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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Lois Williams Bry Collection of Eugene O'Neill, Jr.

YCAL MSS 125



by Miriam B. Spectre

July 1998

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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 125

**CREATOR:** Bry, Lois Williams

**TITLE:** Lois Williams Bry collection of Eugene O'Neill, Jr.

**DATES:** 1925-1986 1936-1950

**BULK DATES:** 1936-1950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.4 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters from Eugene O'Neill, Jr. to Lois Williams Bry, 1925-49; printed versions of O'Neill, Jr.'s articles and reviews, many inscribed to Bry; and subject files (mainly clippings) collected by Bry about O'Neill, Jr., his friends, and his family.

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

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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.bry>.

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 Lois Williams Bry, 1986.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 5: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Lois Williams Bry Collection of Eugene O'Neill, Jr. 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

Lois Williams Bry Collection of Eugene O'Neill, Jr. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## LOIS WILLIAMS BRY

Eugene O'Neill, Jr. and Lois Williams Bry were childhood friends in Douglaston (New York, N.Y.) and remained close friends throughout O'Neill, Jr.'s life. They corresponded regularly until 1949, the year before O'Neill, Jr.'s death. At the time of his death, Bry had lived for many years with her husband and children on a ranch in Ennis, Montana, where O'Neill, Jr. visited them several times. A biographical sketch of O'Neill, Jr. is provided in the Eugene O'Neill, Jr. Collection (YCAL MSS 126).

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## Scope and Contents

The Lois Williams Bry Collection of Eugene O'Neill, Jr. contains materials concerning Eugene O'Neill, Jr. that Bry received from Eugene O'Neill, Jr. or that she collected. These include correspondence, writings of Eugene O'Neill, Jr., clippings, and programs, spanning the years 1925 to 1986. The bulk of the material, however, dates from 1936 to 1950. The collection is organized into three series: *Correspondence*, *Writings*, and *Subject Files*, and is housed in five boxes.

[Series I, Correspondence](#), is organized into two subseries: Eugene O'Neill, Jr. Letters and Third Party Correspondence. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically. The Eugene O'Neill, Jr. Letters mainly contains letters from O'Neill, Jr. to Bry, spanning the years 1925 to 1949. (There is an unexplained gap from 1929 to 1934.) This collection does not contain Bry's letters to O'Neill, Jr., which were returned to her by Elsie and Frank S. Meyer after O'Neill, Jr.'s death in 1950.

O'Neill, Jr. wrote detailed letters to Bry, discussing his work, his marriages, and his personal life; many of his letters mention O'Neill, Jr.'s Newfoundland dog, Cabot, whom he brought to live with the Brys on their ranch. There are also two letters to Bry's husband, N. William Bry, and one letter to Bry's sister.

Third Party Correspondence consists of letters from friends to Bry about O'Neill, Jr. and his death. There is also one letter to Bry from O'Neill, Jr.'s first wife, Mary Elizabeth Green, dated 10 March 1936, regarding a possible summer visit to Montana.

[Series II, Writings](#), consists chiefly of printed versions of O'Neill, Jr.'s writings, many inscribed by him to Bry. The series is organized into four subseries: Articles, Reviews, Other Writings, and Writings of Others. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically. The first subseries, Articles, contains printed versions of O'Neill, Jr.'s articles in the field of classical studies. The second subseries, Reviews, contains printed versions and clippings of printed versions of O'Neill, Jr.'s reviews of other authors' works in the field of classical studies. The third subseries, Other Writings, contains a letter by O'Neill, Jr. to the editor of *The Key Reporter*, and the printed version of O'Neill, Jr.'s 1947 commencement address at Connecticut College. The fourth subseries, Writings of Others, contains a printed version of an article by Julian L. Rogatz, on a medical topic, inscribed to Bry and her husband. There is also a holograph version of a poem by an unidentified author.

[Series III, Subject Files](#), is arranged alphabetically and mostly contains material collected after O'Neill, Jr.'s death. This includes clippings about friends, family, and associates of O'Neill, Jr., including Agnes Boulton, Oona Chaplin, and Paul Robeson. There are programs for three of Eugene O'Neill's plays, as well as numerous clippings about him and his work. There is also a program from O'Neill, Jr.'s commencement from Yale in 1932 and a 1936-37 course catalog for Yale that includes information about courses that O'Neill, Jr. taught.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1925-1951

*0.6 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series I, *Correspondence*, is organized into two subseries: Eugene O'Neill, Jr. Letters and Third Party Correspondence. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

