National Medal for Literature, November 30, 1967

United States Pavilion News, Hemisfair '68 [Narration written by Auden for the documentary film US]

Viking Press, Early Auden, 1981


Program
"Andrei Voznesensky," Town Hall, November 10, 1971


"The Dog Beneath the Skin, or Where is Francis?" W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, Harvard Dramatic Club, May 7-8, 1937


"New York City Ballet," New York, undated ["Metalogue to The Magic Flute by W.H. Auden]

"Pal Joey," The Broadhurst Theatre, New York, April 1953


"Service at the Unveiling and Dedication of a Memorial to Wystan Hugh Auden," Westminster Abbey, October 2, 1974 [3 copies]


"Spain and Culture," Royal Albert Hall, London, June 24, 1937


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Program and Press Release

3 32 University of Birmingham, July 9, 1967 [W.H. Auden received honorary Doctor of Letters] [3 copies]

Prospectus

3 33 Auden Poems/Moore Lithographs, Petersburg Press, 1974 [3 copies]

Publisher's catalogs

3 34 Faber Books, English Studies, Poetry, Drama, Prose, 1976-1977 [Fragment: cover with drawing of W.H. Auden by David Hockney]
3 35 The Mid-Century, Number 23, March 1961 [Homage to Clio listed, page 26]

School magazines

3 36 The Badger, Volume 2, Autumn, 1934, The Downs School, Colwell
4 1 The Badger, Volume 3, no. 5, Spring 1935, The Downs School, Colwell
4 2 The Badger, Volume 3, no. 6, Autumn 1935, The Downs School, Colwell
4 3 The Badger, Volume 5, no. 10, Autumn 1937, The Downs School, Colwell

Speech

4 4 National Book Award, TS and corrected TS, February 7, 1956
4 5 "The Pattern and the Way," Venice, Italy, 1958

Translation


Writings

4 7 "Empirics for the Million," handwritten manuscript with corrections
OP2 1 Paid on Both Sides: A Charade, in Criterion, 1930, galley proof
4 8 "Spain 1937," TS

Writings by Others

4 9 [Arendt, Hannah, "What is Authority?" 1954] [Fragment]
4 10 Derwood, Gene [7 poems], from The Pocket Book of Modern Verse
4 11 [Goodman, Paul, The Empire City, A Novel of New York] [Fragment]
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<td>Mendelson, Edward, &quot;Recording of Edward Mendelson, 2007 April 13 [original: CD-R]</td>
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<td>Staub, Herta, &quot;Die Rodauner Scene,&quot; Hofmannsthal Blätter, 1971</td>
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**Yearbook**

| 4 | Abraham Lincoln High School, Brighton-by-the-Sea, 1937 [Chester Kallman in Senior class] |