John Sampas collection of Jack Kerouac material, circa 1900-2005

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Descriptive Summary

Title: John Sampas collection of Jack Kerouac material, circa 1900-2005
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1343
Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Material collected by John Sampas relating to Jack Kerouac and including correspondence, photographs, and manuscripts.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
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Related Materials in Other Repositories
Jack Kerouac papers, New York Public Library

Related Materials in This Repository
Jack Kerouac collection and Jack and Stella Sampas Kerouac papers

Source
Purchase, 2015

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Jean-Louis "Jack" Lebris de Kerouac, American Beat poet, essayist, and novelist, was born in 1922 in Lowell, Massachusetts to French Canadian parents, Léo-Alcide Kéroack (1889-1946) and Gabrielle-Ange Lévesque (1895-1973). He had a brother, Gerard F. (1917-1926) and a sister, Caroline (Kerouac) Blake (1919-1964). He earned a football scholarship to Columbia University but left in 1941 after a career ending injury. He lived on Manhattan's Upper West Side with his first wife, Edie Parker who introduced him to Allen Ginsberg, Lucien Carr, and William Burroughs. He joined the United States Merchant Marine in 1942 and the United States Navy in 1943, though he was quickly given an honorable discharge for psychological reasons. Kerouac is credited with coining the term "Beat Generation" and is considered one of the pioneers of the movement. He earned his reputation after the publication of On the Road in 1957 and was hailed as a major American writer. The success of On the Road brought unwanted attention to the author, and future works never achieved the same acclaim. In March 1958, Kerouac moved to Northport, New York, to care for his mother, Gabrielle, and in 1966 married Stavroula "Stella" Sampatacacus, the sister of his childhood friend, Sebastian Sampas. Much of the Sampatacacus family shortened their last name to Sampas. Kerouac died in St. Petersburg, Florida, on October 21, 1969 from an internal hemorrhage. When Gabrielle died five years later, Stella inherited the rights to Kerouac's literary estate and handled legal and financial matters relating to his work for the rest of her life. Stella Sampas Kerouac died on February 10, 1990.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, and photographs created by or relating to Jack Kerouac, and collected by his brother in law John Sampas. Correspondence files include original correspondence, as well as occasional writings or drawings by or relating to correspondents such as William Burroughs, Neal Cassady, Ann Charters, Robert Creeley, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, and Philip Whalen, as well as various members of the Kerouac and Sampas families. Correspondence to Ann Charters primarily documents the writing and preparation of her writings about Kerouac. The collection is particularly rich in photographs, including a number from Kerouac's early years, family pictures, and photographs of friends and family members in Kerouac's circle. Also notable is a partial manuscript for San Francisco Blues and an unproduced play entitled The Beat Generation.
Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
## Container List

### Correspondence

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<td>General and unidentified, 1946-1962</td>
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<td>Burroughs, William S., 1953</td>
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<td>Charters, Ann, circa 1978-2007</td>
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<td>Cassady, Carolyn, 1952-1999</td>
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<td>Cassady, Neal, 1948-1952</td>
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<td>Sampas, Sebastian, undated</td>
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<td>Sampas, Sebastian, military journal</td>
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<td>Sterling Lord, 2000</td>
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<td>Welch, Lew, 1959-1960</td>
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<td>Whalen, Philip, 1956-2002</td>
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### Biographical and personal files

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<td>Contract--<em>Pull My Daisy</em>, 1961</td>
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2 21 Notes and lists
2 22 Passports and birth certificate
OP1 3 Print of a drawing of Kerouac

Subject files
2 24 *Dharma Bums*, 1958
2 25 Other Writings, 1950-1962

Photographs
3 1 Ackerman
3 2 Adamakis, Amanda (“Manda”), mother’s stepmother
3 3 Ansen, Alan
3 4 Beckwith, Jacques
3 5 Beinart, Eunice
3 6 Carney, Mary D.
3 7 Clements, Marshall
3 8 Coffey, Margaret
3 9 Corso, Gregory, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Philip Whalen, undated
3 10 Cru, Henri
3 11 Cudworth, James
3 12 Depp, Johnny, color snapshots, 1991
3 13 Desolation Peak
3 14 Franco, Bea
3 15 Ginsberg, Alan, Ron Johnson, John Sampas, and Bob Welch, color snapshots, 1988 and 1992
3 16 Giroux, Robert, 1950
3 17 Kerouac ancestors (unidentified), tintype, undated
3 18 Kerouac family album, 1933, 1939, and undated
3 19 Kerouac, Caroline, paternal aunt, 1921
3 20 Kerouac, Caroline “Nin”, sister
3 21 Kerouac, Gabrielle, mother
3 22 Kerouac, Gerard
OP1 1 Kerouac, Jack
3 23 Kerouac, Jack, [1920’s-1933]
3 24 Kerouac, Jack, [1934-1940]
3 25 Kerouac, Jack, professional shots taken by various photographers, including Arni, Jerry Bauer, Fred W. McDarrah, Cora Ward, and Stanley Twardowicz, 1944-1967 and undated
3 26 Kerouac, Jack, snapshots, 1944-1968 and undated
Kerouac, Jack with various family members including parents and sister, 1944-1945 and undated

Kerouac, Jack with various family members including parents and sister, 1944-1945 and undated

Kerouac, Jack with various other people, including Henry Cru, Maggie Chase, Mike Sampas and unidentified, snapshots, 1951-1968 and undated

Kerouac, Jack and Stella Sampas Kerouac, snapshots, 1966-1968

Kerouac, Jack and John Sampas, Sanders Avenue, Lowell, Massachusetts, snapshot, 1967

Kerouac, Jack posing with his cats, snapshots, 1968

Kerouac, Jack--artwork reproductions

Kerouac's cats

Kerouac's desk, 1969

Kerouac's grave

Kerouac, Jack—sports (football and baseball)

Kerouac, Leo, father

Lee, Alene

LeVesque, Louis, maternal grandfather, 1893 and undated

Lowell, Massachusetts

Martin, Loretta, mother’s stepsister

Orlovsky, Peter

Paquette, John

Salvas, Roland

Sampas, John

Sampas, Stella

Sampas, Sebastian

Sampas family

Sampas family panoramic

Unidentified individuals

Unidentified [“Jack’s List”], slides, 1994

Vanity of Duluo manuscript (photograph)

Welch, Lew, 1960

[Whalen, Philip?] with monks from Daitoku-ji, 1963

Wyse, Seymour

Yokley, Sarah

Writings

Beat Generation script

Doctor Sax—French translation
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Manuscript Collection No. 1343

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<td>San Francisco Blues manuscript</td>
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<td>Writings, undated</td>
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**Audiovisual material**

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