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Harrison Smith Papers

YCAL MSS 793



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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 793

CREATOR: Smith, Harrison

TITLE: Harrison Smith papers

DATES: 1904-1975

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.59 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Harrison Smith Papers contain writings, correspondence, printed material, and photographs that document the life and work of editor and publisher Harrison Smith, particularly his research on American author Sinclair Lewis, and his editorial work for the Saturday Review of Literature. Series I, Research Files on Sinclair Lewis, includes extensive biographical notes, presumably intended as the source material for a book-length biography of Lewis. Series II, Other Papers, consists chiefly of writings, interviews, and speeches that relate to the position of women in early- and mid-twentieth century society.

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

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.smithhar>.

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 Harrison Smith, 1983.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2013. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 363.

Harrison Smith (1888-1971)

Harrison Smith (Yale College 1911) was born Oliver Harrison Smith in Hartford, Connecticut on August 4, 1888. He received a bachelor's degree from Yale College in 1911, and a Master's degree in 1914. Smith's lifelong career in publishing began as an editorial assistant and textbook salesman, then eventually as an editor for Harcourt, Brace and Company (1918 to 1928). In 1929 he founded the firm Jonathan Cape & Harrison Smith, and went on to become a partner at Random House and an editor at Doubleday Doran & Company. From 1938 until 1966 he was president and associate editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. Smith wrote extensively on topics in American Literature, and on issues relating to working women and feminism after the Second World War. In 1952 he edited *From Main Street to Stockholm*, a volume of Sinclair Lewis correspondence.

Scope and Contents

The Harrison Smith Papers contain writings, correspondence, printed material, and photographs that document the life and work of editor and publisher Harrison Smith, particularly his research on American author Sinclair Lewis, and his editorial work for the *Saturday Review of Literature*. Series I, Research Files on Sinclair Lewis, includes extensive biographical notes, presumably intended as the source material for a book-length biography of Lewis. Series II, Other Papers, consists chiefly of writings, interviews, and speeches that relate to the position of women in early- and mid-twentieth century society.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Research Files on Sinclair Lewis, 1904-1962. II. Other Papers, 1935-1975.

Collection Contents

Series I: Research Files on Sinclair Lewis, 1904-1962

3.96 linear feet (10 boxes)

Organized into eight subseries: Writings of Sinclair Lewis; Writings about Sinclair Lewis; Source Material; Sinclair Lewis Letters; Correspondence about Sinclair Lewis; Printed Matter by Sinclair Lewis; Printed Matter about Sinclair Lewis; Photographs.

Writings of Sinclair Lewis

Copies, proofs, and typescripts of writings by Sinclair Lewis, accompanied by editors' notes and related material.

b. 1, f. 1	Books and contributions to books	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Fools, Liars, and Mr. De Veto, proofs	1944, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Page of notes in Lewis's handwriting	1950
b. 1, f. 4	Thirty-one early poems	1904-1908
Writings about Sinclair Lewis		
Typescript drafts and copies of drafts of essays, interviews, and articles about Sinclair Lewis. Many of the typescripts are transcribed from printed versions.		
b. 1, f. 5	Bish, Cora Frank, "The Sociology of Sinclair Lewis' Writings," a thesis	1938 May
b. 1, f. 6	Fay, Oliver James, "I remember the author of Elmer Gantry"	1927 March 27
b. 1, f. 7	Faikema, Feike, "In memoriam address"	circa 1951
b. 1, f. 8	Habein, M. S., "The girl Sinclair Lewis couldn't forget"	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Havighurst, Walter, "Homeless, restless Sinclair Lewis: Letters reveal a man of great gifts"	1952 November 23
b. 1, f. 10	Hawkins, Anne, "Worm's eye view of Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 1, f. 11	Hughes, Rupert, "When Theodore Dreiser slapped Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 1, f. 12	Jackson, Joseph Henry, "Sinclair Lewis' letters"	1952 November 19
b. 1, f. 13	Kay, Ida Lightman, "Sauk Center"	undated
b. 1, f. 14	Manfred, Frederick Feikema, "Finger on the pulse..."	1948
b. 1, f. 15	Manson, Alexander, chronological account of relationship with Lewis (interview), transcript	1951 January
b. 1, f. 16	Manson, Alexander, "The man from Main Street. A chronicle of the last days of Sinclair Lewis, as told to Helen Camp"	undated
b. 1, f. 17	Manson, Edith Hart, "Mary Austin and Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 1, f. 18	Nevinson, C. R. W., "From paint and prejudice"	undated

