

# Guide to the Sandra Berrigan Papers

YCAL MSS 1629



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March 2025

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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 1629

**CREATOR:** Berrigan, Sandra , author

**TITLE:** Sandra Berrigan papers

**DATES:** 1961–2024

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.38 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, writings, printed material, realia, and other papers by or relating to Sandra Berrigan.

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

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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.berrigan>.

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

Purchased from James S. Jaffe on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2024.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 8 (correspondence): Restricted until January 1, 2050. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Sandra Berrigan 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

Sandra Berrigan papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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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.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Archival Description Unit Processing Manual.

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## Related Materials

Related materials: Ron Padgett papers (YCAL MSS 721); Maureen Owen collection of Greenwich Village poetry (YCAL MSS 218).

Associated materials: [Ted Berrigan papers](#) (Columbia Rare Book & Manuscript Library).

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## Sandra Berrigan (1942- )

Sandra "Sandy" Berrigan née Alper was born in 1942 in Detroit, Michigan. At age 13, her family moved to Miami, Florida where her father, Louis Alper, was a practicing physician.

Berrigan attended Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans where she met Dick Gallup, a student at Tulane University. In February 1962, Gallup introduced Sandy to his friend visiting from New York, Ted Berrigan (born Edmund Joseph Michael Berrigan Jr.). The two quickly fell in love and, within a week, Sandy and Ted got married in Houston, Texas. The newlyweds agreed to visit Sandy's parents in Miami and a few days later Louis and Dorothy Alper obtained a court order to commit Sandy to the Jackson Memorial Hospital's mental ward. Sandy was held in the hospital from February to May 1962, during which time she and Ted exchanged numerous letters full of poetry and philosophical discussion. In early May, Sandy was allowed to visit the public library on good behavior. Ted was waiting for her there and together they fled Miami eventually landing in New York City.

In June 1962, the Alpers again had Sandy committed first at Bellevue's mental ward and then later at the Euphrasian Girls' Home. She was released on July 26, 1962. Sandy and Ted remained married for the next seven years, had two children, and then separated in 1969. During this time Sandy met other poets and writers in Ted's circle including Ron Padgett, Tom Veitch, and Joe Brainard. This is also the period when Ted is working on his most famous book, *The Sonnets* (1964). Sandy eventually moved California, raised her two children, and continued to correspond with the poetry community she had become a part of. She wrote and collaborated on poetry of her own and in 2010 she co-edited -- with Ron Padgett -- the collection of the letters she and Ted sent to each other in 1962 into the book, *Dear Sandy, Hello*.

## Scope and Contents

The Sandra Berrigan Papers consists of her personal and literary correspondence, as well as realia related to Sandra Berrigan's life and work as a writer and poet. The correspondence captures Berrigan's many decades long friendships with poets and creatives in and around the second generation of the New York School of poets including Ron Padgett, Dick Gallup, Anne Waldman, Joe Brainard, and Maureen Owen.

Included in the correspondence are Berrigan's original letters she exchanged with her former husband and poet, Ted Berrigan. These letters were written in 1962 while she was held at the Jackson Memorial Hospital mental ward--at the behest of her parents--during the beginning of the Berrigans' marriage. Also included in this collection are drafts of the book *Dear Sandy, Hello* and three poetry quilts Sandra created by incorporating pieces of poetry sent to her by friends.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1961-2024. II. Materials Related to *Dear Sandy, Hello*, 2005-2011. III. Realia, circa 1988-2018.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1961–2024

This series contains correspondence sent to and from Sandra Berrigan, as well as third party correspondence related to Berrigan's marriage and family. Included in this series is the original correspondence between Sandra and her former husband, Ted Berrigan, written while Sandra was held in the Jackson Memorial Hospital mental ward from March to May of 1962.

Box 8: Restricted until January 1, 2050. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

This series is arranged into four sub-series: Incoming, Outgoing, Third Party, and Poetry.

Incoming 1962–2024

This sub-series contains correspondence received by Sandra Berrigan. Included in the materials are decades long correspondence with close friends including Ron Padgett, Maureen Owen, Anne Waldman, and Carla Harryman. Also included in this sub-series is correspondence from Sandra's former husband, Ted Berrigan, some of which is featured in the published book of their mutual correspondence from the early days of their marriage, *Dear Sandy, Hello*.

Box 8: Restricted until January 1, 2050. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Materials in this sub-series are arranged alphabetically by name.

b. 1, f. 1	Notes on Sandy's archives	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Abbott, Keith	2017
b. 1, f. 3	Alarcon, Francisco X.	1992
b. 1, f. 4	Bensky, Larry	1970
b. 1, f. 5	Berkson, Bill and Lynn	1972–2015
b. 1, f. 6-7	Berrigan, Ted	1962–2023
b. 1, f. 8	Bly, Robert	1980–1985
b. 1, f. 9	Brown, Rebecca	1975
b. 1, f. 10	Brainard, Joe	1963–2000
b. 1, f. 11	Brodey, Jim	1977
b. 1, f. 12	Burckhardt, Rudy and Yvonne Jacquette	1968–1999
b. 1, f. 13	Champion, Miles	2004–2005
b. 1, f. 14	Chomsky, Noam	2010
b. 1, f. 15	Codrescu, Andrei	2008
b. 2, f. 1-2	Collom, Jack	1969–2015
b. 2, f. 3	Collom, Jenny	2018
b. 2, f. 4	Corbett, Bill and Beverly	2000–2018

