

# Guide to the Sara Teasdale Collection

YCAL MSS 746



by Beinecke staff

May 2013

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 746

**CREATOR:** Teasdale, Sara, 1884-1933

**TITLE:** Sara Teasdale collection

**DATES:** 1890-1989

**BULK DATES:** 1905-1932

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.46 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, and other personal papers by or relating to the American poet Sara Teasdale. Correspondence includes several autograph manuscript letters from Teasdale and third-party letters relating to her. Writings include an autograph manuscript diary kept by Teasdale on her first trip to Europe between February and May 1905, six autograph manuscript notebooks, numbered IV through IX, containing poems drafted between 1911 and 1932, and several individual drafts or clean copies of poems and short works. Other materials in the collection include Teasdale's will, notebooks documenting literary submissions and payments received, and photographs. There are photographs of Teasdale, portraits of Teasdale in artwork, the poets Marianne Moore and Genevieve Taggard, Teasdale's friend Margaret Conklin, and her husband Ernst Filsinger.

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

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## 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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.teasdale>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from various sources. For more information consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Sara Teasdale 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.

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### Preferred Citation

Sara Teasdale Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including in some instances rehousing and minimal organization, when it arrived at the library. During baseline processing of the collection in 2013, materials were organized with respect to provenance in the four series identified below.

Former call numbers: Za Teasdale, Uncat Za Ms 113, and Uncat Za Ms 140.

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## Sara Teasdale (1894-1932)

The American poet Sara Teasdale was born 8 August 1884 in Saint Louis, Missouri and home-schooled until she was nine. While living in the Midwest, she also traveled to Chicago, where she became part of the circle surrounding *Poetry* magazine and Harriet Monroe. Teasdale's first book, *Sonnets to Duse and Other Poems*, came out in 1907. Other works followed, including *Helen of Troy and Other Poems* (1911) and *Rivers to the Sea* (1915). After moving to New York City with her husband in 1916, she won the Columbia University Poetry Society Prize and the Poetry Society of America Prize for *Love Songs* (1917). She published three additional volumes of poetry during her lifetime, *Flame and Shadow* (1920), *Dark of the Moon* (1926), and *Stars To-night* (1930). Teasdale died 28 January 1933 in New York City and her final collection, *Strange Victory*, appeared posthumously that same year.

Biographical information taken from "Sara Teasdale." Poets.org at <http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/658> 24 May 2013.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, and other personal papers by or relating to the American poet Sara Teasdale. Correspondence includes several autograph manuscript letters from Teasdale and third-party letters relating to her. Writings include an autograph manuscript diary kept by Teasdale on her first trip to Europe between February and May 1905, six autograph manuscript notebooks, numbered IV through IX, containing poems drafted between 1911 and 1932, and several individual drafts or

clean copies of poems and short works. Other materials in the collection include Teasdale's will, notebooks documenting literary submissions and payments received, and photographs. There are photographs of Teasdale, portraits of Teasdale in artwork, the poets Marianne Moore and Genevieve Taggard, Teasdale's friend Margaret Conklin, and her husband Ernst Filsinger.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into four series: I. Margaret Conklin Gift, 1905-1932. II. William Drake Purchase, 1912-1989. III. William Drake Gift, 1890-1984. IV. Material from Other Sources, 1905-1931.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Margaret Conklin Gift, 1905-1932

0.84 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I. consists of autograph manuscript writings by Teasdale, including a diary kept by Teasdale on her first trip to Europe between February and May 1905 and six notebooks, numbered IV through IX, containing poems drafted between 1911 and 1932. There are also materials and notes removed from volumes in Teasdale's library, as well as correspondence and loose notes.

Former call number: Za Teasdale.

Gift of Margaret Conklin, 1942-1945.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 5	Correspondence and loose notes	1913-1930
b. 1	Diary	1905
b. 1	"He I Love Is Far Away," poem, autograph manuscript Includes "The World Is Watching You"	undated
b. 5	Materials and notes removed from volumes in Sara Teasdale's library	undated
b. 1	<a href="#">Notebooks</a> 2 Folders	1911-1932
b. 2	<a href="#">"The Potter's Wheel," poems, autograph manuscript</a> 3 Folders	undated
b. 2	"The Potters and the Potters' Wheel" by Frances S. Porcher essay, typescript carbon	undated

**Series II: William Drake Purchase, 1922-1989***0.21 linear feet (.5 box)*

Series II. contains correspondence, writings, and personal papers by or relating to Sara Teasdale. Correspondence includes letters from Teasdale and third-party letters relating to Teasdale. Writings include drafts of poems, as well as critical works and an interview. Other materials include copies of Teasdale's will, notebooks documenting literary submissions and payments received, and an original drawing.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 113.

