

# Guide to the R. M. Koster Papers

YCAL MSS 1540



by Annalise Hennessey

January 2023

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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 1540

**CREATOR:** Koster, R. M., 1934- , author

**TITLE:** R. M. Koster papers

**DATES:** 1950s-2000

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 9.75 linear feet (15 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains writings, newspaper clippings, papers relating to Panamanian politics, and ephemera documenting the career of American author R. M. Koster. Writings include typescript drafts, proofs, and galleys of Koster's published and unpublished works.

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

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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.rmkoester>.

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  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of R. M. Koster, 2016.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The R. M. Koster 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.

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## Preferred Citation

R. M. Koster Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections 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.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn 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. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

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

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## Koster, R. M. (1934-)

Richard Morton Koster, an American author, journalist, and educator, was born on March 1, 1934 in Brooklyn, New York. In the late 1950s, he graduated from Yale University with a degree in English. Koster is best known for the *Tinieblas Trilogy: The Prince* (1972), a finalist for the 1973 National Book Award in Fiction; *The Dissertation* (1975); and *Mandragon* (1979). Other notable works include *Carmichael's Dog* (1992), *The Glass Mountain* (2001), and *In the Time of the Tyrants: Panama: 1968-1990* (1991), a history of the military rule of Panama written with journalist Guillermo Sánchez Borbón. Koster moved to Panama in 1957. He taught English at the Panama Canal campus of Florida State University from 1964 to 2001 and has contributed articles to publications including *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*. Koster was also involved in American politics, serving on the Democratic National Committee from 1967 to 1996 and authoring presidential debate copy for Senator John Kerry in 2004.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains writings, newspaper clippings, papers relating to Panamanian politics, and ephemera documenting the career of American author R. M. Koster. Writings include typescript drafts, proofs, and galley proofs of Koster's published and unpublished works. Notable works included are *Carmichael's Dog*, *The Dissertation*, *Glass Mountain*, *Mandragon*, *The Prince*, and *In the Time of Tyrants: Panama: 1968-1990*, written with journalist Guillermo Sánchez Borbón. Panamanian political material includes memorandums, treaties, reports, and affidavits.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Writings, 1950-2000. II. Panama Political Material, 1972-1989. III. Printed Material, 1975-1990.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, 1950s–2000

6.92 linear feet (11 boxes)

This series consists of drafts and other materials related to books by Koster, including *Carmichael's Dog*, *Glass Mountain*, and *Mandragon*, and several published and unpublished shorter works.

Arranged in two subseries: Books and Shorter Works.

#### Books

This subseries includes typescript drafts, proofs, and galley proofs of books by Koster.

Arranged alphabetically by file title.

##### *Carmichael's Dog*

b. 1, f. 1-7	Complete proof	1992
b. 1, f. 8	Partial proof	1992
b. 2, f. 9-10	Partial proof	1992
b. 2, f. 11-12	Revised proof	1992
b. 2, f. 13	<i>A Closed Case</i>	1960s
b. 2, f. 14	<i>A Closed Case</i>	1960s-1980s
b. 2, f. 15-16	<i>Dissertation</i> proof	1989
b. 3, f. 17	<i>Epiphany</i> bound draft	1950s
b. 3, f. 18-19	<i>Evita Ulloa</i>	1970s-1980s

##### *Glass Mountain*

b. 3, f. 20-21	Background material	1979
b. 3, f. 22-24	Partial proof	1979
b. 4, f. 25-27	Proof	1979
b. 4, f. 28-29	Typescript	1980
b. 4, f. 30-32	Typescript	1990–2000
b. 5, f. 33-36	Typescript	1990–2000
b. 5, f. 37-39	Typescript	2000
b. 5, f. 40	Typescripts with corrections	1980s

##### *In the Time of the Tyrants: Panama, 1968-1990*

b. 6, f. 41-46	Proof, first pass	1990
b. 6, f. 47-50	Proof, master set confirmation, first pass	1990

