

HUGHES, TED, 1930-1998.
Letters to W.S. (William Stanley)
and Dido Merwin, 1958-1969

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Hughes, Ted, 1930-1998.
Title: Letters to W.S. (William Stanley) and Dido Merwin, 1958-1969
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 866
Extent: .25 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Letters from English poet Ted Hughes to American poet William Stanley Merwin and his wife, Dido from 1958-1969.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

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Related Materials in This Repository

Ted Hughes papers

Source

Purchase, 1987.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Ted Hughes, Letters to W.S. (William Stanley) and Dido Merwin, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

William Stanley Merwin (1927-) poet, translator, and editor, was born in New York City and grew up in Union City, New Jersey, and in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1947 he received an A.B. in English from Princeton University. From 1951-1954 he lived in London, England supporting himself largely by doing translations of Spanish and French classics for the British Broadcasting Corporation Third Programme. In 1956 he returned to America where he was playwright-in-residence for the Poets' Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There he met and befriended Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath when they were in the United States in 1957. In 1962 he served as poetry editor for the *Nation*, and from 1964 to 1965 he lived in Lyon, France, where he was an associate with Roger Planchon's Théâtre de la Cité.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains correspondence from English poet Ted Hughes to W.S. and Dido Merwin from 1958-1969. Hughes first writes in 1958 from Northhampton, Massachusetts while teaching at Amherst. The next letters chronicle the young couples' move back to England and subsequent birth of their daughter in 1960. In the fall of 1961-1962 Hughes writes as he settles at Court Green in Devon. The letters contain information on Hughes' early literary endeavors and his early married life. Also included is a letter from his sister Olwyn, shortly after Assia Wevill's death in 1969. Several of Hughes' letters contained typescripts of poems.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

Container List

Correspondence

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Hughes, Ted, Northhampton, Massachusetts, 9 February [1958], ALS, 1 p.
1	2	Hughes, Ted, Northhampton, Massachusetts, 19 February 1958, ALS, 1 p.
1	3	Hughes, Ted, London, England, 31 December 1959, TLS, 1 p.
1	4	Hughes, Ted, Yorks, [January 1960], TLS, 1 p.
1	5	Hughes, Ted, [mid-May 1960], TLS, 2 pp., includes poem "You'll march along the vacant lanes" in the body of the letter
1	6	Hughes, Ted, [mid-June 1960], ALS, 2 pp.
1	7	Hughes, Ted, [early summer 1960], ALS, 4 pp., includes poems "Morning Mist" or "Cities in Mist" and "Lamia" or "Fallen Eve" in the body of the letter
1	8	Hughes, Ted, [mid-July 1960], ALS, 2 pp., includes poem "A man brought to his knees in the desert" in the body of the letter
1	9	Hughes, Ted, [late July 1960], ALS, 1 p.
1	10	Hughes, Ted, [early August 1960], ALS, 1 p.
1	11	Hughes, Ted, [September 1960], ALS, 2 pp.
1	12	Hughes, Ted, [mid October 1960], ALS, 1 p.
1	13	Hughes, Ted, [late October 1960], ALS, 1 p.
1	14	Hughes, Ted, London, [late November 1960], ALS, 5 pp., includes sketch of the setting for "The Golden Nest" in the body of the letter
1	15	Hughes, Ted, [February 26-27? 1961], ALS, 4 pp.
1	16	Hughes, Ted, [late August 1961], ALS, 2 pp.
1	17	Hughes, Ted, [late 1961], ALS, 2 pp.
1	18	Hughes, Ted, [late 1961], ALS, 3 pp.
1	19	Hughes, Ted, Devon, [winter 1961/1962], ALS, 4 pp.
1	20	Hughes, Ted, Devon, 14 March 1962, ALS, 2 pp.
1	21	Hughes, Ted, Devon, 24 May 1962, ALS, 2 pp.
1	22	Hughes, Ted [late summer / early autumn 1962], ALS, 2 pp.
1	23	Hughes, Ted, [London?], 21 January 1963, ALS, 2 pp.
1	24	Hughes, Olwyn, London, 24 April 1969, TLS, 1 p.

Ted Hughes poems enclosed with Merwin correspondence

1	25	"The Ballad of the Burning of the Brothel," uncorrected typescript, 3 pp.
1	26	"Bawdry Embraced," corrected typescript, 2 pp.
1	27	"Lines to a Newborn Baby," uncorrected typescript, 2 pp.
1	28	"Pibroch," uncorrected typescript, 1 pp.

Other poems

1 29 "My Father in the Night Commanding No," uncorrected typescript, 1 pp., Louis
Simpson
