Karl Jay Shapiro Papers
A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82040790

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013139

Prepared by David Mathisen
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Collection Summary
Title: Karl Jay Shapiro Papers
Span Dates: 1930-1963
ID No.: MSS40790
Creator: Shapiro, Karl Jay, 1913-2000
Extent: 170 items
Extent: 13 containers
Extent: 6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82040790
Summary: Collector. Writings, notebooks, printed matter, photographs, a few items of correspondence and other papers pertaining chiefly to the poetry of Karl Jay Shapiro collected by Feinberg.

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

Subjects
American poetry.

Occupations
Collectors.

Provenance
The papers of Karl Jay Shapiro in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection were acquired by the Library of Congress through gifts and deposits converted to a gift by Feinberg, 1970-1981.

Processing History
The Shapiro Papers in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection were processed in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Karl Jay Shapiro in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Karl Jay Shapiro in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection 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, Karl Jay Shapiro Papers, Charles E. Feinberg Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Karl Jay Shapiro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913, Nov. 10</td>
<td>Born, Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-1939</td>
<td>Student, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-1945</td>
<td>Served in United States Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Received grant, American Academy of Arts and Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Awarded Pulitzer Prize in Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married Evelyn Katz (divorced 1967)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948-1950</td>
<td>Associate professor of writing, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1956</td>
<td>Editor, Poetry Magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Published Poems, 1940-1953. New York: Random House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1954</td>
<td>Guggenheim fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1957</td>
<td>Fellow, Kenyon School of Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1966</td>
<td>Professor of English, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.; editor, Prairie Schooner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Edited American Poetry. New York: Crowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Published In Defense of Ignorance. New York: Random House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Married Teri Kovach (died 1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Published To Abolish Children, and Other Essays. Chicago: Quadrangle Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968-1985</td>
<td>Professor, University of California, Davis, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Awarded Bollingen Prize in Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Published Edsel([New York:] B. Geis Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Married Sophie Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Published New &amp; Selected Poems, 1940-1986, University of Chicago Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000, May 14</td>
<td>Died, New York, N.Y.</td>
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</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Karl Shapiro (1913-2000) in the collection of Charles E. Feinberg (1899-1988) span the years 1930-1963 and consist of writings, notebooks, printed matter, photographs, a few items of correspondence, and other papers collected by Feinberg pertaining chiefly to Shapiro's poetry. Included are typescripts and drafts of Shapiro’s poems and articles as well as print copies of published material.

