

Louis Untermeyer Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79043703>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012022>

Prepared by Paul Ledvina
Revised by Brian McGuire

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Collection Summary

Title: Louis Untermeyer Papers

Span Dates: 1955-1967

ID No.: MSS43703

Creator: Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977

Extent: 25 items

Extent: 10 containers

Extent: 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79043703>

Summary: Poet, critic, and editor. Writings, notebooks, and correspondence, including drafts and proofs of books of poetry by Untermeyer and notes pertaining to his travels in Europe and the United States and his tenure as poetry consultant to the Library of Congress.

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

Bierbaum, Otto Julius, 1865-1910. Irrgarten der Liebe.

Frost, Robert, 1874-1963.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977, Modern American poetry [and] Modern British poetry. 1950.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977. Bygones; the recollections of Louis Untermeyer. 1965.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977. Labyrinth of love. 1965.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977. Long feud, selected poems. 1962

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977. World's great stories; fifty-five legends that live forever. 1964.

Organizations

Library of Congress.

Subjects

American poetry--19th century.

American poetry--20th century.

English poetry--19th century.

English poetry--20th century.

Legends.

Poetry.

Poets--Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.

Places

Europe--Description and travel.

United States--Description and travel.

Occupations

Critics.

Editors.

Poets.

Provenance

The papers of Louis Untermeyer, poet, critic, and editor, were given to the Library of Congress by Untermeyer in 1962-1970 and by Helen-Anne Hilker in 1964.

Processing History

The papers of Louis Untermeyer were arranged and described in 1989. The finding aid was revised in 2003 and again in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Louis Untermeyer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Louis Untermeyer 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, Louis Untermeyer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1865, Oct. 1	Born, New York. N.Y.
1882-1923	Worked in family jewelry business, Untermeyer-Robbins Co. and Charles Keller & Co.
1923	Resigned from jewelry business to devote full time to studying and writing
1907	Married Jean Starr (divorced 1926)
1911	Published first book of poems, <i>First Love</i> . Boston: Sherman, French & Co.
1926	Married Virginia Moore (divorced 1929)
1929	Reunited in marriage with Jean Starr (divorced 1930)
1933	Married Esther Antin (divorced 1945)
1934-1937	Poetry editor, <i>American Mercury</i>
1939-1940	Poet in residence, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
1948	Married Bryna Ivens
1950	Panelist on television show <i>What's My Line?</i>
1955	Published <i>A Treasury of Great Poems, English and American</i> . New York: Simon and Schuster
1961-1963	Consultant in poetry, Library of Congress
1965	Published <i>Bygones: The Recollections of Louis Untermeyer</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace & World
1977, Dec. 18	Died, Newtown, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Louis Untermeyer (1885-1977) span the years 1955-1967 and consist of correspondence, writings, and notebooks.

Included are drafts or proofs of *Modern American Poetry [and] Modern British Poetry*(1962), *Long Feud, Selected Poems* (1962), *The World's Great Stories; Fifty-five Legends That Live Forever*(1964), *Bygones; The Recollections of Louis Untermeyer* (1965), and *Labyrinth of Love*(1965). The notebooks pertain to travels in Europe and within the United States and to Untermeyer's years as poetry consultant in the Library of Congress, 1961-1963.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of writing and therein by title or date.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Books and related matter
BOX 1	Author's copies, mounted page proofs
BOX 1	<i>Modern British Poetry</i>
BOX 1	Undated (4 folders)
BOX 2	(1 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Modern American Poetry</i> , undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	<i>Modern American Poetry [and] Modern British Poetry</i> , new and enlarged edition, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	Galley proofs
BOX 4	<i>Modern British Poetry</i>
BOX 4	1961, Nov. 17
BOX 5	1961, Nov. 27, and cover letter from Tina Barland to Untermeyer
BOX 5	<i>Modern American Poetry</i>
BOX 5	Undated
BOX 6	1961, Nov. 2
BOX 6	<i>Modern American Poetry [and] Modern British Poetry</i> , new and enlarged edition, 1962, Feb. 12
BOX 6	Printer's copy and galley proof
BOX 6	<i>Long Feud, Selected Poems</i> , 1961, undated
BOX 7	Manuscript relating to the Library of Congress, Mar. 25, 1964
BOX 7	Letter from Edwin Gilbert to Untermeyer, Sept. 1, 1961
BOX 7	<i>Lots of Limericks</i> (Garden City: N.Y., Doubleday, 1961)
BOX 7	Correspondence relating to manuscript
BOX 7	Newspaper clippings
BOX 7	<i>Labyrinth of Love</i> (New York: Simon and Schuster [1965]), typescript with holograph emendations and typesetters' marks
BOX 8	<i>Bygones; The Recollections of Louis Untermeyer</i> (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, [1965]), typewritten corrected draft and corrected proofs
BOX 9	<i>The World's Great Stories</i> (New York: Published by M. Evans, [1964]), typescript with handwritten corrections
BOX 10	Notebooks
BOX 10	1955, article on French writers and French foods, research in England for lives of the poets, research in France for European heritage
BOX 10	1955, end of trip to England, and 1959, Feb.-Mar., trip to Italy
BOX 10	1956, trip through the South, Southwest, and Northwest
BOX 10	1957, European trip
BOX 10	1960, seven-week Mediterranean cruise
BOX 10	1961, Mar. 6-Apr. 4, Sicily, Southern France, Paris, and London
BOX 10	1961-1963, Library of Congress
BOX 10	1963, Library of Congress

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 10	1964, Sept. 2-Oct. 14, France and Italy; and 1965, June 10-July 1, music festivals and research in Austria, Switzerland, and Holland
BOX 10	1966, Mar. 2-20, Caribbean cruise; and Apr. 29-May 29, Greece
BOX 10	1967, Sept. 13-Oct. 5, England and Ireland