

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

John Martin Collection of Wyndham Lewis

GEN MSS 2098



by Brooke McManus

September 2023

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977

beinecke.library@yale.edu

<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
John Martin (1930-)	4
Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957)	5
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Selected Search Terms	10

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: GEN MSS 2098

CREATOR: Martin, John, 1930- , collector

TITLE: John Martin collection of Wyndham Lewis

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.13 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, original artwork, writings, proofs, ephemera, photographs, audiocassette tapes, and other materials by or relating to American publisher John Martin and British artists and writers Wyndham Lewis and Michael Ayrton.

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

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.martin>.

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

Purchased from Black Sparrow Press on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1983.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 7-8 (audiocassettes): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Martin Collection of Wyndham Lewis 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 Martin Collection of Wyndham Lewis. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault 727

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.

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

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

John Martin (1930-)

John Martin is an American editor, book collector, and publisher who founded Black Sparrow Press. Martin is known for his patronage of Charles Bukowski, and Black Sparrow Press published works by both avant-garde and mainstream authors, including Bukowski, Paul and Jane Bowles, John Fante, Wyndham Lewis, and Gertrude Stein.

Born in 1930, Martin was raised in Los Angeles and briefly attended the University of California, Los Angeles, before dropping out in his first year. In 1949, he began to collect first editions of American and English literature. His focus later expanded to include "new poets" and Beat poetry. Martin managed an office supply store, and he used the company's printing machine to produce early broadsides of Bukowski's poetry. Martin launched Black Sparrow Press in Los Angeles in 1966 with proceeds from the sale of first editions from his personal collection; the company's first publication was a limited run of Bukowski's poem "True Story." Martin also acquired the rights to titles by D. H. Lawrence and Wyndham Lewis, and in the 1980s, Black Sparrow Press reissued more than 20 Lewis works that had fallen into obscurity, among them the literary critique *Men Without Art* (1934) and *Blast*, a short-lived journal of the Vorticism movement. In 2002, Martin retired and sold Black Sparrow's publishing rights to several different companies including HarperCollins.

Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957)

Percy Wyndham Lewis was a British writer, artist, and leading figure in the Vorticist movement. He authored 40 works of fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and criticism, including the novels *Tarr* (1918) and *The Human Age* trilogy and the autobiographies *Blasting and Bombardiering* (1937) and *Rude Assignment: A Narrative of my Career Up-to-Date* (1950). Lewis joined with other London artists and poets to form the short-lived movement labeled Vorticism by Ezra Pound. Pound was also a contributor to *Blast*, a Vorticist literary and art journal edited and published by Lewis in 1914-1915. Although Lewis turned his focus to writing in the 1920s and 1930s, he continued to produce paintings, watercolors, and drawings, including "The Surrender of Barcelona" (1936) and portraits of Pound, Edith Sitwell, T. S. Eliot, and inventor Guglielmo Marconi. His work experienced a revival in the late 20th century when Black Sparrow Press, an independent publishing house founded by John Martin, reissued a number of Lewis's novels and essay collections.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, original artwork, writings, proofs, ephemera, photographs, audiocassette tapes, and other materials by or relating to American publisher John Martin and British artists and writers Wyndham Lewis and Michael Ayrton. Included are files for the National Book League exhibition and catalog *Word and Image*, featuring art by Lewis and Ayrton. The collection also contains Ayrton's illustrations for books by Lewis, such as *The Human Age* trilogy, and a small amount of material related to Black Sparrow Press reprints of *Blast*, the Vorticist literary magazine co-founded by Lewis. Correspondence contains letters from Lewis to Ayrton, Naomi Mitchison, and Olive Johnson, the mother of two of his children; letters from Mitchison to rare book dealer Boris Edgar-Harding; and letters to Martin from Julian Symons and others. Artwork by Lewis includes a watercolor drawing of Guglielmo Marconi.

