

# Guide to the Danford Barney Papers

YCAL MSS 466



by Beinecke staff

2011

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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 466

**CREATOR:** Barney, Danford, 1892-1952

**TITLE:** Danford Barney papers

**DATES:** 1877-1953

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.13 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Danford Barney papers contains correspondence, drafts of writings, photographs, and other material relating to poet and photographer Danford Barney. Correspondence in the collection contains letters from many Yale-affiliated faculty, authors, and collaborators, including Stephen Vincent Benét, William Rose Benét, Henry Seidel Canby, John Farrar, Brian Hooker, Benjamin R. C. Low, William Lyon Phelps, and Thornton Wilder, as well as authors who commented on Barney's work, such as John Hall Wheelock, and authors whose work interested him, such as A. E. Housman and E. A. Robinson. Writings contains drafts and fragments for several manuscripts, including the original autograph drafts, corrected, of the early poems published as *Dust of Stars* (1916), as well as typescript fair copies of later, unpublished collections of poems, "Silly Sagas of the Sea" and "Songs of Sorts." Other materials include photographic prints by Barney, identification papers, biographical and genealogical information, and clippings and printed ephemera.

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

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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.barney>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Danford Barney, 1953, and bequest of Francis Hyde Bangs, 1964.

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### Custodial History

The photographs by Danford Barney housed in Oversize storage (boxes 4-8) were acquired by the library at the bequest of Francis Hyde Bangs in 1964. Following Barney's death in 1952, Dorothy Barney married long-time friend Francis Hyde Bangs. They remained married until her death in 1961. The photographs, presumably in their custody since 1952, were donated to the library along with Bangs's personal papers following his death.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 9 (nitrate negatives): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Danford Barney 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

Danford Barney Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition in 1953 and 1964. Further organization, rehousing, and description was carried out in 2011.

Formerly classed as Za Barney.

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### Associated Materials

Additional photographic prints by Danford Barney can be found in the Bangs Family Papers (YCAL MSS 47).

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## Danford Barney (1892-1952)

In the 1920s Danford Barney was associated with a group of young Yale poets that included Stephen Vincent Benét, Archibald MacLeish, Phelps Putnam, and John Farrar. Early in the decade, Barney published a literary magazine, *Parabalou*, containing original poems by members of the group. Between 1916, when he graduated from Yale, and 1945, he published six volumes of his own poetry, including *Dust of Stars* (1916),

*Chords of Albireo* (1920), *In the Comet's Hair* (1921), *Sardonyx*(1926), *Selected Poems Old and New* (1942), and *Songs Not for Brides*(1945).

In the First World War, Barney served with the Yale Mobile Hospital Unit, which was attached to American armies in the battles of Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. From 1922 until 1930 Barney maintained a photographic studio in New York, where he made a series of portraits of authors and artists. He was twice married, first to Gertrude Wells, with whom he had three daughters, and later to Dorothy Bartlett.

Biographical information on Danford Barney taken from "DANFORD BARNEY JR., I CONNECTICUT POET, 591." *New York Times* (1923-Current file) 22 May 1952, ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851-2007), ProQuest. Web. (accessed 18 May 2011). Additional biographical information on Barney can be found in the essay by Francis Hyde Bang, "Danford Barney: Poet," *The Yale University Library Gazette* 27, 4 (April 1953): 131-148.

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## Scope and Contents

The Danford Barney papers contains correspondence, drafts of writings, photographs, and other material relating to poet and photographer Danford Barney. Correspondence in the collection contains letters from many Yale-affiliated faculty, authors, and collaborators, including Stephen Vincent Benét, William Rose Benét, Henry Seidel Canby, John Farrar, Brian Hooker, Benjamin R. C. Low, William Lyon Phelps, and Thornton Wilder, as well as authors who commented on Barney's work, such as John Hall Wheelock, and authors whose work interested him, such as A. E. Housman and E. A. Robinson. Writings contains drafts and fragments for several manuscripts, including the original autograph drafts, corrected, of the early poems published as *Dust of Stars* (1916), as well as fair typescript copies of later, unpublished collections of poems, "Silly Sagas of the Sea" and "Songs of Sorts." Other materials include photographic prints by Barney, identification papers, biographical and genealogical information, and clippings and printed ephemera.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence, 1877-1952. II. Writings, 1916-1953. III. Photographs, undated. IV. Other Material, 1896-1950.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1877-1952

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Series I. Correspondence consists chiefly of letters to Danford Barney from others. Correspondents include many Yale-affiliated faculty, authors, and collaborators, including Stephen Vincent Benét, his brother William Rose Benét, Henry Seidel Canby, John Farrar, Brian Hooker, Benjamin R. C. Low, William Lyons Phelps, and Thornton Wilder, as well as authors who either commented on Barney's work, such as John Hall Wheelock, or whose work interested him, such as A. E. Housman and E. A. Robinson.