Writings about Sinclair Lewis (continued)

b. 1, f. 19	New York Times Index, Sinclair Lewis. Copies of notes by a student	undated
b. 1, f. 20	Newsweek, "The Lewis letters"	1952 November 24
b. 1, f. 21	Neilsen, Carl C., "Sinclair Lewis had his legs pulled"	undated
b. 1, f. 22	Random House, "The death of Sinclair Lewis"	1951
b. 1, f. 23	Rathe, Chuck, "Sinclair Lewis burial"	undated
b. 1, f. 24	Rogers, W. G., "Review. From Main Street to Stockholm"	1952 November 7
b. 1, f. 25	Rowe, Dorothy Parker, "Sinclair Lewis' writing rules"	undated
b. 1, f. 26	Saltpeter, Harry, "Sinclair Lewis takes it easy"	1930 November 16
b. 1, f. 27	Simpson, James Jay, "Estate of Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 1, f. 28	Smith, Harrison, "At the time he was notified of the award, Sinclair Lewis made the following statement..."	1930, undated
b. 1, f. 29	Smith, Harrison, "A few months after the death of Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 1, f. 30	Smith, Harrison, "Jacques Barzun, teacher in America"	undated
b. 1, f. 31	Smith, Harrison, "Main Street looks at Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 2, f. 32	Smith, Harrison, Preface to "Our Mr. Wrenn"	undated
b. 2, f. 33	Smith, Harrison, "Sinclair Lewis"	undated
b. 2, f. 34	Smith, Harrison, "Set not thy foot on graves"	1951 February 24
b. 2, f. 35	Smith, Harrison, "We have heard the loud noise of history being made..."	1930 November 27
b. 2, f. 36	Smith, Harrison, Review of "World so Wide" by Sinclair Lewis	undated
b. 2, f. 37	Warren, Dale, "God's lonely man"	undated
b. 2, f. 38	Waterman, Margaret, "Sinclair Lewis as teacher"	undated
b. 2, f. 39	Womer, M. Wayne, "Sinclair Lewis was my sailor"	undated
b. 2, f. 40	Notes	1937, 1955
Source Material		
b. 2, f. 41	Sinclair Lewis chronology compiled by John Storck	1954
b. 2, f. 42	List of correspondents numbered 1-998	circa 1951
b. 2, f. 43	Guide to Sinclair Lewis notes, compiled by John Storck	1954
b. 2, f. 44	Survey of notes	undated
Notes in numerical order		

Source Material > Notes in numerical order (continued)

b. 2, f. 45	1-100	undated
b. 2, f. 46	101-200	undated
b. 2, f. 47	201-300	undated
b. 2, f. 48	301-400	undated
b. 2, f. 49	401-500	undated
b. 2, f. 50	501-600	undated
b. 3, f. 51	601-700	undated
b. 3, f. 52	701-800	undated
b. 3, f. 53	801-900	undated
b. 3, f. 54	901-1000	undated
b. 3, f. 55	1000-1098	undated
Notes in chronological order		
b. 4, f. 56	1904-1921	1904-1921
b. 4, f. 57	1922-1926	1922-1926
b. 4, f. 58	1927-1939	1927-1939
b. 4, f. 59	1940-1947	1940-1947
b. 4, f. 60	1948-1952	1948-1952
b. 4, f. 61-63	Unordered notes	undated
b. 5, f. 64	Note cards	undated
Sinclair Lewis Letters (copies) Copies of letters from Sinclair Lewis to named correspondents, accompanied by Harrison Smith notes and correspondence.		
b. 5, f. 65	Baker, Gene	undated
b. 5, f. 66	Family	1954, undated
b. 5, f. 67	Foerster, Norman	1952, undated
b. 5, f. 68	Freeman, Lewis, letters dated 1925 to 1928	undated
b. 5, f. 69	Jordan, Elizabeth, letters dated 1915 to 1938	undated
b. 5, f. 70	Mordell, Albert, letters dated 1925 and 1931	undated

