

# Guide to the Robert Bartlett Haas Collection on Gertrude Stein and the Conference Press

YCAL MSS 833



by Molly Wheeler

2014

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## 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 833

**CREATOR:** Haas, Robert Bartlett

**TITLE:** Robert Bartlett Haas collection on Gertrude Stein and the Conference Press

**DATES:** 1936-1985

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.47 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English.

**SUMMARY:** The Robert Bartlett Haas Collection on Gertrude Stein and the Conference Press contains correspondence, drafts of writings, notes, photographs, printed material and papers relating to Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, and the production and distribution of Conference Press publications, including Stein's *What Are Masterpieces?*

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

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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 <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.haas>.

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

Gifts of Robert Bartlett Haas, 1962-1995.

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### Custodial History

The 1962 acquisition was given to Robert Bartlett Haas by Hal Levy.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Robert Bartlett Haas Collection on Gertrude Stein and the Conference Press 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

Robert Bartlett Haas Collection on Gertrude Stein and the Conference Press. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat ZA MS 438, ZaSt34+G6 v.1 and ZaSt34+G6 v.5.

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 in 2014, including rehousing and minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, identified by a unique call number and titled according to month and year of acquisition.

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.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Box 3, 23 autograph letters signed and 2 autograph postcards signed from Alice B. Toklas to Robert Bartlett Haas, with original envelopes, 1946-1955, is also available on microfilm.

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## Robert Bartlett Haas (1916-2010)

Robert Bartlett Haas, American scholar and educator. Haas was born January 20, 1916, in Santa Cruz, California. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Berkeley in 1938, a master's in English from the University of Chicago and a doctorate in education from Stanford. He joined the University of California Los Angeles faculty in 1949 and was the founding director of the school's arts and humanities extension division. Haas remained at UCLA until his retirement in the late 1970s. He

spent most of his retirement years in Nuertingen, Germany and died there after a brief illness, on April 20, 2010.

Haas's scholarship primarily focused on Gertrude Stein and he wrote several books on her, including *A Catalogue of the Published and Unpublished Writings of Gertrude Stein* (Yale University Library, 1941), *Reflection on the Atomic Bomb: The Previously Uncollected Writings of Gertrude Stein, Volume I* (Black Sparrow Press, 1973), and *How Writing Is Written: Volume II of the Previously Uncollected Writings of Gertrude Stein* (Black Sparrow Press, 1975). He also edited *A Primer for the Gradual Understanding of Gertrude Stein* (Black Sparrow Press, 1971).

The Conference Press was the creation of three UCLA students, Hal Levy, Gilbert A. Harrison, and William Bayard Okie. Harrison developed a friendship with Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, which led to the publication of Stein's work *What Are Masterpieces?* by the Conference Press in 1940. During Bartlett's tenure at UCLA, he was involved in the publication and distribution process of the press and wrote the introduction to *What Are Masterpieces?*

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## Scope and Contents

The Robert Bartlett Haas Collection on Gertrude Stein and the Conference Press contains correspondence, drafts of writings, notes, photographs, printed material and papers relating to Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, and production and distribution of Conference Press publications, including Stein's *What Are Masterpieces?*

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## Arrangement

Organized into five groupings: I. March 1962 Acquisition. II. December 1972 Acquisition. III. January 1986 Acquisition. IV. 1989 Acquisitions. V. May 1995 Acquisition.