Arranged alphabetically by last name.

b.1	List of letters addressed to Danford Barney	undated
b.1	Adams, H. S.	1923 February 21
b.1	Angell, James R.	1924 May 15
b.1	Bates, Katharine Lee	1925 July 11
b.1	Benét, Stephen Vincent	[1920 September 13]
b.1	Benét, William Rose	1916, 1925
b.1	Blashfield, Edwin Howland	1923 April 19
b.1	Brush, George de Forest	1923 July 1
b.1	Bynner, Witter	1942 October 29
b.1	Canby, Henry Seidel	1924-1925
b.1	Chase, Joseph Cummings	1942 May 27
b.1	Cortissoz, Royal	1923 April
b.1	Dodd, Lee Wilson	1923 May 1
b.1	Drinkwater, John	1925 July 25
b.1	Farrar, John	1925 July 13
b.1	Frost, Robert	1925 July 27
b.1	Garland, Hamlin	1924
b.1	George H. Doran Company	1923 December 12
b.1	Greenslet, Ferris Third-party letter to John Hall Wheelock	1923 August 28
b.1	Hardy, Florence Emily	1925 July 30
b.1	Hillyer, Robert	[19]25 July 13

b.1	Hooker, Brian	1919, 1941
b.1	Housman, A. E.	1925 July 21
b.1	Kilmer, Joyce	1917 June 6
b.1	Kirby, Rollin	[19]41 January 17
b.1	Low, Benjamin Robbins Curtis	1916 May 11
b.1	"M" general	1919, 1922
b.1	Martin, Edward S.	1923 September 26
b.1	Masefield, John	1920
b.1	Morton, David	1925 June 17
b.1	Mountbatten of Burman, Edwina Ashley Mountbatten	[19]22 November 27
b.1	Percy, William Alexander	undated
b.1	Phelps, William Lyon	1942 November 26
b.1	Robinson, E. A. (Edwin Arlington)	1925 July 29
b.1	Steele, Frederic Dorr	1942 April 1
b.1	Stokes, Anson Phelps	1914 March 21
b.1	Teasdale, Sara	1925 July 29
b.1	[Tilton], Freeman	1945, undated
b.1	Vogue Company	1922 November 25
b.1	Wagstaff, Blanche Shoemaker	1914-1916, undated
b.1	Wheelock, John Hall	1914-1945
b.1	Wilder, Thornton	1928, undated
b.1	Williams, Jesse Lynch	1923 March 27
b.1	<i>Yale Alumni Weekly</i>	1913 July 29
b.1	Young, Art	n.y. January 13
b.1	Unidentified	1925 August 8
b.1	Unsorted correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1877-1952, undated

**Series II: Writings, 1916-1953***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series II. Writings contains drafts and fragments for several manuscripts and features the original autograph drafts, most corrected, of the early poems published as *Dust of Stars* (1916) and fair typescript drafts for what appear to be later, unpublished compilations of poems, "Silly Sagas of the Sea" and "Songs of Sorts."

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b.1	<i>Dust of Stars</i> , drafts	1916, undated
b.1	"A Minor Operation," draft	undated
b.1	"Neo Platonism," notebook	1920, undated
b.2	"Round Robin" Includes illustrations	1932
b.2	"Silly Sagas of the Sea," drafts	undated
b.2	"Songs of Sorts," drafts	1937, undated
b.2	"Spring," draft	1927
b.2	Unsorted manuscript material	undated
b.2	"Danford Barney: Poet" by Francis H. Bangs, draft and printed version	1953, undated



**Series III: Photographs, undated***(3 folders)*

Series III. Photographs contains photographic prints made by Barney of various people and places.

b. 2	Negatives Also stored in: Box 9 (Cold storage)	undated
b. 2	Photographs <i>11 folders</i> Also stored in Oversize: Boxes 4-8	undated
b. 9 (cold storage)	<a href="#">Nitrate negatives</a> Box 9 (nitrate negatives): Restricted fragile material. Digital surrogates are available. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

**Series IV: Other Material, 1896-1950***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series IV. Other Material contains identification papers, including a birth certificate and passport, biographical and genealogical material in family papers, and clippings and printed ephemera relating to Barney.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 2	Certificate of Birth (copy)	1927 May 25
b. 2	Clippings	1931-1947
b. 2	"Comments + Reviews of DNB as Poet" Includes correspondence and clippings	1942-1945, undated
b. 2	Empty envelope	undated
b. 2	Family papers	1896, undated
b. 2	Passport	1950 May 11
b. 3	Printed ephemera <i>4 Folders</i>	[circa 1929-1947]
b. 3	Scrapbook	1917-1919

Oversize  
*1.46 linear feet (5 boxes)*

b. 4 (Oversize)	Photographs (In Series III)	undated
b. 5 (Oversize)	Photographs (In Series III)	undated
b. 6 (Oversize)	Photographs (In Series III)	undated
b. 7 (Oversize)	Photographs (In Series III)	undated
b. 8 (Oversize)	Photographs (In Series III)	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 literature -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Photographers  
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Occupations**

Poets

### **Names**

Barney, Danford, 1892-1952  
Benét, Stephen Vincent, 1898-1943  
Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950  
Canby, Henry Seidel, 1878-1961  
Hooker, Brian, 1880-1946  
Housman, A. E. (Alfred Edward), 1859-1936  
Low, Benjamin Robbins Curtis, 1880-1941  
Phelps, William Lyon, 1865-1943  
Robinson, Edwin Arlington, 1869-1935  
Wheelock, John Hall, 1886-1978  
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975