

KEROUAC, JACK, 1922-1969.
John Sampas collection of Jack
Kerouac material, circa 1900-2005

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Kerouac, Jack, 1922-1969.
Title: John Sampas collection of Jack Kerouac material, circa 1900-2005
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1343
Extent: 2 linear feet (2 boxes) and 1 oversized paper (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

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], John Sampas collection of Jack Kerouac material, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Carrie Hintz, Sarah Quigley, and Laura Starratt, October 1, 2015.

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

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	General and unidentified, 1946-1962
1	2	Burroughs, William S., 1953
1	3	Charters, Ann, circa 1978-2007
1	4	Charters, Ann, circa 1978-2007
1	5	Charters, Ann, circa 1978-2007
1	6	Cassady, Carolyn, 1952-1999
1	7	Cassady, Neal, 1948-1952
1	8	Coolidge, Clark, 1997
1	9	Coppola, Francis Ford
1	10	Condo, George, 1993-2000
1	11	Creeley, Robert, 1960-2005
1	12	Ferlinghetti, Lawrence, 1973-1992
1	13	Gifford, Barry, 1973-1977
2	1	Ginsberg, Allen, 1948-1994
2	2	Kerouac, Gabrielle, 1950-1972
2	3	Kerouac, Janet, 1962-1967
2	4	Kerouac, Stella
2	5	Parker, Edie, 1948
2	6	Sampas, John
2	7	Sampas, Sebastian, undated
2	8	Sampas, Sebastian, military journal
2	9	Snyder, Gary, 1956-1959
2	10	Stanford, David, 1993
2	11	Sterling Lord, 2000
2	12	Welch, Lew, 1959-1960
2	13	Whalen, Philip, 1956-2002

Biographical and personal files

2	14	Cancelled checks, 1958
2	15	Clippings
2	16	Contract-- <i>Pull My Daisy</i> , 1961
2	17	Family documents
2	18	Handkerchief
2	19	Legal and financial documents
2	20	Notebook

- 2 21 Notes and lists
- 2 22 Passports and birth certificate
- OP1 - Print of a drawing of Kerouac

Subject files

- 2 23 *On the Road*, 1953-1958, 1972
- 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 - 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

- 3 27 Kerouac, Jack with various family members including parents and sister, 1944-1945 and undated
- 3 27 Kerouac, Jack with various family members including parents and sister, 1944-1945 and undated
- 3 28 Kerouac, Jack with various other people, including Henry Cru, Maggie Chase, Mike Sampas and unidentified, snapshots, 1951-1968 and undated
- 3 29 Kerouac, Jack and Stella Sampas Kerouac, snapshots, 1966-1968
- 3 30 Kerouac, Jack and John Sampas, Sanders Avenue, Lowell, Massachusetts, snapshot, 1967
- 3 31 Kerouac, Jack posing with his cats, snapshots, 1968
- 3 32 Kerouac, Jack--artwork reproductions
- 4 1 Kerouac's cats
- 4 2 Kerouac's desk, 1969
- 4 3 Kerouac's grave
- 4 4 Kerouac, Jack—sports (football and baseball)
- 4 5 Kerouac, Leo, father
- 4 6 Lee, Alene
- 4 7 LeVesque, Louis, maternal grandfather, 1893 and undated
- 4 8 Lowell, Massachusetts
- 4 9 Martin, Loretta, mother's stepsister
- 4 10 Orlovsky, Peter
- 4 11 Paquette, John
- 4 12 Salvas, Roland
- 4 13 Sampas, John
- 4 14 Sampas, Stella
- 4 15 Sampas, Sebastian
- 4 16 Sampas family
- 4 17 Sampas family
- OP1 - Sampas family panoramic
- 4 18 Unidentified individuals
- 4 19 Unidentified ["Jack's List"], slides, 1994
- 4 20 *Vanity of Duluo* manuscript (photograph)
- 4 21 Welch, Lew, 1960
- 4 22 [Whalen, Philip?] with monks from Daitoku-ji, 1963
- 4 23 Wyse, Seymour
- 4 24 Yokley, Sarah

Writings

- 4 25 *Beat Generation* script
- 4 26 *Doctor Sax*--French translation

- 4 27 Portfolio of poems
- 4 28 San Francisco Blues manuscript
- 4 29 Writings, undated

Audiovisual material

- 4 30 Compact disc
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