

John Hall Wheelock Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79045252>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009273>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2024 February

Collection Summary

Title: John Hall Wheelock Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1910-circa 2000

Bulk Dates: 1954-1978

ID No.: MSS45252

Creator: Wheelock, John Hall, 1886-1978

Extent: 450 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79045252>

Summary: Poet and editor. Correspondence; drafts of poems, speeches, and articles; and miscellany relating largely to Wheelock's poetry.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Brooks, Van Wyck, 1886-1963--Correspondence.
Bullock, Marie, 1911-1986--Correspondence.
Colum, Padraic, 1881-1972--Correspondence.
Eastman, Max, 1883-1969--Correspondence.
Eberhart, Richard, 1904-2005--Correspondence.
Garrett, George, 1929-2008--Correspondence.
Garrigue, Jean, 1912-1972--Correspondence.
Graves, Robert, 1895-1985--Correspondence.
Hubbell, Jay B. (Jay Broadus), 1885-1979--Correspondence.
Jones, Howard Mumford, 1892-1980--Correspondence.
Lindbergh, Anne Morrow, 1906-2001--Correspondence.
MacLeish, Archibald, 1892-1982--Correspondence.
McCord, David Thompson Watson, 1897-1997--Correspondence.
Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972--Correspondence.
Morison, Samuel Eliot, 1887-1976--Correspondence.
Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971--Correspondence.
O'Gorman, Ned, 1929-2014--Correspondence.
Roethke, Theodore, 1908-1963--Correspondence.
Tate, Allen, 1899-1979--Correspondence.
Taylor, Henry, 1942- --Correspondence.
Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977--Correspondence.
Van Doren, Mark, 1894-1972--Correspondence.
Wheelock, John Hall, 1886-1978.
Williams, William Carlos, 1883-1963--Correspondence.

Subjects

American literature.
American poetry.

Occupations

Editors.
Poets.

Acquisition Information

The papers of John Hall Wheelock, poet, were given to the Library of Congress by Wheelock, 1956-1977. Additional material was given by others, 1978-2000, and items were purchased in 1991.

Processing History

The papers of John Hall Wheelock were arranged and described in 1975 by Michael McElderry. The collection was expanded and revised in 1979 by Grover Batts, 1984 by David Mathisen, and 2009 by Karen Linn Femia. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some books have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. A photograph album has been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the John Hall Wheelock Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Hall Wheelock is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Hall Wheelock are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Hall Wheelock Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1886, Sept. 9	Born, New York, N.Y.
1905	Published with Van Wyck Brooks <i>Verses by Two Undergraduates</i> . Cambridge, Mass.
1908	Graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1909	Student, University of Gottingen, Germany
1910	Student, University of Berlin, Germany
1911-1926	Clerk, Scribner's Book Store, New York, N.Y.
1911	Published <i>The Human Fantasy</i> . Boston: Sherman, French and Co.
1912	Published <i>The Beloved Adventure</i> . Boston: Sherman, French and Co.
1919	Published <i>Dust and Light</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1922	Published <i>The Black Panther</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1926-1947	Editor, Charles Scribner's Sons
1927	Published <i>The Bright Doom</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1936	Published <i>Poems, 1911-1936</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons

1940	Married Phyllis E. De Kay
1947-1957	Editor-in-Chief, Charles Scribner's Sons
1956	Published <i>Poems Old and New</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1961	Published <i>The Gardener and Other Poems</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1963	Published <i>What is Poetry?</i> New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1966	Published <i>Dear Men and Women</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1970	Published <i>By Daylight and in Dream</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1971	Published <i>In Love and Song</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1978	Published <i>Afternoon: Amagansett Beach</i> . Dandelion Press; and <i>This Blessed Earth</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1978, March 22	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Hall Wheelock (1886-1978) span the years 1910-circa 2000, with the bulk of the material dating from 1954 to 1978. The papers consist of correspondence, drafts and copies of poems, speeches and articles, and miscellany relating largely to Wheelock's poetry. Correspondents include Van Wyck Brooks, Marie Bullock, Padraic Colum, Max Eastman, Richard Eberhart, George Garrett, Jean Garrigue, Robert Graves, Jay B. Hubbell, Howard Mumford Jones, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, David McCord, Archibald MacLeish, Marianne Moore, Samuel Eliot Morison, Allan Nevins, Ned O'Gorman, Theodore Roethke, Allen Tate, Louis Untermeyer, Mark Van Doren, and William Carlos Williams.