## Incoming (continued)

b. 2, f. 5	Crabtree, Lee	1968–1971
b. 2, f. 6	Creeley, Robert	1975–2005
b. 2, f. 7	Dash, Robert	1965
b. 2, f. 8	Denby, Edwin	1965
b. 2, f. 9-10	Dennis, Donna	1987–2015
b. 2, f. 11	DeSilver, Albert Flynn	2003
b. 2, f. 12-13	Diggory, Terence	2005–2021
b. 3, f. 1	Doubiago, Sharon	1983–1988
b. 3, f. 2	Elmslie, Kenward	undated
b. 3, f. 3	Evans, Thomas and Lisa Jarnot	2003–2020
b. 3, f. 4	Fagin, Larry and Joan Inglis	1969–1987
b. 3, f. 5	Feist, Betsy	1967
b. 3, f. 6	Fischer, Kathie and Norman	1992–2005
b. 3, f. 7	Fischer, Norman	undated
b. 3, f. 8	Golde, Morris	1968
b. 3, f. 9-10	Gallup, Dick and Carol	1968–1989
b. 3, f. 11	Gallup, Christina (Chrissy)	1975–1978
b. 3, f. 12	Ginsberg, Allen	1969–1972
b. 3, f. 13	Greene, Tinker	2007
b. 3, f. 14	Hackman, Neil	1975
b. 3, f. 15-17	Harryman, Carla	1981–2022
b. 3, f. 18	Harryman, Carla and Barrett Watten	2007–2022
b. 3, f. 19	Hejinian, Lyn	2001–2013
b. 3, f. 20	Henny, Barbara	2017–2021
b. 3, f. 21	Hollo, Anselm and Jane Dalrymple-Hollo	2003–2007
b. 4, f. 1-2	King, Kenneth	1986–2007
b. 4, f. 3	Kornblum, Allan	2009
b. 4, f. 4	Krauss, Ruth	1965
b. 4, f. 5	Kraut, Rochelle	1982
b. 4, f. 6	Kyger, Joanne	2013–2014

## Incoming (continued)

b. 4, f. 7	Lee, Annabel	1978-1979, 2017-2021
b. 4, f. 8	Lenhart, Gary	1989
b. 4, f. 9	Levine, Stephen	undated
b. 4, f. 10-11	Literary concerns and publishing	1988-2021
b. 4, f. 12	MacAdams, Lewis	undated
b. 4, f. 13	MacKay, William (Billy)	2021
b. 4, f. 14	Malanga, Gerard	1969
b. 4, f. 15	Mara-Ann, M.	2002
b. 4, f. 16	Marlowe, Alan and Diane	1968
b. 4, f. 17	Masters, Grey	1981
b. 4, f. 18	Mattingly, George	1989-2004
b. 4, f. 19	Mayer, Bernadette	1982-1983
b. 4, f. 20	Mitchell, Tessie	1989-1990
b. 4, f. 21	Moon, Susan	1991-2004
b. 5, f. 1-3	Nauen, Elinor	1988-2024
b. 5, f. 4	Nauen, Elinor and Pat Nolan	2017-2019
b. 5, f. 5-6	Notley, Alice	1980-1987
b. 5, f. 7-9	Owen, Maureen	1968-2012
b. 5, f. 10	Oliver, Doug	1987
b. 5, f. 11-14	Padgett, Ron	1967-2023
b. 6, f. 1-2	Padgett, Ron and Pat	1965-2021
b. 6, f. 3	Pettet, Simon	1987-2021
b. 6, f. 4	Publishers and researchers	1980-2020
b. 6, f. 5	Robinson, Kit	1987
b. 6, f. 6	Rosenthal, Bob	1987-1994
b. 6, f. 7	Saroyan, Aram	1969
b. 6, f. 8	Schein, David	1974-2018
b. 6, f. 9	Schiff, Harris	1968-1983
b. 6, f. 10-11	Schneeman, George and Katie	1968-2021
b. 7, f. 1	Schneider, David	undated



