

**John Berryman Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2019**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2014079067>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019008>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Berryman Papers

**Span Dates:** 1942-1982

**ID No.:** MSS79067

**Creator:** Berryman, John, 1914-1972

**Extent:** 1,400 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://lcn.loc.gov/mm2014079067>

**Summary:** Poet, scholar and professor at the University of Minnesota. Journals, correspondence, and other miscellany recording Berryman's relationship with his first wife, Eileen B. Simpson, his creative process, and his struggles and joys in life.

## 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

Berryman, John, 1914-1972--Friends and associates.

Berryman, John, 1914-1972.

Simpson, Eileen, 1918-2002--Correspondence.

Simpson, Eileen, 1918-2002.

### Subjects

American poetry.

Dreams.

Poetry.

### Occupations

Educators.

Poets.

Scholars.

## Provenance

The papers of John Berryman, poet, scholar and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by Eileen B. Simpson in 1989.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Berryman is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Berryman 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 Berryman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1914, Oct. 25	Born, McAlester, Okla.
1936	B.A., Columbia College, New York, N.Y.
1942	Published <i>Poems</i> . Norfolk, Conn.: New Directions
1942	Married Eileen Mulligan (divorced 1956)
1950	Published <i>Stephen Crane: A Critical Biography</i> . New York: Sloan
1955-1972	Professor, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
1956	Published <i>Homage to Mistress Bradstreet</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux
1964	Published <i>77 Dream Songs</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux
1965	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
1967	Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
1968	Published <i>His Toy, His Dream, His Rest</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux
1968	Awarded National Book Award for Poetry and the Bollingen Prize for Poetry
1970	Published <i>Love &amp; Flame</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux
1972	Published <i>Delusions, Etc.</i> New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux
1972, Jan. 7	Died, Minneapolis, Minn.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Berryman (1914-1972) span the years 1942-1982 and consist of journals, family correspondence, and miscellany. Berryman's journals record daily events, details about his writings, private thoughts and feelings, details related to his relationships with his friends and wife, and dreams. General correspondence consists primarily of letters written by his wife, Eileen B. Simpson (1918-1922) and also include some letters written by Berryman to Simpson. The miscellany folder includes a list of jobs to which he applied and draft materials with edits, most of which are undated.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged into three groupings by material type and chronologically therein.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-3</b>	Journals
<b>BOX 1</b>	1942 Mar.-1947 Sept. (9 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1947 Sept.-1954 Dec. (11 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1954 Dec.-1955 Dec. (2 folders)
<b>BOX 3-4</b>	General Correspondence
<b>BOX 3</b>	1941-1973 (27 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	1974-1982 , undated (12 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	Miscellany, 1976, undated