Guide to the John Knowles Papers

YCAL MSS 725

by Beinecke staff

2007-05-21

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 725

CREATOR: Knowles, John, 1926-2001

TITLE: John Knowles papers

DATES: 1954–2000

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 22.67 linear feet (37 boxes) + 1 art object

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The John Knowles Papers document the career and personal life of American author John Knowles between 1954 and 2000. The papers provide insight into Knowles’s career as an author and consist of correspondence, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, printed material, personal papers, audiovisual media, and other papers. The papers also include a portrait (pencil on paper) of Knowles by Don Bachardy. There is some material relating to Knowles’s friendships with Truman Capote and Thornton Wilder. Various drafts of his writings, including A Separate Peace and its companion novel Peace Breaks Out, reflect Knowles’s creative life.

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

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.knowles.

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
- i. item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Box 18 (audiocassettes, CD): Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use
The John Knowles Papers 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
John Knowles Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization.

The finding aid for this collection is compiled from individual preliminary lists for each acquisition that were created at or around the time of receipt by the library. The preliminary lists were migrated to comply with current archival descriptive standards and merged into a single file in 2007-2008. As part of the migration, modifications were made to the formatting of individual lists; however, the content of the lists was neither modified nor verified.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat MSS 396.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

John Knowles (1926-2001)
John Knowles was an American novelist best known for his first novel A Separate Peace.

Scope and Contents
The John Knowles Papers document the career and personal life of American author John Knowles between 1954 and 2000. The papers provide insight into Knowles’s career as an author and consist of correspondence, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, printed material, personal papers, audio-visual media, and other papers. The papers also include a portrait of Knowles by Don Bachardy. There is some material relating to Knowles’s friendship with Truman Capote and Thornton Wilder. Various drafts of his writings, including A Separate Peace and its companion novel Peace Breaks Out, reflect Knowles’s creative process.
Arrangement
Organized into one grouping: I. March 2002 Acquisition.
Collection Contents

1. March 2002 Acquisition

22.59 linear feet (36 boxes) + 1 art object

Contains correspondence, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, printed material, personal papers, audio-visual material, a framed portrait, and other papers by and relating to John Knowles.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 396

Box 18 (audiocassettes): Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Not arranged in any particular order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Notebooks</td>
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<td>b. 2 Notebooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3 Notebooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 4 Notebooks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5 Correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6 Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7 <em>The Private Life of Axie Reed</em>: typescripts</td>
<td>circa 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8 <em>The Private Life of Axie Reed</em>: typescripts</td>
<td>circa 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9 <em>A Vein of Riches</em>: typescripts and drafts</td>
<td>circa 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10 <em>A Vein of Riches</em>: typescripts and drafts</td>
<td>circa 1978</td>
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<td>b. 11 <em>A Separate Peace</em>, adaptations; <em>A Stolen Past</em>; <em>Peace Breaks Out</em></td>
<td>1960s–1990s</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12 Miscellaneous writings</td>
<td>circa 1960</td>
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<td>Learning and Teaching; Rapture of the Deep; A Special Time; a Special School; Intro to Collection of Short Stories; Worthy of the Sea; Hawthorne, an Introduction; The Interruption; The Yale Mystique; Egypt on the Brink of the Six Day War; and writings of others</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13 Spreading Fires and other writings</td>
<td>1970s–1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes diaries and lecture notes; essays, stories, and fragments of various works</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14 Miscellaneous writings and papers</td>
<td>1970–1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries; reviews of Peace Breaks Out; essays and reviews by Knowles</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 15 Spreading Fires; Other Seas, Other Ships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes miscellaneous other papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 16 <em>A Stolen Past</em></td>
<td>1974–1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes clipping file “The Rockefeller Swindle”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes essay by Knowles: “Writing at Yale...And Beyond.”</td>
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Audiovisual Materials of *A Separate Peace*  
(16 audiocassettes, 1 CD)  
Fifteen of the audiocassettes are commercial. They have not been digitized.  
Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Audiocassette</td>
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<td>b. 21 (Oversize)</td>
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<td>b. 25 (Oversize)</td>
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<td>b. 26</td>
<td><em>Spreading Fires</em> (a novel)</td>
<td>1973–1974</td>
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<td>Includes 6 notebooks containing notes and drafts; First draft, typescript, revised; Second draft, revised; Third draft, revised; Photocopy, with revisions; draft of letter to publisher from author, 1973 Oct 19</td>
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<td>b. 27</td>
<td><em>Descent to Proselito</em>: 3 notebooks; typescript</td>
<td>circa 1955</td>
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<td>b. 27</td>
<td><em>Indian Summer</em>: 5 notebooks; typescript; revised pages</td>
<td>circa 1966</td>
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<td>b. 28</td>
<td><em>Indian Summer</em>: proofs</td>
<td>circa 1966</td>
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<td>b. 29</td>
<td><em>Double Vision: Thoughts from Abroad</em>: typescript; 18 notebooks</td>
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<td><em>Double Vision: Thoughts from Abroad</em>: research notes, clippings and travel literature</td>
<td>circa 1964</td>
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<td>b. 30</td>
<td>Miscellaneous writings</td>
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<td>b. 30</td>
<td><em>The Paragon</em>: 7 notebooks; typescript; photocopy</td>
<td>circa 1971</td>
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<td>b. 31</td>
<td><em>The Paragon</em>: typescript</td>
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<td>b. 31</td>
<td><em>Phineas</em>: Six Stories: typescript; original and carbon; 4 proofs; related notes and other writings</td>
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<td><em>Morning in Antibes</em>: Ms.; typescript; 4 notebooks; French newspapers</td>
<td>circa 1962</td>
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<td>b. 33</td>
<td><em>A Separate Peace</em>: typescript</td>
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<td>Too Far to Walk (dramatic treatment): Notebook containing ms. and notes;</td>
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<td>Typescript (notes)</td>
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<td>b. 34</td>
<td>Articles</td>
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<td>Short articles; Idea memos; An Anglo-American Dream; Book reviews; The Count</td>
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<td>in his Castle; Forquet; France; The Great City Comes to Virginia; Jack Knowles</td>
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<td>vacation; The Heart of France; How to be Sick Abroad; The Incomplete Skin Diver</td>
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<td>The Last Monks of Byzantium; Natural America; News; Not Taking Things So Hard;</td>
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<td>Radicofani; Sweden; Thought for the Milestone Year; Wedding in Old France; The</td>
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<td>b. 34</td>
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<td>The Cure; Delay en Route; Leaving Home; Night Music; Summer Street; Traffic</td>
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<td>Control on the Grand Canal</td>
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<td>b. 35</td>
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<td>The Reading of the Will; Publishers Weekly: press article; Paradises I have</td>
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<td>Known; Ohlik, Giza: School at the Frontier, review; The Heart of France; The</td>
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<td>Outer Islands of Hawaii; France Fumbles with the American Way; Crossing the</td>
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<td>Snow Bridge; The Anchor Man; Newsday columns; A Winter in Egypt and The Heart</td>
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<td>of France</td>
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<td>b. 35</td>
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<td>Packard, George V.: That Grail Song, Sam, One More Time, uncorrected proof</td>
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<td>b. 37 (ART)</td>
<td>Framed portrait of John Knowles by Don Bachardy</td>
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<td>b. 38 (Oversize)</td>
<td>“John Knowles - on Contemporary Fiction”, Princeton University, event poster</td>
<td>1968 April 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Page 8 of 9
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.

Genres / Formats
Drawings (visual works)
Sound recordings

Names
Bachardy, Don, 1934-
Capote, Truman, 1924-1984
Knowles, John, 1926-2001
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975