Correspondence about Sinclair Lewis

Includes correspondence between Harrison Smith and named correspondents, copies of third-party correspondence relating to Sinclair Lewis, and related notes and clippings.

Correspondence about Sinclair Lewis (continued)

b. 5, f. 71	"A" General	1932-1951
b. 5, f. 72	Absolon, William	1927, 1951
b. 5, f. 73	Alpern, Vivian J.	1952-1953
b. 5, f. 74	Arnold, LeRoy	1952
b. 5, f. 75	"B" General	1951-1953
b. 6, f. 76	Bates, Roy C.	1951
b. 6, f. 77	Bemis, H. Marion	1951-1952
b. 6, f. 78	Bingham, Alfred M.	1959
b. 6, f. 79	Bird, Remsen	1951
b. 6, f. 80	Blackman, Earl A.	1952-1955
b. 6, f. 81	<i>The Boston Globe</i>	1952
b. 6, f. 82	Breasted, Charles	1954
b. 6, f. 83	Brett, Ethel C.	1952
b. 6, f. 84	Bull, Ben M.	1954-1956
b. 6, f. 85	"C" General	1951-1956
b. 6, f. 86	Cane, Melville	1943
b. 6, f. 87	Cary, Joyce	
b. 6, f. 88	Cassidy, George L.	1952
b. 6, f. 89	Chase, Thurston	1951-1952
b. 6, f. 90	<i>The Chicago Tribune</i>	1949-1954
b. 6, f. 91	Clark, Charles Upson	1951
b. 6, f. 92	Clemens, Cyril	1936, 1952
b. 6, f. 93	Commager, Henry Steele	1951
b. 6, f. 94	Conrad, Barnaby	1951
b. 6, f. 95	Couchman, Gordon W.	1953
b. 6, f. 96	Curtis Brown, Ltd.	1941-1952
b. 6, f. 97	"D" General	1952-1960
b. 7, f. 98	Dubois, Ben	1952
b. 7, f. 99	Dunne, Brian Boru	1951-1952
b. 7, f. 100	"E" General	1951-1955

Correspondence about Sinclair Lewis (continued)

b. 7, f. 101	"F" General	1951-1956
b. 7, f. 102	Fort, Mrs. J. C.	1951
b. 7, f. 103	Freeman, Jr., Mrs. A. H.	1953
b. 7, f. 104	Friedman, Philip Allan	1951-1952
b. 7, f. 105	"G" General	1951-1953
b. 7, f. 106	"H" General	1951-1953
b. 7, f. 107	Habein, Margaret Schmitt	1951-1953
b. 7, f. 108	Harcourt, Brace & Company	1951-1955
b. 7, f. 109	Hawley, Hudson R.	1951
b. 7, f. 110	Heflin, Julia Dorn	1951, 1960
b. 7, f. 111	Holiday	1953
b. 7, f. 112	Hollander, Lester	1951
b. 7, f. 113	Hopkins, Frances	1951
b. 7, f. 114	Houghton Mifflin Company	1951
b. 7, f. 115	Indiana University Press	1951
b. 7, f. 116	"J" General	1951
b. 7, f. 117	Jelliffe, Belinda	1951
b. 7, f. 118	Josephson, Hannah	1951
b. 7, f. 119	"K" General	1951-1962
b. 7, f. 120	Kastner, Harold	1951
b. 7, f. 121	"L" General	1931-1954
b. 8, f. 122	Larrabee, C. B.	1952
b. 8, f. 123	Larrimore, Tom	1952
b. 8, f. 124	Lewis, Grace Hegger, (Mrs. Telesforo Casanova)	1951-1956
b. 8, f. 125	Lewis, Virginia	1954-1951
b. 8, f. 126	Library of Congress	1954-1955
b. 8, f. 127	"M" General	1951-1953
b. 8, f. 128	Malick, Elizabeth Includes photograph: "John Malick, Bethel, Ohio"	1951-1955
b. 8, f. 129	Manfred, Frederick F.	1952-1953