## Collection Contents

	<p>March 1962 Acquisition I_ 0.21 linear feet (1 box) Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 438. Gift to Robert Bartlett Haas by Hal Levy.</p>	1936, undated
b. 1	<p>"What are Masterpieces and Why Are There So Few of Them?" by Gertrude Stein, original typescript, with manuscript corrections by Alice B. Toklas; "An American in France," original typescript, with manuscript corrections by the author; autograph letter signed to the Conference Press from Gertrude Stein, 1936 September 17 with envelope addressed to Gilbert Harrison; leaf two of autograph letter signed to Robert Bartlett Haas Accompanied by correspondence between Donald Gallup and Robert Bartlett Haas regarding the manuscript and letters, 1962 March</p>	1936, undated
	<p>December 1972 Acquisition II_ 0.42 linear feet (1 box) Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 438.</p>	1940-1941, undated
b. 2	<p>Levy, Harold. Various manuscript and typed notes and drafts for untitled article on Gertrude Stein, including a packet of 3x5 inch cards and two carbons of typescript article.</p>	undated
	<p>Conference Press material</p>	
b. 2	<p>Periodicals containing notices of <i>What Are Masterpieces?</i> and fourteen clippings about it and/or Gertrude Stein, mounted on cardboard</p>	1940-1941
b. 2	<p>Unbound notebook containing addresses of libraries, universities, etc. and lists of names and address of individuals supplied by members of the publishing firm</p>	undated
b. 2	<p>Sample stationary, forms, mailing labels, statements, envelopes, etc. Advertising folders for <i>What Are Masterpieces?</i> 2 Folders</p>	undated
b. 2	<p>Envelope of material relating to sales and taxes</p>	undated
	<p>January 1986 Acquisition III_ 2 Folders Former call number: ZaSt34+G6 v.1 and ZaSt34+G6 v.5.</p>	1985, undated
b. 3	<p>Souvenir program of "Gertrude Stein a Billignin. L'Universite de California, Los Angle en cooperation avec Madame G. Putz et ses enfant 25 Mai 1985 a 11 heures," two copies; two clippings (photocopies) on the "Gertrude Stein a Billignin" event; and 22 photographs (eight color and fourteen black and white photographs) of the "Gertrude Stein a Billignin" celebration and reception.</p>	1985
b. 3	<p>Reproduction of photograph of Gertrude Stein</p>	undated

1989 Acquisitions  
IV\_  
0.84 linear feet (3 boxes)

1936-1985,  
undated

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 438.

Contains correspondence, including letters from Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas to Robert Bartlett Haas; the contract for Stein's *What Are Masterpieces?*; writing draft of Stein's "Is Dead;" and papers relating to the production and distribution of Conference Press publications.

Arranged chronologically by acquisition number.

b. 3	23 autograph letters signed and 2 autograph postcards signed from Alice B. Toklas to Haas, with original envelopes	1946-1955
b. 3	Clippings on <i>What Are Masterpieces?</i>	1940
b. 4	57 autograph letters signed and 12 autograph postcards from Gertrude Stein to Haas 4 Folders	1936 October 26-1946 March 31
b. 4	Original typed contract signed for Stein's <i>What Are Masterpieces</i> and autograph letter signed to Gilbert Harrison of the Conference Press, written on bottom of typed letter signed from Harrison to Stein	1939 June 19, undated
b. 4	Typed bound manuscript, corrected, of Gertrude Stein's "Is Dead"	undated
Conference Press material		
b. 5	Title page designs for <i>What Are Masterpieces?</i>	
b. 5	Photograph of the directors of the Conference Press: Gilbert Harrison, Hal Levy and Jack Oakie	
b. 5	Correspondence to Haas from Conference Press	1937-1940
b. 5	Three page manuscript by Hal Levy describing Gertrude Stein's manner of lecturing in California	
b. 5	Three letters from Edward Burns, William Baker, and Carl Van Vechten to Haas	
b. 5	Photograph of Stein's home in East Oakland	
b. 5	Seven pages from Sherry Terzian regarding Gertrude Stein exhibit, UCLA	
b. 5	Manuscript page of Virgil Thomson's scoring of an aria from "The Mother of Us All"	
b. 5	Letter from John Savage to Haas, with two xerox items regarding Alice B. Toklas's family in Seattle	
b. 5	Approval of proof for Haas's "A Primer for the Gradual Understanding of Gertrude Stein" with letter from Donald Gallup to John Martin	
b. 5	"Visages de L'Ain" with article in French by Stein	

