

# Guide to the Thomas Beer Collection

YCAL MSS 389



by H. Dean

2010

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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 389

**CREATOR:** Beer, Thomas, 1889-1940

**TITLE:** Thomas Beer Collection

**DATES:** 1919–1947

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.2 linear feet (3 boxes + 1 painting)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Thomas Beer Collection contains correspondence between Beer and his publisher Alfred A. Knopf and printed versions of Beer's writings. The Collection also contains reviews of Beer's writings, articles about Beer, original illustrations for Beer's publications, and a photograph of Beer.

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

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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.beer>.

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

Source unknown.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Thomas Beer Collection 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

Thomas Beer Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2010. The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as: Uncat Za Beer and Za B3918 +1.

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## Associated Materials

Additional material about and by Beer can be found in the Beer Family Papers (MS 73) at Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University.

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## Thomas Beer (1889-1940)

Thomas Beer was an author of short stories, novels, and non-fiction prose. Beer was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on November 22, 1889, and raised in Yonkers, New York. He attended Yale University from which he graduated in 1911. Beer enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in France at the end of World War I. Between 1917 and 1936 Beer published a number of short stories in *The Saturday Evening Post*, and while his short stories provided him with financial security, Beer was more interested in his other writing projects. Beer's novels include *The Fair Rewards* (1922), *Sandoval* (1924), and *The Road to Heaven* (1928). Beer is also known for his non-fiction writings such as *The Mauve Decade: American Life at the End of the Nineteenth Century* (1926), *Hanna* (1929), which is a biography of Mark Hanna, and *Stephen Crane: A Study in American Letters* (1923). While on the surface Beer appeared successful, his personal life and writing career were troubled. While *Stephen Crane* was a critical success and was lauded as an important resource about Stephen Crane when it was initially published, it is now believed that Beer based the biography on forgeries of his own devising and portrayed a number of fictional events and people. In 1938 Beer suffered a nervous breakdown for which he was briefly institutionalized, and on April 18, 1940, died of a heart attack (although it's believed his death may have been a suicide) in New York.

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## Scope and Contents

The Thomas Beer Collection contains Beer's correspondence with his publisher Alfred Knopf and printed versions of Beer's writings. Also present are reviews of Beer's writings, articles about Beer, illustrations by Arthur D. Fuller and E. F. Ward used in Beer's publications, and a photograph of Beer.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1921-1929; II. Writings, 1920-1947; and Other Papers, 1919-1936.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1921-1929

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The series contains personal and professional correspondence dating from 1921 to 1929 and pertains to Beer's writing career.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

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|            |                  |                       |
|------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Boyd, Madeleine  | 1929                  |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Knopf, Alfred A. | 1921-1929,<br>undated |

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**Series II: Writings, 1920-1947**

The series contains published versions of Beer's writings and reviews of his work.

The series is organized into two subseries: Writings by Thomas Beer and Writings About Thomas Beer. Beer's writings are arranged alphabetically by title.

## Writings by Thomas Beer

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                          |         |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| b. 1, f. 3             | "Civilized Thought," <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i>                                                                                                            | 1924    |
| b. 1, f. 4             | "Fire Feathers," <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i>                                                                                                                | 1925    |
| b. 1, f. 5             | "Frank Swinnerton," <i>The Bookman</i>                                                                                                                                   | 1925    |
| b. 1, f. 6             | Letter to the Editor regarding <i>Stephen Crane</i> , <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i>                                                                           | 1924    |
| b. 1, f. 7             | "The Mauve Decade: An Essay"                                                                                                                                             | undated |
| b. 1, f. 8             | "Notes on Megalopolis" review of <i>Young Men in Love</i> by Michael Arlen for <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i>                                                  | 1927    |
| b. 1, f. 9             | "Our Literature and the Gilded Age Theory" review of <i>The Great Modern American Short Stories</i> by William Dean Howells for <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i> | 1920    |
| b. 1, f. 10            | "The Princess Far Away," <i>The Saturday Review of Literature</i>                                                                                                        | 1925    |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19 | "Sandoval," <i>The Saturday Evening Post</i>                                                                                                                             | 1925    |

## Writings about Thomas Beer

|                        |                                                                                                |             |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| b. 1, f. 11            | Reviews of <i>The Fair Rewards</i>                                                             | 1922        |
| b. 1, f. 12            | Reviews of <i>The Mauve Decade</i>                                                             | 1926        |
| b. 1, f. 13            | Review of <i>Mrs. Egg and Other Americans</i>                                                  | 1947        |
| b. 1, f. 14            | Reviews of <i>Sandoval</i><br>Stored in: Box 2 (Oversize), folder 19                           | 1924        |
| b. 1, f. 15            | Reviews of <i>Stephen Crane</i>                                                                | 1923        |
| b. 1, f. 16            | "The Literary Spotlight: Thomas Beer" with a caricature by William Gropper, <i>The Bookman</i> | undated     |
| b. 1, f. 17            | <i>The Work of Thomas Beer: Appraisal and Bibliography</i> by Evans Burnham Harrington         | 1968        |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 20 | "Thomas Beer, Visits London, Tells Stories," <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i>                      | 1929 June 1 |

**Series III: Other Papers, 1919-1936**

The series contains illustrations for Beer's writings and a photograph of Thomas Beer.

|                           |                                                                                                                         |            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| b. 1, f. 18               | Photograph of Thomas Beer                                                                                               | 1922       |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 21    | Illustrations by Robert Staples for Beer's "Go Dine Your Enemy" and "I've Got Rings on My Fingers and Bells on My Toes" | 1936       |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 22-23 | Illustrations by E. F. Ward for Beer's "Lorena," in Saturday Evening Post                                               | 1919       |
| b. 4 (Art)                | Illustration by Arthur D. Fuller for Beer's "The Rope"                                                                  | circa 1922 |

## **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

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works) -- United States --  
20th Century

Paintings (visual works) -- United States -- 20th  
Century

Photographs -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Beer, Thomas, 1889-1940

Fuller, Arthur D. (Arthur Davenport), 1889-1966

Knopf, Alfred A., 1892-1984

Ward, E. F. (Edmund Franklin), 1892-1990

### **Contributors**

Beer, Thomas, 1889-1940

Fuller, Arthur D. (Arthur Davenport), 1889-1966

Ward, E. F. (Edmund Franklin), 1892-1990