Correspondence about Sinclair Lewis (continued)

b. 8, f. 130	McComas, Gene	1951
b. 8, f. 131	Menninger, Karl A.	1952
b. 8, f. 132	Miller, Mary E.	1952
b. 8, f. 133	Mordell, Albert	1951
b. 8, f. 134	Moyston, Guy	1951
b. 8, f. 135	"N" General	1937-1956
b. 8, f. 136	Nowell, Elizabeth	1951
b. 8, f. 137	<i>Oberlin Alumni Magazine</i>	1954
b. 8, f. 138	"O" General	1951-1952
b. 8, f. 139	Olmstead, John G.	1953
b. 8, f. 140	O'Neill, Dorothy	1953
b. 8, f. 141	Otto, Mrs. Henry C.	1951-1952
b. 8, f. 142	"P" General	1933-1953
b. 8, f. 143	Palmer, George	1951
b. 8, f. 144	Parmelee, Maurice	1952
b. 8, f. 145	Peters, A. K.	1951
b. 8, f. 146	Pfeffer, Max	1951
b. 8, f. 147	Poley, Irvin C.	1951-1952
b. 9, f. 148	Pomeroy, L. A., Jr.	1945, 1952
b. 9, f. 149	Porter, Keyes	1953
b. 9, f. 150	"R" General	1947-1953
b. 9, f. 151	Random House, Inc.	1951-1952
b. 9, f. 152	Rich, Helen	1951
b. 9, f. 153	Richmond, Sylvia B.	1941, 1951
b. 9, f. 154	"S" General	1951-1960
b. 9, f. 155	Sandburg, Carl	1951
b. 9, f. 156	Sheen, Vincent	1951
b. 9, f. 157	Shepard, Beatrice G.	1951-1952
b. 9, f. 158	Sinclair Lewis Foundation	1961-1962
b. 9, f. 159	Smith, Harrison	1943-1947

Correspondence about Sinclair Lewis (continued)

b. 9, f. 160	Staples, Loring M.	1951-1954
b. 9, f. 161	Steichen, Kate	1951
b. 9, f. 162	Stevenson, E. Robert	1952
b. 9, f. 163	Swing, Betty Gram	1951
b. 9, f. 164	Sykes, Velma West	1952
b. 9, f. 165	"T" General	1951-1952
b. 9, f. 166	Thornton, William	1947
b. 9, f. 167	"U - V" General	1951-1952
b. 9, f. 168	Updegraff, Allan	1952-1953
b. 9, f. 169	"W" General	1951-1953
b. 9, f. 170	Warren, Dale	1952-1953
b. 9, f. 171	Werner, W. L.	1951, 1959
b. 9, f. 172	Willoughby, Betty Cass	1952-1954
b. 9, f. 173	W. W. Norton and Company	1951
b. 9, f. 174	Yale University	1951-1952
b. 9, f. 175	"Z" General	1952-1953
b. 9, f. 176	Unidentified	1951-1955
Printed Matter by Sinclair Lewis		
b. 10, f. 177	Articles from periodicals, printed versions and copies	1945-1952
Printed Matter about Sinclair Lewis		
b. 10, f. 178	Cabell, James Branch, "Some of us. An essay on epitaphs"	1930
b. 10, f. 179	Articles from periodicals	1945, undated
b. 10, f. 180	Pamphlets	1921, 1960
b. 10, f. 181-183	Clippings: <i>From Main Street to Stockholm</i>	1951-1953
b. 10, f. 184	Clippings: From the research files of Gladys Almy	1940-1947
b. 10, f. 185-188	Clippings: miscellaneous	1930-1953
b. 13 (Oversize)	Clippings: miscellaneous (copies)	undated
Photographs		
b. 10, f. 189	7 photographs of Sinclair Lewis Also includes letter from Mrs. F. A. Summers	1947, undated

Series II: Other Papers, 1935-1975*0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Organized into seven subseries: Writings of Harrison Smith; Writings of Others; Speeches and Interviews of Harrison Smith; Correspondence; Financial Papers and Agreements; Printed Matter; Photographs.