#### EUGENE O'NEILL, JR. LETTERS

##### To Lois Williams Bry

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1925 Sep-Dec
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1926 Jan-May
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence Poem enclosed in letter dated 1926 Jul 7.	1926 Jul-Oct
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1927-36 Feb
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1936 Sep-Oct
b. 1, f. 6	Correspondence	1936 Nov-37 Apr
b. 1, f. 7	Correspondence	1937 Jun-Jul
b. 1, f. 8	Correspondence	1937 Sep-Nov
b. 1, f. 9	Correspondence	1937 Dec-38 Feb
b. 1, f. 10	Correspondence	1938 Mar-Sep
b. 1, f. 11	Correspondence	1938 Oct-39 Feb
b. 1, f. 12	Correspondence	1939 Apr-Aug
b. 1, f. 13	Correspondence	1939 Sep-40
b. 1, f. 14	Correspondence	1941 Jan-Jun
b. 1, f. 15	Correspondence	1941 Sep-42 Jun
b. 1, f. 16	Correspondence	1942 Oct-43 May
b. 1, f. 17	Correspondence Two photographs (portrait of EO in pin-striped suit, 2 versions) enclosed in letter dated 1943 Nov 22.	1943 Aug-Dec
b. 2, f. 18	Correspondence	1944 Apr-Dec
b. 2, f. 19	Correspondence	1945 Feb-46 Jun
b. 2, f. 20	Correspondence	1946 Dec-48 Jan
b. 2, f. 21	Correspondence	1948 Feb-May

## EUGENE O'NEILL, JR. LETTERS &gt; To Lois Williams Bry (continued)

b. 2, f. 22	Correspondence Photograph of rented house in Woodstock (N.Y.) enclosed in letters dated 1948 Dec 22 and 1949 Feb 1.	1948 Dec-49 Feb
b. 2, f. 23	Correspondence Poems enclosed in letters dated 1949 Jul 23 and 1949 Dec 24.	1949, n.d.
b. 2, f. 24	Three empty mailing envelopes	1945, n.d.
b. 2, f. 25	To N. William Bry	1939, 1943
b. 2, f. 26	To Dork	[1938 Dec]
THIRD PARTY CORRESPONDENCE To Lois Williams Bry		
b. 2, f. 27	Greene, Mary Elizabeth	1936 Mar 10
b. 2, f. 28	Jourdon, Judythe	1950-51
b. 2, f. 29	Lenart, Gertrude	[1950 Sep]
b. 2, f. 30	Meyer, Elsie Meyer, Frank S.	1950-51
b. 2, f. 31	---, Mit	1950, n.d.

**Series II: Writings, 1934-1947**

0.2 linear feet (1 box)

Series II, *Writings*, is organized into four subseries: Articles, Reviews, Other Writings, and Writings of Others. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically.

## ARTICLES

b. 3, f. 32	"The Importance of Final Syllables in Greek Verse," article, printed version, <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1939
b. 3, f. 33	"The Localization of Metrical Word-Types in the Greek Hexameter: Homer, Hesiod, and the Alexandrians," printed version, <i>Yale Classical Studies</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1942
b. 3, f. 34	"Note on Phrynichus' <i>Phoenissae</i> and Aeschylus' <i>Persae</i> ," printed version, <i>Classical Philology</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1942 Oct
b. 3, f. 35	"The Prologue of the <i>Troades</i> of Euripides," printed version, <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1941
b. 3, f. 36	"Word-Accents and Final Syllables in Latin Verse," printed version, <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1940

## REVIEWS

b. 3, f. 37	"The Attic Pattern," clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of <i>Paideia: The Ideals of Greek Culture</i> by Werner Jaeger. Inscribed to LWB.	1945 Jan 28
b. 3, f. 38	Beede, Grace Lucile. <i>Vergil and Aratus, a Study in the Art of Translation</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>American Journal of Philology</i> Inscribed to LWB.	[1936]
b. 3, f. 39	"Down Pindar's 'Impetuous, Dithyrambic Tide,'" clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of <i>The Odes of Pindar</i> translated by Richmond Lattimore.	1947 Apr 6
b. 3, f. 40	"England's Golden Age," clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of <i>The Portable Elizabethan Reader</i> edited by Hiram Haydn.	1947 Apr 20
b. 3, f. 41	"Famous Voyage, Cut-Rate," clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> translated by E. V. Rieu. Inscribed to LWB.	1946 Dec 8
b. 3, f. 42	"Finest Intellect of Antiquity," clipping of printed version, <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i> Review of <i>The Politics of Aristotle</i> translated by Ernest Barker.	1946 Dec 21



