

WEISSBORT, DANIEL.
Daniel Weissbort papers, circa 1957-1999

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Weissbort, Daniel.
Title: Daniel Weissbort papers, circa 1957-1999
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 894
Extent: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Personal and professional correspondence between Daniel Weissbort and Ted Hughes from ca. 1957-1998, and between Weissbort and Joseph Brodsky from 1977-1996.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Special restrictions apply: writings by Ted Hughes (letters and literary works) and photographs may not be reproduced without the written permission of Carol Hughes. No reproduction of materials copied from Kings College London without permission from that institution.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Purchase, 2001.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Daniel Weissbort papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Melissa H. Maday, September 2001.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Daniel Weissbort (1935-) is a poet, translator, and scholar who was a close friend and colleague of poet Ted Hughes. He met Hughes while they were both students at Cambridge University, from which he graduated in 1956. Hughes and Weissbort founded the journal *Modern Poetry in Translation* devoted to introducing the work of foreign language poets to English readers. From 1974 until the late 1990s, Weissbort was employed by the University of Iowa, first as the director of its translation workshop, and later as an associate professor of English and comparative literature.

Weissbort has authored several published volumes of poetry, including *Lake: New and Selected Poems* (1992) and *What Was All the Fuss About?* (1998). He has served as editor of various anthologies of poetry, and he has translated and edited the works of authors including Natalya Gorbanevskaya, Nikolay Zabolotsky, and Luis Mercier Vega. Among other prizes, Weissbort was awarded the British Arts Council award, 1971, 1972, 1980; and the Jacob Glatstein Memorial Prize, *Poetry* magazine, 1978.

Scope and Content Note

The Daniel Weissbort papers include both personal and professional correspondence between Weissbort and Ted Hughes from ca. 1957-1998, and between Weissbort and Joseph Brodsky from 1977-1996. It also contains Weissbort's correspondence with Hughes and others, as well as working papers, for several projects: a translated edition of Yehuda Amichai's poetry, translations of Brodsky's poetry, an anthology of Russian literature, a volume of poetry by Susan Alliston, and Hughes' translation, with János Csokits, of János Pilinszky's poetry.

The correspondence between Hughes and Weissbort contains praise and advice for Weissbort's poetry as well as information about several of Hughes' own writing projects, particularly *Crow*, *Wodow*, and *Birthday Letters*. Hughes also comments on his publication of Sylvia Plath's juvenilia, as well as other writers' works about Plath. These letters also contain details of Hughes' everyday life and news of friends and family. The collection also contains photocopies (and originals of fax transmissions) of Weissbort's letters to Hughes from 1995 until shortly before Hughes' death in 1998, providing access to material that was not a part of the Ted Hughes' collection when it was purchased by Emory in 1996. Many of Weissbort's earlier letters to Hughes are contained in the Ted Hughes collection.

Hughes and Weissbort collaborated on an edition of Yehuda Amichai's poems, and items relating to this project are included in the collection: correspondence, copies of typescript drafts of the book, and autograph manuscript and typescript versions of Hughes' introduction.

The correspondence from Joseph Brodsky to Weissbort, and photocopies of Weissbort's correspondence to Brodsky, provides details of their 1979 dispute about translations of Brodsky's poetry. There is also personal correspondence and letters that record their proposed collaboration on an anthology of Russian literature. The collection contains correspondence from others regarding this project, as well as printed items relating to Brodsky's death, including the programmes from his New York and London memorial services.

Susan Alliston was a poet and friend of both Weissbort and Hughes in London during the 1960s. After her death, they had hoped to publish a volume of her poetry. The collection includes

typescripts of Alliston's poems, a typescript of Hughes' draft introduction to the book, and correspondence relating to the project. There is also a damaged photograph of Susan Alliston.

This collection also contains material relating to Hughes' translation of János Pilinszky's poetry, including a typescript of Hughes' article about the translations (published in 1989), and autograph and typescript drafts of translations by Hughes and János Csokits.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

Correspondence with Ted Hughes

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Hughes, Ted to Weissbort, [1957]-1998
1	2	Weissbort to Hughes, Ted, 1985-1998, [photocopies]

Susan Alliston project

1	3	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1970
OP1	1	Photograph, damaged black and white of Susan Alliston and an unidentified man
1	4	Typescript [original] of Alliston's poetry
1	5	Typescript [original] of introduction by Ted Hughes

Yehuda Amichai project

1	6	Correspondence, 1996-1998
1	7	Correspondence, July 1998-December 13, 1999
1	8	Correspondence, including edited draft of "Yehuda Amichai: Selected Poems," December 13, 1999 [1 of 2]
2	1	Miscellaneous correspondence, including edited draft of "Yehuda Amichai: Selected Poems," December 13, 1999 [2 of 2]
2	2	Notes by Ted Hughes for the book's introduction, 1998
2	3	Notes and printed material, undated.
2	4	Typescript and bibliography
2	5	Typescript [copy] of poems, including notes on rejected poems from Faber and Faber (publisher), Weissbort, and Hughes

János Pilinszky project

2	6	Translations and article [draft] by Ted Hughes, translation by János Csokits
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Joseph Brodsky

2	7	Brodsky, Joseph to Weissbort, 1977-1996
2	8	Correspondence relating to Joseph Brodsky and to Weissbort's collaboration with Brodsky on an unpublished anthology of Russian literature, 1979-1998
2	9	Weissbort to Brodsky and Brodsky to Weissbort, [photocopies], 1972-1979, [Reproduction restriction: Originals owned by Kings College London]
2	10	Printed items relating to the death of Joseph Brodsky, 1996-1997.