## Incoming (continued)

b. 7, f. 2	Schultz, Susan M.	2020
b. 7, f. 3	Schuyler, Jimmy	undated
b. 7, f. 4	Stevenson, Anne	2000–2001
b. 7, f. 5	Thomas, David	1968
b. 7, f. 6	Torregian, Sotère	1967–2021
b. 7, f. 7	Trinidad, David	2012
b. 7, f. 8	Tyish, George and Christine	1988
b. 7, f. 9	Veitch, Tom	1966–1983
b. 7, f. 10-11	Waldman, Anne	1967–2021
b. 7, f. 12	Warsh, Lewis	1968–2020
b. 8, f. 1-3	Watten, Barrett Restricted until January 1, 2050. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1972–2021
b. 9, f. 1	Whalen, Philip	1969–1987
b. 9, f. 2	Wilentz family	1968
b. 9, f. 3	Wodening, Jane	2008–2013
b. 9, f. 4	Woodward, Frank	undated
b. 9, f. 5-6	Unsorted	1965–2023
b. 9, f. 7	Enclosures	undated
	Outgoing	1961–2024
	This sub-series contains correspondence sent by Sandra Berrigan. Included in this sub-series is correspondence she sent to her former husband, Ted Berrigan, some of which is featured in the published book of their mutual correspondence from the early days of their marriage, <i>Dear Sandy, Hello</i> .	
	Materials in this sub-series are arranged alphabetically by name of the recipient.	
b. 9, f. 8-9	Berrigan, Ted	1961–1962
b. 9, f. 10	Jaffe, James	2024
b. 9, f. 11	Lohf, Kenneth	1981
b. 9, f. 12	Watten, Barrett (copies)	1972–2020
	Third Party Correspondence	1962–1964
	This sub-series contains correspondence sent between third party individuals. Of note in this sub-series is correspondence sent by Sandra Berrigan's former husband, Ted Berrigan, and his mother, Margaret, to Sandra's parents while she was held in Jackson Memorial Hospital's mental ward.	
	Materials in this sub-series are arranged alphabetically by name of the sender.	

## Third Party Correspondence (continued)

b. 9, f. 13	Berrigan, Margaret to Louis and Dorothy Alper	1962
b. 9, f. 14	Berrigan, Ted to Louis and Dorothy Alper	1962-1964
b. 9, f. 15	Powers, Anthony C. to Ted Berrigan	1962
b. 9, f. 16	Unsorted	undated
	Poetry This sub-series contains correspondence wherein Sandra Berrigan collaborated with the sender on writing poetry. Materials in this sub-series are arranged alphabetically by name.	1994-2011
b. 10, f. 1	Abbott, Keith, Pat Nolan, Maureen Owen, and Michael Sawl regarding "Sky Renku"	2008-2010
b. 10, f. 2	Collom, Jack regarding poems	
b. 10, f. 3	Nolan, Pat regarding "Barley Blue"	2005-2006
b. 10, f. 4	Nolan, Pat regarding miscellaneous renga practice lines	1995-2011
b. 10, f. 5	Nolan, Pat regarding "Orange and Raw"	2008
b. 10, f. 6	Nolan, Pat regarding "Purple Bitter Wine"	2006-2007
b. 10, f. 7	Nolan, Pat regarding "Red-Haired Woman"	2002-2003
b. 10, f. 8	Nolan, Pat regarding "Sea Green Renku"	1994-2000
b. 10, f. 9	Nolan Pat regarding "Yellow Music"	2001-2006
b. 10, f. 10	Nolan, Pat regarding "Zephyr Archives"	2009-2011

## Series II: Materials Related to *Dear Sandy, Hello*, 2005–2011

This series contains correspondence, reference material, and proofs related to the publication of the book, *Dear Sandy, Hello*. This book is the edited version of the correspondence exchanged between Ted and Sandy when Sandy was held in the Jackson Memorial Hospital's mental ward from February to May 1962.

This series is arranged into two sub-series: Correspondence and Drafts.

	Correspondence	2005–2011
	This sub-series contains correspondence related to the editing and publication of the book, <i>Dear Sandy, Hello</i> .	
	Materials in this sub-series are arranged alphabetically by name.	
b. 11, f. 1-2	Coffee House Press staff	2005–2011
b. 11, f. 3	Padgett, Ron, Maureen Owen and Carla Harryman	2006–2010
	Drafts	2010
	This sub-series contains reference materials and proofs related to the editing and publication of the book, <i>Dear Sandy, Hello</i> .	
	Materials in this sub-series are arranged chronologically by date.	
b. 11, f. 5	Copies of early poems by Ted Berrigan	undated
b. 11, f. 6	First proof	2010
b. 11, f. 7-8	Annotated proof	2010

**Series III: Realia, circa 1988-2018**

This series contains three 'poetry quilts' made by Sandra Berrigan. Each quilt features poems written or typed onto pieces of cloth Berrigan provided to her close friends. Also included in this series is correspondence related to the creation of the poetry quilts.

b. 11, f. 9	Poetry quilt correspondence	1988-1989
b. 12, item 1	Poetry quilt 1 (tan backed)	undated
b. 12, item 2	Poetry quilt 2 (black backed)	undated
b. 12, item 3	Poetry quilt 3 (blue backed)	undated

## **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 poetry -- 20th Century -- Archives  
American poetry -- 21st century  
American poetry -- United States -- 20th  
Century  
Authors, American -- 21st century -- Archives  
Authors -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Poets, American -- 20th Century --  
Correspondence  
Poets, American -- 21st century -- Archives  
Poets, American -- New York (State)

### **Genres / Formats**

Correspondence  
Galley proofs -- United States -- 20th Century  
Realia

### **Names**

Berrigan, Sandra  
Berrigan, Ted, 1934-1983