

Guide to the William Horace Littlefield Papers Related to "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscripts" Exhibition

YCAL MSS 602



by Danijela True and Jennifer Meehan

2012

P. O. Box 208330
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
William Horace Littlefield (1902-1969)	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Artwork and Manuscripts, 1940-1954	6
Series II: Correspondence and Other Papers, 1932-1977	9
Oversize	11
Selected Search Terms	13

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 602

CREATOR: Littlefield, William Horace, 1902-1969

TITLE: William Horace Littlefield papers related to "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscripts" exhibition

DATES: 1932-1977

BULK DATES: 1941-1947

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.54 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collections consists of artwork, manuscripts, correspondence, and other material relating to William Horace Littlefield's exhibition "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscripts" (1942). The bulk of the collection is comprised of the original portrait drawings and mounted autograph and typescript manuscripts of American and British poets displayed in the exhibit. According to an artist note found in the collection, "the drawings are portrait heads in pencil on grey-green paper, modelled in white and grey, the medium being water in oil tempera. Each is signed and dated by poet and artist." Correspondence includes letters from poets responding to Littlefield's request to sit for a portrait, as well as more general correspondence. Other material includes writings by Littlefield and printed material related to the exhibit.

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

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.littlefi>.

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

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stiner, 1985.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Horace Littlefield Papers Related to "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscripts" Exhibition 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

William Horace Littlefield Papers Related to "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscripts" Exhibition. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The collection received initial processing at or around the time of acquisition. Further description was carried out in 2012.

Formerly classed as: Uncat ZA MS 322.

William Horace Littlefield (1902-1969)

William Horace Littlefield, American painter, writer, and art collector. Littlefield was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1902, and was educated at Harvard University (A.B., 1924). His exhibition, "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscript" (1942), featured fourteen portraits of contemporary American and British poets displayed in conjunction with autograph and typescript manuscripts of each poet. Featured poets included: William Abrahams, John Peale Bishop, John Malcolm Brinnin, John Ciardi, Richard Eberhart, Dudley Fitts, Robert Hillyers, John Holmes, Samuel French Morse, Howard Moss, Winfield Townley Scott, Theodore Spencer, Dunston Thompson, Robert Penn Warren, and Edward Weismiller.

Scope and Contents

The collections consists of artwork, manuscripts, correspondence, and other material relating to William Horace Littlefield's exhibition "Portrait Drawings of Poets, and Their Manuscripts" (1942). The bulk of the collection is comprised of the original portrait drawings and mounted autograph and typescript manuscripts of American and British poets displayed in the exhibit. According to an artist note found in the collection, "the drawings are portrait heads in pencil on grey-green paper, modelled in white and grey, the medium being water in oil tempera. Each is signed and dated by poet and artist." Correspondence includes letters from poets responding to Littlefield's request to sit for a portrait, as well as more general correspondence. Other material includes writings by Littlefield and printed material related to the exhibit.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Artwork and Manuscripts, 1940-1954. II. Correspondence and Other Papers, 1932-1977.

Collection Contents

Series I: Artwork and Manuscripts, 1940-1954

4 Folders

Arranged alphabetically by poet.

Abrahams, William Miller		
Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Abrahams. 38 x 55 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 51		1942 May 17
"Troop Train," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 69		1942 July 17
Bishop, John Peale		
Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Bishop. 40 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 52		1942 May 15
"Crucifixion," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 70		undated
Brinnin, John Malcolm		
Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Brinnin. 38 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 53		1942 January 23
"Mardi Gras, For John Hensdale Thompson," typescript with autograph corrections Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 71		undated
Ciardi, John		
Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Ciardi. 38.5 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 54		1942 April 23
Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Ciardi. 42.5 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 55		1942 May 29
"Suddenly Where Squadrons Turn," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 72		1942
Eberhart, Richard		
Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Eberhart. 40 x 52 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 56		1942 April 20
b. 1, f. 1	"I Walked Out to the Graveyard to See the Dead," autograph manuscript	1940
	"Grave Piece," typescript with autograph corrections Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 73	undated