Purchased from William Drake on the Elinor and Leonard Bernheim Fund, 1989.

Arranged as received by the library.

b. 3	Vendor description	circa 1989
b. 3	Letter, autograph manuscript signed, from American Women's Club to Margaret Conklin	1932 July 26
b. 3	Letter, autograph manuscript signed (carbon), from Sara Teasdale to Ernst Filsinger	1929 June 1
b. 3	"The Self," poem, autograph manuscript	1927 January 8
b. 3	"A Song of Silver Slippers," poem, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 3	"Answers to Prof. Lewis About Poetic Composition," notes, corrected, autograph manuscript	1923 March 13
b. 3	<a href="#">Letter, autograph manuscript signed, from Sara Teasdale to Mrs. Conklin</a>	1930 June 4
b. 3	Letters, autograph manuscript signed, from Sara Teasdale to an unidentified recipient	1932 March 8
b. 3	"Sea Gulls at Sunset," poem, typescript, signed	undated
b. 3	Printed card	undated
b. 3	<a href="#">"An Interview With Sara Teasdale," typescript carbon</a> Includes note, autograph manuscript, by Sara Teasdale	undated
b. 3	<a href="#">Last will and testament, signed (2 copies)</a>	1930
b. 3	<a href="#">Notebooks</a>	1922, 1926
b. 3	"Statement From Sara Teasdale Concerning the Christina Rossetti Letter Which She Brought Back From England," typescript	undated
b. 3	"Christina Rossetti: An Intimate Portrait," biography, typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 3	<a href="#">Drawing</a>	undated
b. 3	Letters, autograph manuscript signed, from Margaret Conklin to Anne Lundgren	1927
b. 3	<a href="#">Letter, typescript signed, from Louis Untermeyer to William Drake</a>	1975 January 23

**Series III: William Drake Gift, 1890-1984***0.21 linear feet (.5 box)*

Series III. contains photographs, correspondence, and Teasdale's last will and testament. There are photographs of Teasdale, portraits of Teasdale in artwork, the poets Marianne Moore and Genevieve Taggard, Teasdale's friend Margaret Conklin, and her husband Ernst Filsinger. Correspondence between Margaret Conklin and others relates to Teasdale.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 140.

Gift of William Drake, 1990.

Arranged as received by the library.

b. 3	Donor list	undated
b. 3	<a href="#">Photographs of Sara Teasdale</a>	[circa 1890]-1932, undated
b. 3	Photographs of artistic representations of Sara Teasdale	undated
b. 3	<a href="#">Photographs of Margaret Conklin</a>	1932, undated
b. 3	Photograph of Ernst Filsinger	undated
b. 3	Photograph of Marianne Moore	undated
b. 3	Photograph of Genevieve Taggard	[circa 1922]
b. 3	<a href="#">Margaret Conklin correspondence</a>	1933-1974, undated
b. 3	Letter, autograph manuscript signed, from Mamie Wheless to Marie Teasdale	1933 March
b. 3	<a href="#">Photograph of the S.S. Sara Teasdale</a> Includes letters dated 1944 and 1984	1943 October 30
b. 3	<a href="#">Last will and testament, typescript, corrected and signed</a>	1929 May 13

**Series IV: Material from Other Sources, 1905-1931***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series IV. contains a small number of writings autograph letters signed by Teasdale.

Former call number: Za Teasdale.

Acquired from various sources.

Organized into two subseries for Writings and Correspondence.

## Writings

b. 4	"The Carpenter's Son," poem, autograph manuscript	1913 June
b. 4	"Erinna," poem, typescript, signed	undated
b. 4	[Poems], galley proof, corrected, with annotations by Teasdale	undated
b. 4	"Sappho," poem, autograph manuscript, corrected, and typescript carbon	undated
b. 4	"Union Square," poem, typescript mimeograph, initialed	1911 January
b. 4	"The Potters and the Potters' Wheel" by Frances S. Porcher, essay, printed version	1905

## Correspondence

b. 4	Aldis, [Arthur T.]	1922 May 12
b. 4	Braithwaite, [William S. B.]	1912 March 20
b. 4	Branch, [Anna Hempstead]	1931 April 7
b. 4	Dussault, Miss	1925 May 30
b. 4	Johns, Orrick Includes autograph manuscript drafts of "Darkness at Noon" and "Silence"	1912, undated
b. 4	Watanabe, Rikuzo	1926

## **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**

American literature -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Conklin, Margaret  
Filsinger, Ernst  
Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972  
Taggard, Genevieve, 1894-1948  
Teasdale, Sara, 1884-1933