The collection is arranged in folders with descriptions and numbers supplied by Feinberg, largely in the order received. The papers are organized into four series: Writings File, Miscellany, Printed Matter, and Addition.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s
- Miscellany, 1959
- Printed Matter, 1940-1963
- Addition, 1960-1963
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-8</td>
<td><strong>Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s</strong></td>
<td>Drafts and annotated typescripts, work sheets, galleys, page proofs, notebooks, and other material relating to the production of Shapiro’s writings. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1959</strong></td>
<td>Proof sheets of a biography of Shapiro, correspondence, photographs, and printed matter. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8-9</td>
<td><strong>Printed Matter, 1940-1963</strong></td>
<td>Magazines, clippings, and musical score. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10-13</td>
<td><strong>Addition, 1960-1963</strong></td>
<td>Typescripts and other production material of two books by Shapiro. Arranged by title and therein type of material.</td>
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</table>
# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-8   | **Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s**  
Drafts and annotated typescripts, work sheets, galleys, page proofs, notebooks, and other material relating to the production of Shapiro’s writings.  
Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg. |
| BOX 1     | *American Poetry Anthology* |
| BOX 2     | Book draft with notes |
| BOX 3     | Galleys  
"Poems of Good and Evil," *Manuscript Notebooks, 1941, 1944*  
*Poems of a Jew*  
Make-up and presentation copy  
Typescript, galleys, and page proofs  
"What the Poet Knows," typescript  
"The Brassai Show at the Art Institute," typescript  
"The Critic in Spite of Himself," typescripts  
(2 folders)  
"Criticism," typescript  
"Book Burial," *Manuscript worksheets* |
| BOX 4     | "Ezra Pound: The Scapegoat of Modern Poetry," two drafts with revisions, typescripts  
"The Death of Modernism," typescript  
"The Deism of Thomas Jefferson," typescript  
"Discards," typescript  
"Dylan Thomas," typescript  
*A One Act Play with Interlude*, manuscript notebook with typescript  
"Essay on Rime," galley proof sheets  
"The Auden Forgeries & the Pound Index (Failure of English Cleverness," typescript  
"The First White Aboriginal," typescript  
"Five Idols and a Conversationalist," typescript  
*Person, Place and Thing*, galley proof sheets  
"Mind and Matter," typescript  
"Nostalgia," song, music sheet  
"Messias," manuscript worksheet and typescript  
"Mark Twain's Notebook," typescript  
"Majesty & Mystery of the Audience, A Different Opinion," typescripts  
"Jefferson," typescript  
"The Jewish Writer in America," typescript  
Lectures at Salzburg Seminar, typescripts 1952-1953  
"In Defense of Ignorance," typescript  
"Introduction," typescript. *Polish Anthology*  
Correspondence on Copy Editing of *Defense of Ignorance*, typescripts |
"How Not to Stop Understanding Poetry," typescript
"Horace," typescript
Harcourt, Brace anthology, Modern American & British Poetry, edited by Louis Untermeyer in consultation with Shapiro and Richard Wilbur, manuscript and typescript, 1955
Elliston Lectures, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1959
"The Greatest Living Author, Henry Miller," typescript
Manuscript notebook
Proposed introduction to "Poems of a Jew," unused
"Poems of a Jew"
Typescripts
Review, Jerusalem Post, Mar. 1958
Clipping
"Appearances" ("The Poet Outside"), typescript
Poetry in 1956, typescript
"Poets and Psychologists," typescript
"Poets of the Cosmic Consciousness," typescript
"The Power of the Little Magazine," typescript
"Prosody as the Meaning," typescript
"Recent American Poetry," typescript
"The Retreat of W. H. Auden," first draft, typescript
"The Silent Poem," typescript
"T. S. Eliot: The Death of Literary Judgment," typescripts, first draft, second draft and second draft revisions
"Editorial / Romanticism Comes Home," typescript
"The Unemployed Magician or Thomas Hardy's Haircut," typescript and page proofs
Japanese anthology, including "A Telescope for the Emperor," published volume in Japanese
"The Unemployed Magician," typescript
"V-Letter and Other Poems," typescript and galley proofs
"W. B. Yeats: Trial by Culture," typescripts, first draft and second draft with revisions
"What Is American Poetry?," typescript
"What Is Anti-Criticism?," typescript
"The Not-Word (What Is Not Poetry?)," typescript
"The Russian Revolution in American Education or Teaching Modern Poetry," typescript
Elliston Lectures, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1959
"William Carlos Williams, the True Contemporary," typescript
"The Writer on-Campus in America," typescript
Fletcher, J. G., autographed typed letter to Shapiro
Williams, W. Carlos, typed letter signed to Shapiro
Miller, Henry, letters to Shapiro
Williams, Oscar, autographed letters and postcards signed, from Shapiro
"The Garden in Chicago," typescript
"Waiting for Pope," autographed manuscript
"A Modest Funeral," autographed manuscript and worksheets
"The Farmer and the Poet," typescript
"Is Poetry an American Art?," manuscript
"The Contraband," typescript
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<tr>
<th>BOX</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>&quot;Photographs of the Poets,&quot; typescripts</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>&quot;New Museum,&quot; typescript</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>&quot;11 Minto,&quot; typescript; in Italian</td>
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<td>&quot;The Poetry Reading,&quot; typescript</td>
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<td>&quot;Calling the Child,&quot; typescript</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>&quot;California Winter,&quot; typescript</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td><strong>Karl Shapiro: A Bibliography,</strong> by William White, proof sheets</td>
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<td>Loan to American Academy of Arts. letter and pamphlet</td>
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<td>Loan to Shapiro exhibition, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, correspondence</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Photographs of exhibition at Wayne [State University; Detroit, Mich. (?)]</td>
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<td><em>Libertinage</em>, 1952</td>
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<td><em>Saturday Review</em>, 27 Feb. 1960</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Reporter, 9 June 1960</td>
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<td><em>Bitzaron /The Hebrew Monthly of America,</em> (two copies, in Hebrew), Sept. 1958</td>
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<td><em>The Tenor</em> by Hugo David Weisgall, operatic score/libretto</td>
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<td><em>Beyond Criticism,</em> by Shapiro, book</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td><em>Poetry</em>, June 1960</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td><em>Galleria</em>, Sept.-Dec. 1958</td>
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<td><em>American Judaism</em>, 1960</td>
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<td><em>Hopkins Review</em></td>
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<td>Winter 1949</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><em>Comment</em>, Nov. 1940-winter 1947</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><em>Shenandoah</em>, summer 1963</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><em>Encounter</em>, May 1955</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><em>Amepnka /American Illustrated,</em> undated (two issues, in Russian)</td>
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| BOX 10    | *The Bourgeois Poet*, typescripts  
            (7 folders) |
| BOX 11    | (4 folders) |
| BOX 12    | *In Defense of Ignorance*  
            Title on notebook spine and publishers schedule (dates) from inside front cover  
            Typescripts  
            Final drafts, carbons  
            (3 folders)  
            Typescripts, ribbon copies  
            (3 folders) |
| BOX 13    | Galley proofs  
            (2 folders) |
| BOX 13    | Miscellany |