	Fitts, Dudley	
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Fitts. 44 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 57	1945 September 29
	"Experience in a Coal-Bin. A True Relation," typescript with autograph corrections Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 74	undated
	Hillyer, Robert	
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Hillyer. 38 x 51 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 58	1942 April 8
	"With Every Slash of Rain Against the Window," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 75	undated
	Holmes, John	
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Holmes. 40 x 61 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 59	1942 May 7
	"Let the Joyful Speak," typescript with autograph corrections Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 76	1942
b. 1, f. 2	"Let the Joyful Speak," typescript	1942 July 13
	Margules, De Hirsh	
	"Mulbery Bend," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 77	1954 May 22
	Morse, Samuel French	
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Morse. 41 x 59.5 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 60	1942 March 18
	"Lucy and Roger," typescript with autograph corrections Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 78	1941 January-February
	Moss, Howard	
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Moss. 43 x 59.5 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 61	1942 July 25
	"The Shore Remembered," typescript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 79	undated
	Scott, Winfield Townley	
b. 1, f. 3	"Natural Causes," typescript	undated

Scott, Winfield Townley (continued)

	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Scott. 40.5 x 51 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 62	1942 May 16
	"Natural Causes," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 80	1942 May 15
Spencer, Theodore		
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Spencer. 46 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 63	1942
	"Christmas, 1941," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 64	1941?
Tate, Allen		
b. 1, f. 4	"Seasonal Confessions," typescript with autograph corrections	1944 March 26
Thompson, Dunstan		
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Thompson. 40 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 65	1942 April 30
	"Orphic Song," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 66	1942 March 12-13
Warren, Robert Penn		
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Warren. 46 x 60 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 67	1945 September 8
	"The Ballad of Billie Potts," typescript with autograph corrections Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 81	undated
Weismiller, Edward		
	Pencil with water in oil tempera; on gray-green paper. Signed by Littlefield and Weismiller. 40 x 59 cm. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 68	1942 February 13
	"Wilderness," autograph manuscript Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 82	undated

Series II: Correspondence and Other Papers, 1932-1977

0.16 linear feet (1 box)

Organized by format. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 5	Abrahams, William	1942
b. 1, f. 6	Aiken, Conrad	1942
b. 1, f. 7	Barker, George	[1942]
b. 1, f. 8	Berryman, John	1942
b. 1, f. 9	Bishop, John Peale	[1942]
b. 1, f. 10	Blake, Howard	1942
b. 1, f. 11	Boston Public Library	1942-1943
b. 1, f. 12	Brinnin, John Malcolm	1942
b. 1, f. 13	Brown, Harry	[1942]
b. 1, f. 14	University of Buffalo, Lockwood Memorial Library	1942-1943
b. 1, f. 15	Ciardi, John	1942
b. 1, f. 16	Eberhart, Richard	1942
b. 1, f. 17	Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns)	1932
b. 1, f. 18	Enoch Pratt Free Library	1942
b. 1, f. 19	Fitts, Dudley	1942, undated
b. 1, f. 20	Gianos, D. H.	1952
b. 1, f. 21	Holmes, John	1942-1946
b. 1, f. 22	Littlefield, William Horace	1945-1946, undated
b. 1, f. 23	MacLeish, Archibald	1942
b. 1, f. 24	Mongan, Agnes	1942
b. 1, f. 25	Morrison, Kathleen	1942
b. 1, f. 26	Morse, Samuel French	1942
b. 1, f. 27	Moss, Howard	1942
b. 1, f. 28	Olivet College	1942
b. 1, f. 29	Patchen, Kenneth	[1942]
b. 1, f. 30	Porter, Kenneth W.	1942

Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 31	Prokosch, Frederic	undated
b. 1, f. 32	Rukeyser, Muriel	1942
b. 1, f. 33	Sarton, May	1942
b. 1, f. 34	Schwartz, Delmore	1942
b. 1, f. 35	Scott, Winfield Townley	1942
b. 1, f. 36	Spencer, Theodore	1942
b. 1, f. 37	Stevens, Wallace	1942
b. 1, f. 38	Sweeney, John	1942
b. 1, f. 39	Tate, Allen	1944-1947
b. 1, f. 40	Untermeyer, Louis	1942
b. 1, f. 41	Warren, Robert Penn	1942
b. 1, f. 42	Weismiller, Edward	[1942]
b. 1, f. 43	Unidentified	undated
Writings by Littlefield		
b. 1, f. 44	A note by the artist, for an exhibition of his drawings, entitled Portraits of Poets and their Manuscripts	[1942]
b. 1, f. 45	Addresses and biographical data	[1942]
b. 1, f. 46	Portrait drawings of poets, and their manuscripts	[1942]
Printed Material		
b. 1, f. 47	Brochure on the Enoch Pratt Free Library	undated
b. 1, f. 48	Horizon: a magazine of the arts	1963 July
b. 1, f. 49	Card: William Horace Littlefield, 1902-1969	undated
	New York Times Book Review Stored in: Oversize Box 3, folder 83	1977 January 9
b. 1, f. 50	Newspaper clipping	1942 October 11

Oversize*0.33 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 2 (Oversize), f. Abrahams, William (from Series I) 51	1942 May 17
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Bishop, John Peale (from Series I) 52	1942 May 15
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Brinnin, John Malcolm (from Series I) 53	1942 January 23
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Ciardi, John (from Series I) 54	1942 April 23
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Ciardi, John (from Series I) 55	1942 May 29
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Eberhart, Richard (from Series I) 56	1942 April 20
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Fitts, Dudley (from Series I) 57	1945 September 29
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Hillyer, Robert (from Series I) 58	1942 April 8
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Holmes, John (from Series I) 59	1942 May 7
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Morse, Samuel French (from Series I) 60	1942 March 18
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Moss, Howard (from Series I) 61	1942 July 25
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Scott, Winfield Townley (from Series I) 62	1942 May 16
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Spencer, Theodore (from Series I) 63	1942
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Spencer, Theodore (from Series I) 64	1941?
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Thompson, Dunstan (from Series I) 65	1942 April 30
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Thompson, Dunstan (from Series I) 66	1942 March 12-13
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Warren, Robert Penn (from Series I) 67	1945 September 8
b. 2 (Oversize), f. Weismiller, Edward (from Series I) 68	1942 February 13
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Abrahams, William (from Series I) 69	1942 July 17

b. 3 (Oversize), f. Bishop, John Peale (from Series I) 70	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Brinnin, John Malcolm (from Series I) 71	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Ciardi, John (from Series I) 72	1942
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Eberhart, Richard (from Series I) 73	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Fitts, Dudley (from Series I) 74	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Hillyer, Robert (from Series I) 75	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Holmes, John (from Series I) 76	1942
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Margules, De Hirsh (from Series I) 77	1954 May 22
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Morse, Samuel French (from Series I) 78	1941 January- February
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Moss, Howard (from Series I) 79	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Scott, Winfield Townley (from Series I) 80	1942 May 15
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Warren, Robert Penn (from Series I) 81	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. Weismiller, Edward (from Series I) 82	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. New York Times Book Review (from Series II) 83	1977 January 9

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

Painters -- United States
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Portraits
Poets, English -- 20th Century -- Portraits

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)

Occupations

Painters -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Abrahams, William Miller, 1919-1998
Bishop, John Peale, 1892-1944
Brinnin, John Malcolm, 1916-1998
Ciardi, John, 1916-1986
Eberhart, Richard, 1904-2005
Fitts, Dudley, 1903-1968
Hillyer, Robert, 1895-1961
Littlefield, William Horace, 1902-1969
Morse, Samuel French, 1916-1985
Moss, Howard, 1922-1987
Scott, Winfield Townley, 1910-1968
Spencer, Theodore, 1902-1949
Warren, Robert Penn, 1905-1989
Weismiller, Edward, 1915-2010