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Guide to the Glenway Wescott Collection of Nelson Lansdale Papers

YCAL MSS 149



by Timothy G. Young

January 2001

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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
Associated Materials	4
NELSON LANSDALE	4
Scope and Contents	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Correspondence, 1936-1951	5
Series II: Writings, 1936-1942	8
INTERVIEW AND RESEARCH NOTES FOR NEWSWEEK ARTICLES	8
GENERAL MANUSCRIPTS	10
Series III: Other Material, 1936-1942	12
Selected Search Terms	13

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 149

CREATOR: Lansdale, Nelson

TITLE: Glenway Wescott collection of Nelson Lansdale papers

DATES: 1936-1951

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.68 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, and other personal items relating to a period of Lansdale's life between 1936-1951, including his work for Newsweek magazine.

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

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.lansdale>.

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

Received with the Glenway Wescott Papers, purchase from Monroe Wheeler, 1988.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Glenway Wescott Collection of Nelson Lansdale 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.

Preferred Citation

Glenway Wescott Collection of Nelson Lansdale Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Associated Materials

Additional Nelson Lansdale material can be found in the [Glenway Wescott Papers \[YCAL MSS 134\]](#). The materials in this collection are the contents of a box of Lansdale's papers given to Glenway Wescott for safekeeping.

NELSON LANSDALE

Nelson Lansdale, freelance writer and arts columnist for *Newsweek* magazine, was a close friend of Glenway Wescott.

Scope and Contents

The Glenway Wescott Collection of Nelson Lansdale Papers contain correspondence, manuscripts, and other personal items relating to Lansdale's life between 1936-1951.

The collection is housed in four boxes and is organized into three series: I. *Correspondence*; II. *Writings*; and III. *Other Material*.

[Series I. *Correspondence*](#), consists of incoming and outgoing letters, mostly to family members and close friends of Lansdale's, concentrated in the early 1940s. The subject of the letters is divided between Lansdale's personal life and his military service in World War II.

[Series II. *Writings*](#), is divided into two subseries. The first, Interview and Research Notes for *Newsweek* Articles, contains source material gathered by Lansdale for the magazine. General Writings contains freelance articles and early creative writing efforts.

[Series III. *Other Material*](#) includes a diary, financial papers, notebooks, and telephone books, among other items.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1936-1951

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

b. 1, f. 1	Besler, Max To and From NL	1941
b. 1, f. 2	Brittain, William James From NL	1937 Sep 11
b. 1, f. 3-4	Clarke, A. W., Jr. To and From NL	1942-44, n.d.
b. 1, f. 5	Coffman, George R. From NL	1940 May 7
b. 1, f. 6	Constantine, Mildred To NL	1940 May 13
b. 1, f. 7	Fernandez, Frank E. From NL	1942 Feb 27
b. 1, f. 8	Finley, David E., Mr. and Mrs. From NL	1940-41
b. 1, f. 9	Hibbs, Ben From NL	1944 Mar 11
b. 1, f. 10	Hill, Geo A., Jr., Mrs. To NL	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	Holme, Bryan From NL	1942 May 27
b. 1, f. 12	Isherwood, Christopher From NL	1939 Mar 28
b. 1, f. 13	Kieffer, S. To NL	1942 Mar 8
b. 1, f. 14	Kirstein, Lincoln From NL	1941 Aug 21
b. 1, f. 15	Klonis, Stewart From NL	1939 Mar 28
b. 1, f. 16	Lindley, Ernest From NL	1941
b. 1, f. 17	Lynes, George Platt From NL	1940 May 14

b. 1, f. 18	McAndrew, John From NL	1942 Jan 9
b. 1, f. 19	Macartney, Paul B. From NL	1941 Mar 14
b. 1, f. 20	May, Marguerite From NL	1944 Mar 14
b. 1, f. 21	Morgan, R. To NL	1941 Feb 12
b. 1, f. 22	Morse, Grace From NL	1936 Oct 9
b. 1, f. 23	New York State Department of Taxation and Finance From NL	1939-40
b. 1, f. 24	Phillips, Frances To and From NL	1942-42
b. 1, f. 25	Potts, Richard, Mr. and Mrs. To NL	1942 Jan 25
b. 1, f. 26	Schaefer, Bertha From NL	1941 Apr 26
b. 1, f. 27	Sherwood, Harry From NL	1940 Jul 8
b. 1, f. 28	Smith, John Francis, Jr., Mrs. From NL	n.d.
b. 1, f. 29	Stout, Wesley W. From NL	1941 Sep 10
b. 1, f. 30	Thurber, Mrs. From NL	1946 Aug 18
b. 1, f. 31	Trail, William E. From NL	1939-40
b. 1, f. 32	Wescott, Glenway To and From NL	1941, 1944, n.d.
b. 1, f. 33	Whiting, F. A., Jr. From NL	1940 May 20
	Unidentified	
b. 1, f. 34	"Auntie" From NL	1939-42