Arrangement

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

Collection Contents

Ayrton, Michael. *Word and Image I & II*

b. 1, f. 1-11	Correspondence	1970–1972
b. 1, f. 12	National Book League memos	1971
b. 6, f. 148	National Book League poster proof	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 13	Opening party list	1971
b. 1, f. 14	Michael Ayrton chronology	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 15	Invitations	circa 1971
b. 6, f. 149	<i>Word and Image</i> poster	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 16	Exhibition catalog proofs	circa 1971
b. 4, f. 140	Plates for catalog, proofs	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 17	Catalog	[1971]
b. 1, f. 18	Plates and prints	circa 1971
b. 4, f. 141	Photographs of Tudor Hotel	undated
b. 1, f. 19	Press release, press conference mailing list	[1971]
b. 1, f. 20	Ayrton notes, material related to plates	1971–1972
b. 1, f. 21	Exhibit cases, layout	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 22	Books in print to be ordered	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 23	Tentative arrangements of relevant objects and documents	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 24	Section 2 and Section 5	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 25	Preliminary list of potential exhibits	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 26	List of exhibits	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 27	Proposed catalog illustrations	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 28	Plan for <i>Word and Image I</i>	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 29	<i>Word and Image I</i> material offered by private owners	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 30	For reproduction in catalog	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 31	Drawings made by Michael Ayrton for Wyndham Lewis	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 32	Lent by Michael Ayrton to the National Book League	circa 1971
b. 1, f. 33-55	Ayrton, Michael. Letters from various recipients	1953–1969
b. 1, f. 56	Ayrton, Elizabeth. Correspondence with C. J. Fox	1977

b. 1, f. 57	Martin, John. Letters from various recipients	1978-1979
b. 1, f. 58	Tate Gallery. Letter to E. G. H. Lightfoot	1956
b. 1, f. 59-62	Newspaper clippings	1957-1979, undated
b. 1, f. 63	Wyndham Lewis, William Roberts, John Rothenstein, and Michael Ayrton controversy	1956-1957
b. 1, f. 64-66	Ayrton, Michael. Book jacket designs	undated
b. 4, f. 142	Ayrton, Michael. Book jacket designs	1972, undated
b. 1, f. 67-73	Designs for <i>Blast 3</i> [paste-ups]	circa 1979
b. 4, f. 143	Designs for <i>Blast 3</i> [Ayrton's front cover art]	circa 1979
b. 1, f. 74	<i>Blast 3</i> prospectus	circa 1979
b. 1, f. 75-91	Ayrton, Michael. Writings about Wyndham Lewis Includes drafts of letters to the editor and articles such as "Mist Rising, After Winter."	1957, undated
b. 1, f. 92	Lewis, Wyndham. "The Sea Mists of Winter," clipping	1951
b. 1, f. 93	Preliminary catalog of drawings by Wyndham Lewis in the possession of Mrs. Lewis	undated
b. 1, f. 94	Letter to Gladys Anne (Hoskyns) Lewis from unidentified correspondent	undated
b. 1, f. 95	Extracts from press notices	undated
b. 6, f. 150	Symposium poster	1982
b. 2, f. 96	Ephemera and clippings	1938-1957, undated
b. 2, f. 97	Printed material	1957-1969
b. 2, f. 98	Fitzpatrick, Frank. Letter to John Martin	1983
b. 2, f. 99	Notebook	1969-1977
b. 2, f. 100	Wyndham Lewis exhibition catalog, Santa Barbara Museum of Art	1957
b. 2, f. 101	Photographs of Lewis paintings	undated
b. 2, f. 102-108	Ayrton, Michael. Illustrations for <i>The Human Age</i>	1955
b. 5, f. 145	Ayrton, Michael. Illustrations for <i>The Human Age</i>	1955
b. 2, f. 109	Reviews	1955
b. 3, f. 136-139	<i>Malign Fiesta</i> proofs	1929
b. 2, f. 110	Martin, John. Letters from various recipients	[1932]-1983
b. 2, f. 111	Clippings	1927-1981

