
Emory University
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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) and 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (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.

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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>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>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>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

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


October 4, 1973, "Burial in Austria for W.H. Auden"


[October 6, 1973], "W.H. Auden 1907-1973" [*Spectator*]

[October 12, 1973], "To know and know not" [*The Times Literary Supplement*] [Review of Auden's Forewords and Afterwords]


October 28, 1973, Toynbee, Philip, "Oxford's Farewell to Auden," *The Observer*

November 11, 1973, Strachan, W.J., "W.H. Auden" [*The Times Literary Supplement*]


[November 20, 1973], Grub, Frederick, "W.H. Auden," [*The Times*]

[November 30, 1973], Colvin, Christina, "W.H. Auden," [*The Times Literary Supplement*]

[December 3, 1973], "Forewords and Afterwords," [*The New Yorker*]


[1973], Miscellaneous

[January 1, 1974], "Life from a dead letter," [*The Sunday Times*]


April 25, 1974, Gaunt, William, "Auden, Moore and the art of drawing," *The Times*
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<td>May 13, 1974</td>
<td>Mullaly, Terence</td>
<td>&quot;Fresh look at Moore and Auden&quot;</td>
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<td>Heyworth, Peter</td>
<td>&quot;The opera that Auden inspired,&quot;</td>
<td><em>Observer Magazine</em></td>
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<td>[April 18, 1975]</td>
<td>Raine, Craig</td>
<td>&quot;Conflict between Christianity and a poet's gifts,&quot;</td>
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<td>February 20, 1976</td>
<td>Porter, Peter</td>
<td>&quot;Bunyan's Progress,&quot;</td>
<td><em>The Times Literary Supplement</em></td>
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<td>June 11, 1976</td>
<td>Ratcliff, Michael</td>
<td>&quot;Considered trifles,&quot;</td>
<td><em>The Times Literary Supplement</em></td>
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<td>June 18, 1976</td>
<td>Fuller, John</td>
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<td>Toynbee, Philip</td>
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<td>[1976]</td>
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<td>&quot;Austrian cottage becomes a poet's memorial&quot;</td>
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<td>March 4, 1977</td>
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<td>&quot;Nicholas Wade's Trousers,&quot;</td>
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<td>October 14, 1977</td>
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<td>&quot;Passenger Shanty,&quot;</td>
<td><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, Develin, 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]

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

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


undated, "Two Masters"

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

Auden, W.H., Oxford, 1928

Auden, W.H., undated

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]

Auden, W.H. circa 1936

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

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

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<td>&quot;Pal Joey,&quot; The Broadhurst Theatre, New York, April 1953</td>
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3  30  "Wystan Hugh Auden," Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, October 27, 1937 [3 copies]
3  31  "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  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*
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<td>Staub, Herta, &quot;Die Rodauer Scene,&quot; Hofmannsthal Blätter, 1971</td>
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**Yearbook**

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