Unidentified (continued)

b. 1, f. 35	"Brinton" From NL	1940-44
b. 1, f. 36	"Coz" From NL	1939-41
b. 1, f. 37	"E. C." From NL	1939-40, n.d.
b. 1, f. 38	"Emily" To and From NL	1940-41
b. 1, f. 39	"Flete Feete" From NL	1941 Jun 16
b. 1, f. 40	"Mary Margaret, Harry and Elizabeth" To and From NL	1936-42
b. 1, f. 41-42	"Mother and Dad" To and From NL	1936-41, n.d.
b. 1, f. 43	"Mac" From NL	1939-40
b. 1, f. 44	"Pat" To and From NL	1940-41, n.d.
b. 1, f. 45	"Rosemary" To and From NL	1939-44
b. 1, f. 46	"Ted" To NL	1940-41
b. 1, f. 47	Unidentified To and From NL	1936-51, n.d.
b. 1, f. 48	Correspondence re: Military service in World War II To and From NL	1942-43
b. 1, f. 49	Unfinished drafts of letters From NL	1936, n.d.
b. 1, f. 50	Empty envelopes To NL	1940-44, n.d.

Series II: Writings, 1936-1942*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

INTERVIEW AND RESEARCH NOTES FOR NEWSWEEK ARTICLES

b. 2, f. 51	Mme. Claude Alphaud	1942 Jan 27
b. 2, f. 52	American Artists Group, Inc.	1939 Oct 26
b. 2, f. 53	Americana Research	1941 Oct 8
b. 2, f. 54	Alexander Archipenko	1939 May 25
b. 2, f. 55	Juan Arvizu	1941 Mar 25
b. 2, f. 56	Ballet Roundup	1940 Mar 27
b. 2, f. 57	Rainey Bennett	1940 Jan 26
b. 2, f. 58	Brick Bank	1940 Jan 29
b. 2, f. 59	Richmond Barthe	1939 Jun 8
b. 2, f. 60	Aaron Bohrod	1939 Oct 25
b. 2, f. 61	Mortimer Brandt	1939 Dec 7
b. 2, f. 62	Brandt Gallery	1941 Jun 24
b. 2, f. 63	Benjamin Britten	1941 Mar 27
b. 2, f. 64	Carnegie Intitute Research	n.d.
b. 2, f. 65	James Chapin	1940 Feb 29
b. 2, f. 66	Minna Citron	1941 Dec 17
b. 2, f. 67	Xavier Cugat	1941 Sep 30
b. 2, f. 68	Chester Dale Collection	1941 Nov 12
b. 2, f. 69	Goode Davis	1939 Dec 14
b. 2, f. 70	Dean Dixon	1941 Jun 18
b. 2, f. 71	Clarence Carter	1939 Oct 17
b. 2, f. 72	Eddy Duchin	1940 Sep 12
b. 2, f. 73	English Art	1939 ar 3
b. 2, f. 74	Faberge / Victor Hammer	1939 Dec 13
b. 2, f. 75	Shep Fields	1941 Sep 9
b. 2, f. 76	First National Soldier-Artist Exhibition	1941 Sept 16
b. 2, f. 77	Jean Gauguin	1939 May 4
b. 2, f. 78	Glass	1939 Dec 20

INTERVIEW AND RESEARCH NOTES FOR NEWSWEEK ARTICLES (continued)

b. 2, f. 79	Morton Gould	1940 Mar 26
b. 2, f. 80	George Grosz	1939 Nov 1
b. 2, f. 81	Mrs. Charles S. Guggenheimer	1941 Apr 23
b. 2, f. 82	John Henry Hammond, Jr.	1940 Sep 16
b. 2, f. 83	Hawaiian Music / Ray Kinney	1940 Oct 1
b. 2, f. 84	Bernard Herrmann	1940 Apr 2
b. 2, f. 85	Hole Collection	[1939] Dec 20
b. 2, f. 86	Peter Hurd	1939 Apr 11
b. 2, f. 87	Eastman Jonson	1940 Jan 9
b. 2, f. 88	Jacob Jordaens	1940 Feb 7
b. 2, f. 89	Eliasz Kanarek	1940 Jan 23
b. 2, f. 90	Fritz Kreisler	1940 Mar 13
b. 2, f. 91	Kress Art Collection	1939 Jul 13
b. 2, f. 92	Walt Kuhn	1941 Mar 2
b. 2, f. 93	Walt Kuhn	1941 Nov 26
b. 2, f. 94	Jim Longtree	1940
b. 2, f. 95	Tilly Losch	1940 Jul 7
b. 2, f. 96	Luxembourg Museum	1939 Jul 19
b. 2, f. 97	George Platt Lynes	1940 Jan 19
b. 2, f. 98	MacDowell Colony	1939 Apr 25
b. 2, f. 99	W. Somerset Maugham	n.d.
b. 2, f. 100	Nathan Milstein	1942 Feb 10
b. 2, f. 101	Joan Miro	1939 Apr
b. 2, f. 102	Mystery Research	1939 Oct 19
b. 2, f. 103	William Bayard Okie, Jr.	1939 Oct 4
b. 2, f. 104	Jan Pearce	1941 Nov 26
b. 2, f. 105	Philadelphia Story / Atwater Kent	1939 Jun 20
b. 2, f. 106	Picasso	1939 Nov 16
b. 2, f. 107	RCA Victor Magic Brain Phonograph	1941 Jul 29
b. 2, f. 108	Edward G. Robinson	1939 Jul 31