b. 2, f. 112	Gawsworth, John. Letter to Anton Locke	[1932]
b. 2, f. 113	Correspondence removed from Black Sparrow <i>Blast 1</i> deluxe edition "A"	1981-1982
b. 2, f. 114	Black Sparrow Press ephemera	1983-1984
b. 2, f. 115	Ephemera	1977, undated
b. 4, f. 144	<i>Blast 3</i> proofs	
b. 2, f. 116	Mitchison, Naomi. Letters to Boris Harding-Edgar and Mrs. Huson	1956
b. 2, f. 117	Nina [last name unknown]. Letters to Louise [last name unknown], including two photographs labeled "Kay's Bobby"	1941, undated
b. 2, f. 118	Symons, Julian. Letter to John Martin, autograph manuscript draft of introduction to <i>Revenge for Love</i>	1982
b. 2, f. 119	Extracts from press notices and prospectuses related to books by Lewis	1918-1930
	Lewis, Wyndham. Correspondence	
b. 2, f. 120	Augustus, John	undated
b. 2, f. 121	[Dunk?]	undated
b. 2, f. 122	Johnson, Olive	1921-1924
b. 2, f. 123	Muir, R.	1930
b. 2, f. 124	Mitchison, Naomi	1946
b. 2, f. 125	Rayna [last name unknown]	[1946]
b. 2, f. 126	Unidentified	undated
b. 2, f. 127	Gaunt, [William]	1947
b. 2, f. 128	Ayrton, Michael	1949-1956
b. 2, f. 129	Typescript draft of foreword by Lewis for Ayrton exhibition catalog	1949
b. 2, f. 130	Exhibition catalog - <i>Michael Ayrton: Paintings, Drawings, Theatre Design</i>	1949
b. 2, f. 131	Ayrton, Michael. Letters to Gladys Anne Lewis	undated
b. 2, f. 132	Preliminary catalog of drawings by Wyndham Lewis in the possession of Mrs. Lewis	undated
b. 2, f. 133	Lewis, Gladys Anne. Letters to Michael Ayrton	1957-1971
b. 2, f. 134	Ayrton, Elisabeth Walshe. Letter to Gladys Anne (Hoskyns) Lewis	circa 1957-1958
b. 2, f. 135	Lewis, Gladys Anne (Hoskyns). Letter to Elisabeth Walshe Ayrton	undated
b. 5, f. 146	Lewis, Wyndham. Prints	undated
b. 5, f. 147	"The Voices of..." blister pack	undated
b. 6, f. 151	Lewis, Wyndham. Watercolor drawing of Guglielmo Marconi	1922

Audiocassettes

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 7, f. 152	"Blast" by D. G. Bridson / Grigson interviewed by Paul Bailey	undated
b. 7, f. 153	"The Childermass" (1955)	undated
b. 7, f. 154	"Malign Fiesta (1955) Part 1	undated
b. 7, f. 155	"Malign Fiesta (1955) Part 2	undated
b. 7, f. 156	"Monstre Gail" (1955) Part 1	undated
b. 7, f. 157	"Monstre Gail" (1955) Part 2	undated
b. 8, f. 158	"Revenge for Love" (1957) Part 1	undated
b. 8, f. 159	"Revenge for Love" (1957) Part 2	undated
b. 8, f. 160	Wyndham Lewis: "Essential Purposes of Art (1946); "When John Bull Laughs" (1938); "A Crisis of Thought" (1947)	undated
b. 8, f. 161	"The Voices of..." Vol. 1, no. 1	1974
b. 8, f. 162	"The Voices of..." Vol. 1, no. 2	1974
b. 8, f. 163	"The Voices of..." Vol. 1, no. 3	1974

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

Art, Modern -- 20th Century -- Exhibitions
Publishers and publishing -- United States --
20th Century
Vorticism

Genres / Formats

Audiocassettes
Drawings (visual works)
Photographs

Occupations

Artists -- Great Britain -- 20th Century
Authors -- Great Britain -- 20th Century

Names

Ayrton, Michael, 1921-1975
Harding-Edgar, Boris
Johnson, Olive
Lewis, Wyndham, 1882-1957
Marconi, Guglielmo, 1874-1937
Martin, John, 1930-
Mitchison, Naomi, 1897-1999
Symons, Julian, 1912-1994

Corporate Bodies

Black Sparrow Press
Blast (London, England)