An addition to the collection primarily contains letters written by Wheelock, as well as two letters from his wife, Phyllis E. De Kay Wheelock, to poet Henry Taylor. The relationship between the elderly Wheelock with the young Taylor was professional and one of friendship. The letters convey details of the final decade of Wheelock's life. Also in the addition is a letter written by Wheelock to Helen C. Annan Scribner in 1927 and a collection of material, including some correspondence, from his second cousin Charlotte Salisbury.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein by subject, title or name of person. The addition is filed at the end.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1954-1977 (7 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Interview, introductory remarks about Wheelock, address lists, 1977, undated
BOX 2	Printed matter, 1961-1974 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Poetry file, 1910, circa 1956-circa 1974
BOX 2	"The Abandoned Nestling"
BOX 2	"Address to Existence"
BOX 2	"Amagansett Beach Revisited"
BOX 2	"An Ancient Story"
BOX 2	"Anima"
BOX 2	"Aphrodite, 1906"
BOX 2	"The Ascent of Man"
BOX 2	"Aubade"
BOX 2	"Auscultation"
BOX 2	"The Bathing Beach"
BOX 2	"The Big I"
BOX 2	"Bread and Wine"
BOX 2	"Catbird"
BOX 2	"A Certain Hidden Place"
BOX 2	"Chant"
BOX 2	"Child and Universe"
BOX 2	"Cloud-Shapes"
BOX 2	"The Compass"
BOX 2	"Complaint of the Indifference of Things"
BOX 2	"The Concert"
BOX 2	"The Cricket's Song"
BOX 2	"Dark Joy"
BOX 2	"Dear Men and Women"
BOX 2	"Dialogue after Bishop Berkeley"
BOX 2	"Dialogue on the Flux of Things"
BOX 2	"Direction"
BOX 2	"The Divine Insect"
BOX 2	"Drunken Song"
BOX 2	"Early Morning Air"
BOX 2	"Earth"
BOX 2	"Earth, Take Me Back"
BOX 2	"Evening Contemplation"
BOX 2	"Farewell to the House in Bonac"
BOX 2	"A Fragment"
BOX 2	"The Gardener"

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	"Helios-Apollo"
BOX 2	"Herring-Gull"
BOX 2	"High Stars"
BOX 2	"The Holy Earth"
BOX 2	"House in Bonac"
BOX 2	"The House in the Green Well"
BOX 2	"The Human Fantasy," book draft, 1910
BOX 2	"In This Green Nook"
BOX 2	"July Afternoon"
BOX 2	"Last Sonnet"
BOX 2	"Lines"
BOX 2	"Lost Gaiety"
BOX 3	"Man's Struggle to Understand"
BOX 3	"The March of Science"
BOX 3	"The Mask"
BOX 3	"Meditation"
BOX 3	"Midnight Contemplation"
BOX 3	"Moment before Sleep"
BOX 3	"Morning after Rain"
BOX 3	"Morning Draws Near"
BOX 3	"Mother and Child"
BOX 3	"Mozart Perhaps"
BOX 3	"Night"
BOX 3	"The Passer-By"
BOX 3	"Peace"
BOX 3	"The Plumber as the Missing Letter"
BOX 3	"The Poet"
BOX 3	"Poet and Bird"
BOX 3	"Purely Personal"
BOX 3	"Question and Answer"
BOX 3	"Random Reflections on a Summer Evening"
BOX 3	"Reflected Light"
BOX 3	"Rest"
BOX 3	"Return in Age"
BOX 3	"Reverie on the Nature of Things"
BOX 3	"Sara Teasdale"
BOX 3	"The Sea"
BOX 3	"Self-Counsel in Age"
BOX 3	"Song"
BOX 3	"Song on Reaching Seventy"
BOX 3	"Sonnet Sequence"
BOX 3	"The Star"
BOX 3	"Summer Night"
BOX 3	"Sun"
BOX 3	"A Sun Which Is a Star"
BOX 3	"Sunday Morning Moment"

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 3	"Symphony: First Movement"
BOX 3	"Testament"
BOX 3	"This Is Our Life"
BOX 3	"This Pain"
BOX 3	"The Timid Future"
BOX 3	"To-"
BOX 3	"To a Woman Dead"
BOX 3	"Two Days and a Dream"
BOX 3	"The Two Societies"
BOX 3	"Valediction"
BOX 3	"A Walk with the Wind"
BOX 3	"The Whisper of a Star"
BOX 3	"Wood-Thrush"
BOX 3	"The Woven Doom"
BOX 3	"You Bet"
BOX 3	Untitled drafts
BOX 3	Speech and article file, circa 1954-circa 1963
BOX 3	Articles, drafts
BOX 3	"Poetry and Prose, the Essential Difference"
BOX 3	"Putting Salt on the Tail of a Poem"
BOX 3	"Some Thoughts on Poetry"
BOX 4	"The Two Knowledges: An Essay on a Certain Resistance"
BOX 4	Untitled
BOX 4	Introductions to <i>Poets of Today</i> , vols. 4-7 (4 folders)
BOX 4	Speeches
BOX 4	Poetry Society of Virginia, Nov. 22, 1956
BOX 4	The Poets of Today series
BOX 4	Untitled
BOX 4	Addition
BOX 4	Book inscriptions, 1916, 1931, 1961, 1971
BOX 4	Salisbury, Charlotte and Harrison (second cousin)
BOX 4	Letters from Wheelock, 1970-1977
BOX 4	Miscellaneous papers regarding Wheelock, 1961, 1970-1976, circa 2000
BOX 4	Scribner, Mrs. Arthur (Helen C. Annan Scribner), letter from Wheelock, 1927
BOX 4	Taylor, Henry, letters from Wheelock and his wife, 1966-1978 (2 folders)