## Books &gt; In the Time of the Tyrants: Panama, 1968-1990 (continued)

b. 6, f. 51-54	Proof, second pass	1990
b. 7, f. 55-60	Typescript with corrections	1990
<i>Mandragon</i>		
b. 8, f. 61-64	Long Galleys	1979
b. 8, f. 65-66	Proof	1989
b. 8, f. 67-73	Typescript	1979
b. 9, f. 74	<i>Now, Without Shadow</i>	1962
<i>The Prince</i>		
b. 9, f. 75	<i>Prince I</i> bound draft	1972
b. 9, f. 76	<i>Prince II</i> bound draft	1972
b. 9, f. 77-78	Proof	1989
<i>Resumen</i>		
b. 9, f. 79	<i>Resumen</i> draft	1988
b. 10, f. 80	"New chapter" typescript	1988
b. 10, f. 81	"Chapter 4"	1988
b. 10, f. 82-85	<i>Rites of Passage</i>	1970s-1980s
b. 10, f. 86	<i>The Royal Conclave</i>	1980s-1990s
b. 11, f. 87-88	<i>The Royal Conclave</i>	1980s-1990s
b. 11, f. 89	<i>Schlau</i> bound draft	1960s-1980s
Shorter Works		
This subseries includes typescript drafts of articles and essays by Koster.		
Arranged alphabetically by file title.		
b. 11, f. 90	"At the Dream Conference"	1980s
b. 11, f. 91	"Betruger's Cancer"	1973
b. 11, f. 92	"Curse of Monseñor Manzaldo"	1980s
b. 11, f. 93	"Election"	1989
b. 11, f. 94	"Hogg Junket"	1969
b. 11, f. 95	"The Smartest Woman in American Politics: A Profile of Anne Walker"	1980s
b. 11, f. 96	Unfinished story	1980s

**Series II: Panama Political Material, 1972–1989***2 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series includes writings and other papers by Koster related to Panamanian politics, including reports, treaties, memorandums, and affidavits.

Arranged alphabetically by file title.

b. 12, f. 97-98	"Brit Perez"	1988
b. 12, f. 99	"La Prensa"	1987
b. 12, f. 100-102	Legal documents	1987
b. 12, f. 103	"Memorandum of Understanding"	1988
b. 12, f. 104	Panama and the murder that hunts	1988
b. 12, f. 105	Panama elections	1989
b. 12, f. 106-107	Reports	1988
b. 12, f. 108	<i>Senate Report Vol. 1</i>	1989 April 13
b. 13, f. 109	<i>Senate Report Vol. 2</i>	1989 April 13
b. 13, f. 110-111	Senate reports on Panama	1987 December 8
b. 13, f. 112	Sheehan affidavit	1987
b. 13, f. 113	"Soldiers in Panama"	undated
b. 13, f. 114	Treaties	1972–1977
b. 13, f. 115-116	Treaties	1977–1979
b. 13, f. 117-118	Treaties	1985
b. 13, f. 119	US Policy Toward Central America	1983
b. 13, f. 120-121	US Policy Toward Central America	1988

**Series III: Printed Material, 1975–1990***0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This subseries includes one copy of Grupo de El Valle's *Hacia Una Economia*, newspaper clippings, and periodicals with works by Koster and others.

Arranged alphabetically by file title.

b. 14, f. 122	"Economy"	1989
b. 14, f. 123	El Valle, Grupo de, <i>Hacia Una Economia</i>	1985
b. 15, f. 124	Hersh, Seymour, <i>New York Times</i>	1986
b. 14, f. 125	<i>Israeli Affairs Journal</i>	1988 October– 1990 January
b. 14, f. 126-127	"The Larry Gurwin Calvi Affair"	1983
b. 14, f. 128	<i>Miami Review, Rolling Stone</i>	1988
b. 14, f. 129-134	Newspaper cuttings	1987–1990
b. 15, f. 135-136	Newspaper cuttings, etc.	1979–1989
b. 15, f. 137-138	Newspaper cuttings and typescripts	1988
b. 15, f. 139	Newspaper pages	1989
b. 15, f. 140-142	Newspaper pages and typescripts	1988-1989
b. 15, f. 143	Reports and newspaper cuttings	1975–1988
b. 15, f. 145	Typescript and newspaper pages	1989



## **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  
Government paperwork

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Newspaper clippings

### **Geographic Names**

Panama -- Foreign relations -- United States  
United States -- Foreign relations -- Panama

### **Names**

Borbón, Guillermo Sánchez  
Koster, R. M., 1934-