## REVIEWS (continued)

b. 3, f. 43	Fitts, Dudley and Robert Fitzgerald, trans. <i>The Antigone of Sophocles</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>American Journal of Philology</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1939 Oct
b. 3, f. 44	"Homeric Hexameters," clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of Homer's <i>Iliad</i> translated by William Benjamin Smith and Walter Miller. Inscribed to LWB.	1944 Nov 5
b. 3, f. 45	Murray, Gilbert. <i>Aeschylus, the Creator of Tragedy</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>Classical Weekly</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1941 Jan 6
b. 3, f. 46	"Murray on the Greeks," clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of <i>Greek Studies</i> by Gilbert Murray.	1947 May 18
b. 3, f. 47	Nonnos. <i>Dionysiaca</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>American Journal of Philology</i> (2 copies) One copy inscribed to LWB.	1944 Jul
b. 3, f. 48	Page, Denys Lionel. <i>Euripides. Medea</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>American Journal of Philology</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1939 Oct
b. 3, f. 49	Schadewaldt, Wolfgang. <i>Die Niobe des Aischylos</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>Classical Philology</i> Inscribed to LWB and NWB. Includes note.	1935 Jan
b. 3, f. 50	Schütze, Kurt. <i>Beiträge zum Verständnis der Phainomena Arats</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>Gnomon</i> Inscribed to LWB.	1938 Mar
b. 3, f. 51	Trevelyan, H. C., trans. <i>Euripides. Medea</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>Classical Weekly</i>	1940 Nov 18
b. 3, f. 52	"Values From Above," clipping of printed version, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Review of <i>Plato and Modern Education</i> by Richard Livingstone. Inscribed to LWB.	1945 Feb 25
b. 3, f. 53	Wifstrand, Albert. <i>Von Kallimachos zu Nonnos, metrischstilistische Untersuchungen zur späteren griechischen Epik und zu verwandten Gedichtgattungen</i> . Review of, printed version, <i>American Journal of Philology</i> Inscribed to LWB and NWB.	1936 Jul
OTHER WRITINGS		
b. 3, f. 54	"Is This the End of the Battle?," letter to editor, printed version, <i>The Key Reporter</i> With note by EO, Jr. on card.	1936

## OTHER WRITINGS (continued)

b. 3, f. 55	"On Certain Offices - Commencement Address," printed version, <i>Connecticut College Alumnae News</i> With note by EO, Jr.	1947 Aug
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## WRITINGS OF OTHERS

b. 3, f. 56	Rogatz, Julian L. "The Schilling Blood Count As an Aid in the Diagnosis of Acute Appendicitis in Children," article, printed version, <i>The Journal of Pediatrics</i> Inscribed by Rogatz to NWB and LWB.	1934 Jun
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b. 3, f. 57	Unidentified. "Let others wander far, let others taste...," poem, holograph	1936 May 11
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**Series III: Subject Files, 1932-1986***0.4 linear feet (1 box)*Series III, *Subject Files*, is arranged alphabetically. Folders contain clippings unless otherwise specified.

b. 4, f. 58	Boulton, Agnes	1968
b. 4, f. 59	Bowen, Croswell	
b. 4, f. 60	Chaplin, Oona Chaplin, Charlie	1942-77
b. 4, f. 61	O'Neill, Carlotta Monterey	1970 Nov 21
	O'Neill, Eugene	
b. 4, f. 62-63	Programs for <i>Long Day's Journey Into Night</i> , <i>Strange Interlude</i> , and <i>More Stately Mansions</i>	1956, 1963, 1967
b. 4, f. 64	Postcard of photograph by Erwin Blumenfeld	1981
b. 4, f. 64	Clipping of reproduction of painting by Stuart Davis	n.d.
b. 4, f. 65-67	Biographical clippings	1936-85, n.d.
b. 4, f. 68-70	Clippings regarding writings	1946-86, n.d.
b. 4, f. 71	O'Neill, Eugene, Jr.	1947-72, n.d.
b. 4, f. 72	O'Neill, Shane Rudraighe	1960-77
b. 4, f. 73	Robeson, Paul	1972-78, n.d.
	Yale University	
b. 4, f. 74	Commencement program	1932
b. 4, f. 75	Course catalog	1936-37

**Restricted Fragile***0.2 linear feet (1 box)*

Box 5, *Restricted Fragile*, contains fragile originals. The material is arranged in folder order and may only be seen with the permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies or photographic prints have been substituted in the main files for reference use.

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 5, f. 76	Box 1, folders 4, 8-10, 12, 19
b. 5, f. 77	Box 2, folder 28
b. 5, f. 78	Box 2, folder 29
b. 5, f. 79	Box 2, folder 30
b. 5, f. 80	Box 3, folder 37
b. 5, f. 81	Box 3, folder 39
b. 5, f. 82	Box 3, folder 40
b. 5, f. 83	Box 3, folder 41
b. 5, f. 84	Box 3, folder 42
b. 5, f. 85	Box 3, folder 44
b. 5, f. 86	Box 3, folder 46
b. 5, f. 87	Box 3, folder 52
b. 5, f. 88	Box 4, folder 58
b. 5, f. 89	Box 4, folder 59
b. 5, f. 90	Box 4, folder 60
b. 5, f. 91	Box 4, folder 61
b. 5, f. 92	Box 4, folder 71
b. 5, f. 93	Box 4, folder 72
b. 5, f. 94	Box 4, folder 73

## **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**

Greek language -- Study and teaching  
Greek literature -- Study and teaching  
Latin language -- Study and teaching  
Latin literature -- Study and teaching

### **Names**

Bry, Lois Williams  
O'Neill, Eugene, 1888-1953

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Faculty