

# **Guide to the William K. Wimsatt Research Files on Alexander Pope and Art**

**OSB MSS 170**



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 170

**CREATOR:** Wimsatt, William K. (William Kurtz), 1907-1975

**TITLE:** William K. Wimsatt Research Files on Alexander Pope and Art

**DATES:** [circa 1950-1970]

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.84 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains subject files, printed material, photographs, scrapbooks and slides on the subject of Alexander Pope and art, assembled by eighteenth-century scholar William K. Wimsatt. Much of this material may have been gathered in the course of Wimsatt's research for *The Portraits of Alexander Pope* (1965).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wwimsatt>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wwimsatt>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. William K. Wimsatt, 1991.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William K. Wimsatt Research Files on Alexander Pope and Art are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

William K. Wimsatt Research Files on Alexander Pope and Art. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2010.

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## William K. Wimsatt (1907-1975)

William K. Wimsatt was born in Washington, D.C., and educated at Georgetown and at Yale, where he received his doctorate in English in 1939. Wimsatt specialized in eighteenth-century literature, and he spent his entire teaching career in the English Department at Yale, from 1939 until his death in 1975.

Wimsatt's scholarly publications include *The Prose Style of Samuel Johnson* (1941), *Selected Poetry and Prose of Alexander Pope* (editor, 1951), *Boswell for the Defense* (editor, 1959), *Samuel Johnson on Shakespeare* (editor, 1960), *The Portraits of Alexander Pope* (1965), and *Samuel Johnson: Selected Poetry and Prose* (editor, with Frank Brady, 1978). He is perhaps best known, however, as co-author of *The Verbal Icon* (1954) with Monroe C. Beardsley. This work introduced the concepts of the "intentional fallacy" and the "affective fallacy" to a wide audience, and both quickly became central tenets of the New Criticism.

Wimsatt married Margaret Elizabeth Hecht in 1944, and the couple had two children. His hobbies included painting, playing chess, and collecting Native American artifacts. Wimsatt died in New Haven, Connecticut in 1975.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains subject files, printed material, photographs, scrapbooks and slides on the subject of Alexander Pope and art, assembled by eighteenth-century scholar William K. Wimsatt. Much of this material may have been gathered in the course of Wimsatt's research for *The Portraits of Alexander Pope* (1965).

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series. I. Images of Pope, 1950-1970. II. Research Files on Pope and Art. III. Scrapbooks and Slides.

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# Collection Contents

## Series I: Images of Pope, circa 1950-1970

*2 linear feet (2 boxes)*

*Series I* contains printed and photographic reproductions of sculpture, paintings, and engravings of Alexander Pope, filed with related notes and printed material.

Material is unarranged.

b. 1	Images of Pope	[circa 1950-1970]
b. 2	Images of Pope	[circa 1950-1970]

**Series II: Research Files on Pope and Art, [circa 1950-1970]**

*3 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Series contains research files on various topics related to Alexander Pope and art, including collecting, provenance, and creation of artwork, and other themes. Files contain manuscript notes, correspondence, printed articles and a few reproductions of images.

Material is unarranged.

b. 3	Research files on Pope and art	[circa 1950-1970]
b. 4	Research files on Pope and art	[circa 1950-1970]
b. 5	Research files on Pope and art	[circa 1950-1970]

**Series III: Scrapbooks and Slides, [circa 1950-1970]**

*3.84 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Series contains several scrapbooks containing research and notes on images of Alexander Pope and slide reproductions of Pope-related artwork.

Material is unarranged.

b. 6	<a href="#">Scrapbooks</a>	[circa 1950-1970]
b. 7	Scrapbooks	[circa 1950-1970]
b. 8	Slides	[circa 1950-1970]
b. 9	Slides	[circa 1950-1970]

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Authors, English -- 18th century -- Portraits

### **Genres / Formats**

Color slides  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks

### **Names**

Pope, Alexander, 1688-1744 -- Portraits  
Wimsatt, William K. (William Kurtz), 1907-1975