INTERVIEW AND RESEARCH NOTES FOR NEWSWEEK ARTICLES (continued)

b. 2, f. 109	Rodgers and Hart	1940 Apr 2
b. 2, f. 110	Paul Rosenberg	1941 Nov 4
b. 2, f. 111	Patsy Santo	1940 Jan 16
b. 2, f. 112	Kurt Schindler Book	1941 Jul 29
b. 2, f. 113	William Schuman	1940 Jul 2
b. 2, f. 114	Roy Shaw	1939 May 9
b. 2, f. 115	Sheeler Television Broadcast	1939 Oct 6
b. 2, f. 116	Alfred Jenkins Shriver	1939 Oct 26
b. 2, f. 117	Maurice Sterne	1939 Dec 19
b. 2, f. 118	Swedish Art Exhibition	1939 Jul 26
b. 2, f. 119	Patrick Taccard	1939 Apr 5
b. 2, f. 120	Richard Taylor	1941 Dec 11
b. 2, f. 121	Maurice de Vlaminck	1940 Feb 27
b. 2, f. 122	Lynd Ward	1939 Mar 28
GENERAL MANUSCRIPTS		
b. 3, f. 123	Aristophanes and Moliere, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 124	Aristotle and Winterset, draft, typescript, corrected	1936
b. 3, f. 125	"The Ballet Good Thing for Painters", printed version, <i>ArtNews</i>	1941 Oct
b. 3, f. 126	Review of "The Dark Island" by Vita Sackville-West, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 127	A Dissertation upon Roast Lamb (with mint sauce), draft, typescript, corrected Includes rejection letter	1936 Mar 25
b. 3, f. 128	A Fool and his Friends are Soon Parted, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 129	Happy Man, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 130	The High Priest (1888-, draft, typescript, corrected re: T.S. Eliot	n.d.
b. 3, f. 131	It Can't Happen Here, draft, typescript Includes rejection letter and postcard	ca. 1942 Feb
b. 3, f. 132	Location Central, draft, typescript Includes rejection letter	ca. 1937 Oct
b. 3, f. 133-134	The "Lost" Schumann Concerto, drafts, typescript Includes rejection letters	ca. 1937 Dec

GENERAL MANUSCRIPTS (continued)

b. 3, f. 135	"Not I But Beethoven", draft, typescript, corrected	ca. 1938 Oct
b. 3, f. 136	Notes for profile of Lincoln Kirstein for <i>Dance Magazine</i>	1941 Jul
b. 3, f. 137	Note on Buell Mullen, draft, typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 3, f. 138	Obviously, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 139-140	Orchestra Seat, draft, typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 3, f. 141	The Perfect Angel, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 142	PHI BETA KAPPA, draft, typescript Includes rejection letter	ca. 1936 Oct
b. 3, f. 143-144	The Plague, drafts, typescript, corrected Includes rejection letter	n.d.
b. 3, f. 145	Poems: Cityscape, Broadcast, and Rehearsal, drafts, typescript Includes rejection letter	ca. 1937 Dec
b. 3, f. 146	Poems and ideas for writings, drafts, typescript	n.d.
b. 3, f. 147	The Poor are Always with Us", draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 148	Poor Soil, draft, typescript	n.d.
b. 3, f. 149	Schubert, draft, typescript, corrected With concert program	1941 Feb 1
b. 3, f. 150	So You're Going to Hell?, draft, typescript	n.d.
b. 3, f. 151-152	The Stage is Set: Seven Seasons of Decor on Broadway, drafts, typescript carbon, corrected Includes cover letter to "Emily"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 153	A Tale of Two People, draft, typescript, carbon	n.d.
b. 3, f. 154	Decor at the Opera, drafts, typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 3, f. 155	Decor at the Opera, printed version, as: "To the Dawn of Better Decor at the Opera", <i>ArtNews</i>	1942 Mar
b. 3, f. 156	Unfinished Symphony, draft, typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 157	Manuscript fragments	n.d.

Series III: Other Material, 1936-1942*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 4, f. 158	Calendar pages, annotated	1940
b. 4, f. 159	Diary	1942
b. 4, f. 160	Financial papers	1936-42
b. 4, f. 161	Instructions from Glenway Wescott re: Nelson Lansdale Papers	1942 Apr 20
b. 4, f. 162	Lists	ca. 1938-40
b. 4, f. 163	Memo from Surgeon General re: WAVES [parody]	n.d.
b. 4, f. 164	Notebooks	ca. 1937-39
b. 4, f. 165	Notes	n.d.
b. 4, f. 166	Postcard: "The Old Homestead"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 167	Telephone books	n.d.

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

Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Journalists -- United States

Names

Lansdale, Nelson
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987

Corporate Body

Newsweek