

# **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://lcn.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

**Collector:** Feinberg, Charles E., 1899-1988

**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

Feinberg, Charles E., 1899-1988, collector.

Shapiro, Karl, 1913-2000. Karl Jay Shapiro papers in the Charles E. Feinberg collection. 1930-1963.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Karl Jay Shapiro in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

Date	Event
1913, Nov. 10	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1937-1939	Student, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1941-1945	Served in United States Army
1944	Received grant, American Academy of Arts and Letters
1945	Awarded Pulitzer Prize in Poetry Married Evelyn Katz (divorced 1967)
1946-1947	Consultant in poetry, Library of Congress
1948-1950	Associate professor of writing, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1950-1956	Editor, <i>Poetry Magazine</i>
1953	Published <i>Poems, 1940-1953</i> . New York: Random House
1953-1954	Guggenheim fellow
1956-1957	Fellow, Kenyon School of Letters
1956-1966	Professor of English, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.; editor, <i>Prairie Schooner</i>
1960	Edited <i>American Poetry</i> . New York: Crowell Published <i>In Defense of Ignorance</i> . New York: Random House
1964	Published <i>The Bourgeois Poet</i> . New York: Random House
1965	Published with Robert Beum <i>A Prosody Handbook</i> . New York: Harper & Row
1967	Married Teri Kovach (died 1982)
1968	Published <i>To Abolish Children, and Other Essays</i> . Chicago: Quadrangle Books
1968-1985	Professor, University of California, Davis, Calif.
1969	Awarded Bollingen Prize in Poetry
1971	Published <i>Edsel</i> ([New York:] B. Geis Associates)
1973	Published <i>Selected Poems</i> . New York: Vintage Books
1978	Published <i>Collected Poems, 1948-1978</i> . New York: Random House
1985	Married Sophie Wilkins
1987	Published <i>New &amp; Selected Poems, 1940-1986</i> . University of Chicago Press
1988	Published <i>The Younger Son</i> . Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
1990	Published <i>Reports of My Death</i> . Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
2000, May 14	Died, New York, N.Y.

## 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

Container	Series
BOX 1-8	<p><u>Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s</u></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX 8	<p><u>Miscellany, 1959</u></p> <p>Proof sheets of a biography of Shapiro, correspondence, photographs, and printed matter. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.</p>
BOX 8-9	<p><u>Printed Matter, 1940-1963</u></p> <p>Magazines, clippings, and musical score. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.</p>
BOX 10-13	<p><u>Addition, 1960-1963</u></p> <p>Typescripts and other production material of two books by Shapiro. Arranged by title and therein type of material.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-8	<b>Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s</b> 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	<i>American Poetry Anthology</i>
BOX 1	Book draft with notes
BOX 2	Galleys
BOX 3	"Poems of Good and Evil," Manuscript Notebooks, 1941, 1944
BOX 3	<i>Poems of a Jew</i>
BOX 3	Make-up and presentation copy
BOX 3	Typescript, galleys, and page proofs
BOX 4	"What the Poet Knows," typescript
BOX 4	"The Brassai Show at the Art Institute," typescript
BOX 4	"The Critic in Spite of Himself," typescripts (2 folders)
BOX 4	"Criticism," typescript
BOX 4	"Book Burial," Manuscript worksheets
BOX 4	"Criticism of the Censorship in Plato's <i>Republic</i> ," typescript
BOX 4	"The Death of Modernism," typescript
BOX 4	"The Deism of Thomas Jefferson," typescript
BOX 4	"Discards," typescript
BOX 4	"Dylan Thomas," typescript
BOX 4	<i>A One Act Play with Interlude</i> , Manuscript notebook with typescript
BOX 4	"Essay on Rime," galley proof sheets
BOX 4	"Ezra Pound: The Scapegoat of Modern Poetry," two drafts with revisions, typescripts
BOX 4	"The Auden Forgeries & the Pound Index (Failure of English Cleverness)," typescript
BOX 4	"The First White Aboriginal," typescript
BOX 4	"Five Idols and a Conversationalist," typescript
BOX 5	<i>Person, Place and Thing</i> , Galley proof sheets
BOX 5	"Mind and Matter," typescript
BOX 5	"Nostalgia," song, music sheet
BOX 5	"Messias," manuscript worksheet and typescript
BOX 5	"Mark Twain's Notebook," typescript
BOX 5	"Majesty & Mystery of the Audience, A Different Opinion," typescripts
BOX 5	"Jefferson," typescript
BOX 5	"The Jewish Writer in America," typescript
BOX 5	Lectures at Salzburg Seminar, typescripts 1952-1953
BOX 5	"Phi Beta Kappa Talk: PEN Meeting (in Japan), 11 Feb. 1958," typescript
BOX 5	"In Defense of Ignorance," typescript
BOX 5	"Introduction," typescript. Polish Anthology
BOX 5	Correspondence on Copy Editing of <i>Defense of Ignorance</i> , typescripts

## Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s

Container	Contents
BOX 5	"How Not to Stop Understanding Poetry," typescript
BOX 5	"Horace," typescript
BOX 5	Harcourt, Brace anthology, <i>Modern American &amp; British Poetry</i> , edited by Louis Untermeyer in consultation with Shapiro and Richard Wilbur, manuscript and typescript, 1955
BOX 5	Elliston Lectures, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1959
BOX 5	"The Greatest Living Author, Henry Miller," typescript
BOX 5	Manuscript notebook
BOX 6	Proposed introduction to "Poems of a Jew," unused
BOX 6	"Poems of a Jew"
BOX 6	Typescripts
BOX 6	Review, <i>Jerusalem Post</i> , Mar. 1958
BOX 6	Clipping
BOX 6	"Appearances" ("The Poet Outside"), typescript
BOX 6	Poetry in 1956, typescript
BOX 6	"Poets and Psychologists," typescript
BOX 6	"Poets of the Cosmic Consciousness," typescript
BOX 6	"The Power of the Little Magazine," typescript
BOX 6	"Prosody as the Meaning," typescript
BOX 6	"Recent American Poetry," typescript
BOX 6	"The Retreat of W. H. Auden," first draft, typescript
BOX 6	"The Silent Poem," typescript
BOX 6	"T. S. Eliot: The Death of Literary Judgment," typescripts, first draft, second draft and second draft revisions
BOX 6	"Editorial / Romanticism Comes Home," typescript
BOX 6	"She Served Them Well," typescript, <i>New York Times Book Review</i> , 1959
BOX 6	"The Unemployed Magician or Thomas Hardy's Haircut," typescript and page proofs
BOX 6	Japanese anthology, including "A Telescope for the Emperor," published volume in Japanese
BOX 6	"The Unemployed Magician," typescript
BOX 6	"V-Letter and Other Poems," typescript and galley proofs
BOX 7	"W. B. Yeats: Trial by Culture," typescripts, first draft and second draft with revisions
BOX 7	"What Is American Poetry?," typescript
BOX 7	"What Is Anti-Criticism?," typescript
BOX 7	"The Not-Word (What Is Not Poetry?)," typescript
BOX 7	"The Russian Revolution in American Education or Teaching Modern Poetry," typescript
BOX 7	Elliston Lectures, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1959
BOX 7	"William Carlos Williams, the True Contemporary," typescript
BOX 7	"The Writer on-Campus in America," typescript
BOX 7	Fletcher, J. G., autographed typed letter to Shapiro
BOX 7	Williams, W. Carlos, typed letter signed to Shapiro
BOX 7	Miller, Henry, letters to Shapiro
BOX 7	Williams, Oscar, autographed letters and postcards signed, from Shapiro
BOX 7	"The Garden in Chicago," typescript
BOX 7	"Waiting for Pope," autographed manuscript
BOX 7	"A Modest Funeral," autographed manuscript and worksheets
BOX 7	"The Farmer and the Poet," typescript
BOX 7	"Is Poetry an American Art?," manuscript
BOX 7	"The Contraband," typescript

## Writings File, circa 1930s-1960s

Container	Contents
BOX 7	"Photographs of the Poets," typescripts
BOX 7	"New Museum," typescript
BOX 7	"11 Minto," typescript; in Italian
BOX 7	"The Poetry Reading," typescript
BOX 7	"Calling the Child," typescript
BOX 7	"California Winter," typescript
BOX 8	<b>Miscellany, 1959</b> Proof sheets of a biography of Shapiro, correspondence, photographs, and printed matter. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.
BOX 8	<i>Karl Shapiro: A Bibliography</i> , by William White, proof sheets
BOX 8	Loan to American Academy of Arts. letter and pamphlet
BOX 8	Loan to Shapiro exhibition, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, correspondence
BOX 8	Photographs of exhibition at Wayne [State University; Detroit, Mich. (?)]
BOX 8-9	<b>Printed Matter, 1940-1963</b> Magazines, clippings, and musical score. Housed and described largely as received from Feinberg.
BOX 8	Newspaper reviews, clippings
BOX 8	<i>Libertinage</i> , 1952
BOX 8	<i>Saturday Review</i> , 27 Feb. 1960
BOX 8	Reporter, 9 June 1960
BOX 8	<i>Bitzaron /The Hebrew Monthly of America</i> , (two copies, in Hebrew), Sept. 1958
BOX 8	<i>The Tenor</i> by Hugo David Weisgall, operatic score/libretto
BOX 8	Miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 8	<i>Beyond Criticism</i> , by Shapiro, book
BOX 8	<i>Poetry</i> , June 1960
BOX 8	<i>Galleria</i> , Sept.-Dec. 1958
BOX 8	<i>A Bibliography of Modern Prosody</i> , unbound sheets
BOX 8	<i>Nebraska Alumnus</i> , Mar. 1960
BOX 8	<i>American Judaism</i> , 1960
BOX 9	<i>Hopkins Review</i> Summer 1949 Winter 1949
BOX 9	<i>Comment</i> , Nov. 1940-winter 1947
BOX 9	<i>Shenandoah</i> , summer 1963
BOX 9	<i>Encounter</i> , May 1955
BOX 9	<i>Amepnka /American Illustrated</i> , undated (two issues, in Russian)
BOX 10-13	<b>Addition, 1960-1963</b> Typescripts and other production material of two books by Shapiro. Arranged by title and therein type of material.
BOX 10	Writings



## Addition, 1960-1963

Container	Contents
BOX 10	<i>The Bourgeois Poet</i> , typescripts (7 folders)
BOX 11	(4 folders)
BOX 12	<i>In Defense of Ignorance</i>
BOX 12	Title on notebook spine and publishers schedule (dates) from inside front cover
BOX 12	Typescripts
BOX 12	Final drafts, carbons (3 folders)
BOX 12	Typescripts, ribbon copies (3 folders)
BOX 13	Galley proofs (2 folders)
BOX 13	Miscellany