Conference Press material (continued)

b. 5	"Bugey Magazine" with an account of the 1988 3rd Stein Festival in Culoz/Belley and an account of the death of Rose d'Aiguy by Haas	
b. 5	39 letters from Gertrude Stein Raffel to Haas	
b. 5	Seven programs about Stein conducted in California by Haas	
b. 5	Movie script for film based on Stein's "A Movie" by Sudy Dostal	1979
b. 5	Six theater programs regarding Stein	
b. 5	Four announcements	
b. 5	Four postcards from Toklas to Haas	
b. 5	Three letters from Toklas to Haas	
b. 5	Issue of "Le Promeneur"	
b. 5	Letter from Gallup to John Martin	
b. 5	35 items relating to Stein conference in Billignin	1985
b. 5	Letter from Margery Tede regarding Stein Festival	
b. 5	Letter from Marta Feuchtwanger	
b. 5	Letter from Lady Rose	
b. 5	Letter from Donald Gallup	
b. 5	Letter from Maren Ellwood	
b. 5	Three letters from Marilyn Lingle regarding <i>What Are Masterpiece</i>	
b. 5	Letter from Samuel Steward	
b. 5	Letter from Arthur Uphill	
b. 5	Letter from Virgil Thomson to Haas	
b. 5	Two letters from Virginia Tufte regarding "Prothalamium"	
b. 5	Letter from Francoise Gilot Salk	
b. 5	Announcement of Haas lecture on Stein	1967
b. 5	San Francisco Chronicle article on Alcoa exhibition	1970
b. 5	Hal Holbrook review sent by Andy Hamilton to Haas	
b. 5	Ithaca College invitation to speak on Stein	1974
b. 5	Review of Stein opera at UCLA	1965
b. 5	University of Iowa Press to Haas	1975
b. 5	Correspondence between Gilbert Harrison and Haas	1971
b. 5	Correspondence between Mervin Lane and Haas	1971



Conference Press material (continued)

b. 5	Review book for "Gertrude morte cet apres-midi", Paris	
b. 5	Eight announcements of Stein books and programs	
b. 5	Signed edition of pamphlet "Is Dead" published by Haas and Krause	
b. 5	Typescript of Stein contract and response	1962
b. 5	Letter from Alice B. Toklas, not in her hand	
b. 5	Carbon copy of letter from Haas to Toklas	
b. 5	Four newspaper articles	
b. 5	Letters from various individuals	
b. 5	Six letters and one postcard from Wilder Bentley regarding projected printing of Stein book in California	
b. 5	Twelve letters from Hal Levy of the Conference Press regarding the publication of <i>What Are Masterpieces?</i>	
b. 5	21 additional items from Gertrude Stein Raffel concerning the Black Sparrow publication	
b. 5	Xerox of letters by Stein to Josette, a young girl in Culoz who had English lessons with her	
b. 5	Ten letters and three postcards from Thornton Wilder to Haas, including one long letter that outlines Wilder's conceptual thinking about Stein's work and how he was prepared to help Haas with his thesis on Stein, underway at the University of Chicago	
b. 5	Correspondence with various individuals	
b. 5	Material pertaining to the Black Sparrow Press and other topics	
	May 1995 Acquisition V_ 0.21 linear feet (1 box) Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 438.	1940, 962
b. 6	<i>What Are Masterpieces?</i> galley proof	1940
b. 6	"Gertrude Stein Talking: A Transatlantic Interview" by Robert Bartlett Haas, typescript carbon	1962

## **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  
Authors and publishers -- United States  
Editors -- United States  
Publishers and publishing -- United States

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Haas, Robert Bartlett  
Harrison, Gilbert A.  
Levy, Hal  
Levy, Hal -- Ownership  
Okie, William Bayard  
Stein, Gertrude, 1874-1946  
Toklas, Alice B., 1877-1967

### **Corporate Body**

Correspondence Press