
Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Title: W.H. Auden collection, 1934-1988
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1046
Extent: 2 linear ft. (4 boxes) and 2 oversized papers (OP)
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
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Custodial History
Originally received as part of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library.

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

Processing
Processed by Elizabeth Chase, April 2006.
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, Swarthmore 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>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>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>Fraser, G.S., &quot;Auden: The Composite Grant,&quot; <em>Shenandoah</em>, Volume XV, No. 4, Summer 1964</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

1. 21  

### Correspondence

1. 22  
   W.H. Auden to Frederich Prokosch, ALS, April 28, 1972

1. 23  

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 July 2, 1964, Auden, W.H., "Shakespeare's Sonnets," The Listener
OP1 July 9, 1964, Auden, W.H., "Shakespeare's Sonnets - II," The Listener
1 38 January 30, 1966, Wiggin, Maurice, "At Home with Mr. Auden," The Sunday Times, [Review of W.H. Auden's About the House]
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 1 September 3, 1972, Auden, W.H., "Other people's babies," The Observer Review [Review of Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy's The Rise and Fall of the British Nanny]
2 2 October 26, 1972, "Art and the Dead," The Listener
2 4 [October 1972], [October 1972], "Auden shuffles back" [The Sunday Times]
2 5 [October 1972], Toynbee, Philip, "Mellow Fruitfulness," The Observer Review [Review of W.H. Auden's Epistle to a Godson]
2 6 [1972], "Worthy of a Tun of Sack"
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<td>Auden, W.H.</td>
<td>&quot;Unpredictable but providential,&quot; <em>The Times Literary Supplement</em></td>
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<td>[October 12, 1973], &quot;To know and know not&quot; [The Times Literary Supplement] [Review of Auden's Forewords and Afterwords]</td>
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<td>Strachan, W.J.</td>
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<td>Mullaly, Terence</td>
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<td>Heyworth, Peter</td>
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<td>Raine, Craig</td>
<td>&quot;Conflict between Christianity and a poet's gifts,&quot; <em>The Times</em></td>
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<td>Fuller, John</td>
<td>&quot;On the Dangerous Flood,&quot; <em>The Times</em> [Review of Samuel Hynes's The Auden Generation]</td>
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<td>Wade, Nicholas</td>
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<td>&quot;Passenger Shanty,&quot; <em>The Times Literary Supplement</em></td>
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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 12, 1981, Griffiths, Paul, "Equal Talents" [The Times Literary Supplement] [Review of Donald Mitchell's Britten and Auden in the Thirties: The Year 1936]


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


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!"
2 75 undated, "Poet's Corner" [The Times]
2 76 undated, "Poetry"
2 77 undated, Raymond, John ["A work of magic..."
2 78 undated, Schuyler, James, "Wystan Auden"
2 79 undated, Swindell, Daisy, "W.H. Auden's grave"
2 80 undated, Symons, Julian ["Forewords and Afterwords"]
2 82 undated, "Two Masters"

**Pamphlet Publication**

2 83 Poetry Society of America, Prize-winning Poems, 1955-1956

**Photographs**

2 84 Auden, W.H., Oxford, 1928
2 85 Auden, W.H., undated

**Poems**

3 1 Ekelöf, Gunnar, "Fem Dikter," All Världens Berättare, December 1955
3 2 Etsy, Jane, "On Making a Visit in Mid-Afternoon," Prairie Schooner, Winter, 1964/65 [inscribed to Auden from Etsy]
3 3 Horace, The Odes and Epodes, (Bennett, C.E., translator), Loeb Classical Library edition, 1914 [poor condition, back cover and title page through xvii missing]

**Postcard**

3 4 Auden, W.H. circa 1936

**Poster**

OP1 "W.H. Auden reads Auden and Dryden," National Book League, Faber and Faber, November 21, 1972

**Press Release**

3 5 National Medal for Literature, November 30, 1967
3 6 United States Pavilion News, Hemisfair '68 [Narration written by Auden for the documentary film US]
3 7 Viking Press, Early Auden, 1981
3 8 Weidenfeld & Nicholson, The Poet Auden, 11 April 1988

**Program**

9
"Andrei Voznesensky," Town Hall, November 10, 1971

The Ascent of F6, W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, Mercury Theatre, London [1937]

[Libretto by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman, "Euripides for Today" by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman] [2 copies]

"Christ Church, son et Lumière," Christ Church, Oxford, undated [Prologue by W.H. Auden] [2 copies]


The Dog Beneath the Skin, W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, Group Theatre Season, Westminster Theatre, London [1936]

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]


The Seven Deadly Sins, Royal Opera House Covent Gardens, London, October 27, 1973 [English translation by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman]

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

"Wystan Hugh Auden," Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, October 27, 1937 [3 copies]

"Wystan Hugh Auden, Memorial Service," The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, October 3, 1973

**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

OP1  *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*

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