Guide to the James Branch Cabell Collection

YCAL MSS 566

by Beinecke Staff

2012

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 566

**CREATOR:** Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958

**TITLE:** James Branch Cabell collection

**DATES:** 1912–1971

**BULK DATES:** 1927–1954

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.1 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters, manuscripts, and printed material related to the life and work of James Branch Cabell. The letters in Series I were written by Cabell to his publishers, literary collaborator, and colleagues; in most cases the folders include carbon copies of responses sent back to Cabell. Writings in Series II are typescripts and proofs of several works, and include correspondence related to their publication, as well as designs by John O’Hara Cosgrave for the cover and end papers of Cabell’s work There Were Two Pirates. Series III holds published material about Cabell, including reviews of his work, in the form of clippings, pamphlets, and other ephemera, and portrait photographs by Carl Van Vechten and Foster Studio, Richmond.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cabell

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cabell.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The collection was assembled by library staff and was acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Source information is recorded at the folder level in the contents list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The James Branch Cabell Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
James Branch Cabell Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2012.

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call numbers: Za Cabell, Za C109 +1, Za C109 +S1, Za C109 +G1, and Za Obj Art.

James Branch Cabell (1879-1958)
James Branch Cabell, American author of works of fiction and non-fiction, including novels, comedies, short stories, essays, poetry, and writings on genealogy. He was a native of Richmond, Virginia, and a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

For a full biography and bibliography of his work, see Cabell’s entry in the online Encyclopedia of Virginia at http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Cabell_James_Branch_1879-1958 (accessed November 12, 2012).
Scope and Contents

The collection contains letters, manuscripts, and printed material related to the life and work of James Branch Cabell. The letters in Series I were written by Cabell to his publishers, literary collaborator, and colleagues; in most cases the folders include carbon copies of responses sent back to Cabell. Writings in Series II are typescripts and proofs of several works, and include correspondence related to their publication, as well as designs by John O’Hara Cosgrave for Cabell’s work There Were Two Pirates. Series III holds biographical material and published reviews of Cabell’s work in the form of clippings, pamphlets, and other ephemera, along with portrait photographs of Cabell by Carl Van Vechten and by the Foster Studio, Richmond.

Arrangement

**Collection Contents**

**Series I. Correspondence**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Additional correspondence related to Cabell’s publications is filed in Series II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Canby, Henry Seidel Gift of Henry S. Canby, 1953.</td>
<td>1922 Oct 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 3 | Farrar, John Chipman 65 letters to Farrar and 1 letter to Margaret Petherbridge Farrar; 3 letters to M. B. Sheffield; 1 letter to J. Kempner; 2 letters from Margaret Freeman Cabell to Farrar; 1 telegram and 3 carbon letters from Farrar to Cabell  
Also in the folder is Farrar’s correspondence with David L. Barnett, William Lawton Maner, and Josephine Pinkney regarding Cabell.  
| b. 1, f. 4-14 | Farrar & Rinehart, and Rinehart & Company, Inc. 112 letters to Farrar & Rinehart (correspondents include: John Chipman Farrar, Stanley M. Rinehart, Philip Wylie, Adelaide A. Sherer, Marguerite J. Reese and William Raney) with carbon copies of the publishers’ replies and letters to and from other publishers and agents  
| b. 1, f. 15 | Gruener, Gustav Acquired on exchange from the German Literature Collection, 1967.                                                                                                                             | 1922 Apr 26|
| b. 1, f. 16-22 | Hanna, Alfred Jackson 154 letters and 4 telegrams to Hanna, with whom Cabell collaborated on The St. Johns for the “Rivers of America” series; 34 letters and 2 telegrams from Hanna to Cabell; and 1 letter to Mrs. Price  
| b. 1, f. 23 | Kane, Lawrence J. Gift of Mrs. Arthur Head, 1948.                                                                                                                                                             | 1922 Oct 9  |
| b. 1, f. 24 | Machen, Arthur                                                                                                                                                    | 1918 Mar 8  |
| b. 1, f. 25a | Van Vechten, Carl Gift of Mrs. Margaret Waller Freeman Cabell, 1962.                                                                                                                                           | 1919–1949  |
**Series II. Writings**