Writings of Harrison Smith

Writings of Harrison Smith consist of typescript drafts, corrected. Some files include related material such as clippings, notes, and correspondence.

b. 11, f. 190	"Are you an economic illiterate?"	1949 July 18
b. 11, f. 191	"George Washington" subject file	1947-1950
b. 11, f. 192	"The Greatest of all Stories"	1947 July
b. 11, f. 193	Notes	circa 1947
b. 11, f. 194	"Women and Literature"	undated

Writings of Others

Writings of others consist chiefly of typescript drafts, some corrected, of short works of journalism and literary criticism.

b. 11, f. 195	Hollander, Lester, "The Tropical Malady of Jack London"	undated
b. 11, f. 196	Lewis, Mrs. C. B., "The North American Indians"	undated
b. 11, f. 197	Transcribed excerpts and quotations on various topics	undated
b. 11, f. 198	Transcribed excerpts of poems and list of "Characters"	undated
b. 11, f. 199	Unidentified, "Preminger: Drama Without Action," transcribed from the New York Post	1959 July 12
b. 11, f. 200	Wittmer, Sylvia, Poems	1963
b. 11, f. 201	Unidentified, "Re-living the past"	1963 April 6

Speeches and Interviews of Harrison Smith

Consist of typescript drafts of speeches by, and interviews with, Harrison Smith, addressing social and literary topics. Several speeches address the position of women in society.

b. 11, f. 202	"The battle may still be lost," for AWA	1948 October 6
b. 11, f. 203	"For young women only: what's wrong with marriage?"	undated
b. 11, f. 204	Nancy Craig Program: Interview with Harrison Smith, transcript	1947 June 24
b. 11, f. 205	Pauline Frederick interviews Harrison Smith, transcript	1947 January 5
b. 11, f. 206	Speech before Altrussa Club	1948 October 28
b. 11, f. 207	Speech made before New York City Committee of National Woman's P---?	1948 June 17
b. 11, f. 208	"This is New York," Bill Leonard reporting. WCBS.	1947 September 11

Correspondence

Organized into files by topic, with General Correspondence filed at the end.

b. 11, f. 209	Bodleian Library	1967-1968
b. 11, f. 210	Davies, William H.	1962-1970
b. 11, f. 211	Washington, George	1947-1955
b. 11, f. 212	Pacella, Bernard L.	1969
b. 11, f. 213	Shaw, George Bernard	1944-1946
b. 11, f. 214	Storck, John	1953-1954
b. 11, f. 215	General	1940-1969
Financial Papers and Agreements		
b. 12, f. 216	Financial papers and Agreements	1952-1974
Printed Matter		
b. 12, f. 217	Clippings of articles by Harrison Smith	1947-1949
b. 12, f. 218	Clippings about Jane Reis	1947
b. 12, f. 219	Clippings by Dorothy Thompson	1939
b. 12, f. 220	General Clippings	1935-1937
b. 12, f. 221	Pamphlets	1932-1936
b. 12, f. 222	Press releases	circa 1946
Photographs		
b. 12, f. 223-224	Photographs of Harrison Smith	circa 1956
b. 12, f. 225	Portrait of Harrison Smith, negative	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.

Preferred Titles

Saturday Review of Literature

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Editors -- United States
Feminism -- United States
Publishers -- United States
Women -- United States

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints
Photographs

Occupations

Editors -- United States -- 20th Century
Publishers -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Lewis, Sinclair, 1885-1951
Smith, Harrison