*1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Arranged alphabetically by title. Writings by Cabell that were published in newspapers appear in folders 45 and 46 in Series III.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 2, f. 26-27 | *The Devil’s Own Dear Son*, typescript, corrected  
Gift of John Chipman Farrar, 1949. | 1949 |
| b. 2, f. 28 | *The Jewel Merchants*, preface, typescript, corrected; signed by Cabell on May 21, 1948  
Gift of James Branch Cabell, 1948. | 1921 |
| | *Sonnets From Antan*  
Gift of Louis M. Rabinowitz, 1944. | |
| b. 3, f. 33 | Typescripts, corrected and page proofs, corrected  
Includes 5 typescript letters to James R. Wells. | 1928–1929 |
| b. 3, f. 34 | Printed version, signed by Cabell | 1929 |
| b. 3, f. 35 | Correspondence regarding publishing  
Correspondents include Roger W. Straus, John Chipman Farrar, and Julius Fleischmann. | 1946 |
| b. 3, f. 36 | Postcards, some with notes by Cabell regarding various places and objects in Florida and their use as the setting for the story | undated |
| b. 3, f. 37-38 | Typescript and carbon copy | 1946 |
| b. 3, f. 39-40 | Sample book pages and designs for cover, end papers, illustrations, etc., by John O’Hara Cosgrave  
Also stored in: Oversize, Box 6, folder 52 | 1946 |
| b. 3, f. 41 | Galley and page proofs | 1946 |
| b. 4, f. 42 | Typescript and page proofs, corrected | undated |
| b. 4, f. 43-44 | Galleys, corrected | 1947–1948 |
## Series III. Printed Material and Photographs

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Printed material arranged chronologically, with photographs at the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 45-46</td>
<td>Clippings and pamphlets by and about Cabell</td>
<td>1912–1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 47</td>
<td>Reviews of Cabell’s writings</td>
<td>1921–1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 48</td>
<td>“Figures of Allegory” by Leon Howard; study of James Branch Cabell reprinted from the Sewanee Review</td>
<td>1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 49</td>
<td>The Virginia Author 1819-1969; University of Virginia Library exhibition checklist</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 50</td>
<td>The Cabellian: A Journal of the Second American Renaissance; vol. 4, no. 1</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 51</td>
<td>Gift of James T. Babb, 1939. Title within map image: Poictesme; shows the places mentioned in the novels Figures of Earth, Domeni, Jurgen, The High Place, and The Silver Stallion.</td>
<td>circa 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 51</td>
<td>“James Branch Cabell,” by Frank Cheney Papé; portrait etching of James Branch Cabell, signed</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 51</td>
<td>Portrait photographs by Carl Van Vechten (2) and Foster Studio, Richmond</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oversize 0.13 linear feet (1 box)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 6 (Oversize), f. 52</td>
<td>In Series II: <em>There Were Two Pirates</em>, designs for cover, end papers, illustrations, etc., by John O’Hara Cosgrave</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6 (Oversize), f. 53</td>
<td>In Series III: “The Map of Philip Borsdale, circa 1679,” by Frank Cheney Papé</td>
<td>circa 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6 (Oversize), f. 54</td>
<td>In Series III: “James Branch Cabell,” by Frank Cheney Papé; portrait etching of James Brand Cabell, signed</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Authors, American -- Virginia -- 20th Century -- Archives

Genres / Formats
Galley proofs
Layouts (printer matter)
Page proofs
Photographs -- United States -- 20th Century
Studio portraits -- United States -- 20th Century

Occupations
Authors -- Virginia -- 20th Century

Names
Babb, James T. (James Tinkham), 1899-1968
Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958
Canby, Henry Seidel, 1878-1961
Cosgrave, John O’Hara, II, 1908-1968
Farrar, John Chipman, 1896-1974
Hanna, Alfred Jackson, 1893-
Machen, Arthur, 1863-1947
Swan, Bradford F. (Bradford Fuller)
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964

Corporate Bodies
Farrar & Rinehart
Foster Studio

Contributors
Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964
Foster Studio