

Guide to the Charles Handley-Read Papers Relating to Wyndham Lewis

GEN MSS 2095



By: Annalise Hennessey

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P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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: GEN MSS 2095

CREATOR: Handley-Read, Charles

TITLE: Charles Handley-Read papers relating to Wyndham Lewis

DATES: 1912-1970

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5.59 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains material created and accumulated by British writer and art collector Charles Handley-Read, primarily concerning his work on artist and author Wyndham Lewis. Included are writings, correspondence, printed material, drawings, and photographs.

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

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.handleyread>.

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.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased with the Plain Fund, 1957. Purchased from Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, Inc. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1985.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Charles Handley-Read Papers Relating to Wyndham Lewis is 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.

Preferred Citation

Charles Handley-Read Papers Relating to Wyndham Lewis. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call number: MS Vault Lewis

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

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

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Charles Handley-Read (1916-1971)

Charles Harry Ralph Handley-Read was an architectural writer, collector, and a pioneer in the 20th century study of William Burgess. Born in 1916, he studied architecture at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and upon graduating, became art master at Bryanston School. During the Second World War, he interrupted his career to work at the epileptic colony in Linfield developing art therapy for children. After the war, Handley-Read's architectural interests shifted to Modernism and in 1951, he completed his book, *The Art of Wyndham Lewis*. Following the *Exhibition of Victorian and Edwardian Decorative Arts* at the Victoria and Albert Museum and his marriage to Lavinia Staunton, a devotee of Victorian sculpture, he returned to his study of William Burgess.

Percy Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957)

Percy Wyndham Lewis was a British writer, artist, and leading figure in the Vorticist movement. He authored 40 works of fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and criticism, including the novels *Tarr* (1918) and *The Human Age* trilogy and the autobiographies *Blasting and Bombardiering* (1937) and *Rude Assignment: A Narrative of my Career Up-to-Date* (1950).

Lewis was educated at the Slade School of Fine Art in London and the Sorbonne in Paris. While studying in France, he became interested in Cubism and Expressionism and developed a style of painting that incorporated abstract, geometric forms. Lewis joined with other London artists and poets to form the short-lived movement labeled Vorticism by Ezra Pound. Pound was also a contributor to *Blast*, a Vorticist

literary and art journal edited and published by Lewis in 1914-1915. Although Lewis turned his focus to writing in the 1920s and 1930s, he continued to produce paintings, watercolors, and drawings, including "The Surrender of Barcelona" (1936) and portraits of Pound, Edith Sitwell, T. S. Eliot, and inventor Guglielmo Marconi. After World War II, Lewis became an editor and art critic for *The Listener*, a publication of the British Broadcasting Company. In 1956, London's Tate Gallery held a retrospective exhibition of his art. He died on March 7, 1957.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains material created and accumulated by British writer and art collector Charles Handley-Read, primarily concerning his work on artist and author Wyndham Lewis. Included are writings, correspondence, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

A significant amount of correspondence and papers concern the Redfern Gallery's retrospective exhibitions of Lewis's oils, watercolors, and drawings in 1949. Included are letters from Naomi Mitchison and Handley-Read, a printed invitation to the opening, and the corrected typescripts of the two forewords to the catalogue by Michael Ayrton and Lewis. Other correspondence consists of letters to Handley-Read from Lewis, Eric Newton, T. S. Eliot, Faber and Faber Ltd, and the Tate Gallery. Writings include drafts and notes for Handley-Read's book *The Art of Wyndham Lewis*. Printed material contains catalogues, journals, and clippings, as well as a published copy of *The Art of Wyndham Lewis*. Artwork by Lewis consists of a menu design for the Cabaret Theatre Club, "The Cave of the Golden Calf," and a reproduction of "A wall decoration in the Cave of the Golden Calf," as well as pencil drawings. Photographs include portraits of Lewis and images of his artwork.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. January 1957 Acquisition, 1912-1950, undated. II. January 1985 Acquisition, 1949-1970, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: January 1957 Acquisition, 1912-1950, undated

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

This grouping contains correspondence, notes, and a hand-drawn menu design by Wyndham Lewis.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 1, f. 1	Newton, Eric to Handley-Read	1950
b. 1, f. 2	Lewis, Wyndham to CHR	1949-1950
b. 1, f. 3	"WL - 2 drawings of male heads"	undated
b. 1, f. 4	Notes and letter drafts	1950, undated
b. 1, f. 5	"Printed menu/program"	1912
b. 1, f. 6-10	Redfern	1948-1949
b. 1, f. 11	"Wyndham Lewis fifteen drawings"	1919

Series II: January 1985 Acquisition, 1949-1970, undated*7.88 linear feet (7 boxes)*

This series contains correspondence, photographs, and writings relating to Charles Handley-Read's work on Wyndham Lewis.

Arranged into four subseries: Correspondence, Writings, Photographs, and Printed Material.

Correspondence

This subseries contains correspondence between Handley-Read and his colleagues and friends, including Wyndham Lewis, T.S. Eliot, and publisher Faber and Faber Limited.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent with unidentified correspondence filed at the end of the sequence.

b. 2, f. 12	"A" general	1955
b. 2, f. 13	"B" general	1949-1952
b. 2, f. 14	Betjeman, John	1949
b. 2, f. 15	Campbell, James	1953
b. 2, f. 16	Comb, Charles	1951
b. 2, f. 17	"D" general	1951
b. 2, f. 18	Easton, Malcolm	1969 June 19
b. 2, f. 19	Eliot, T.S.	1949-1950
b. 2, f. 20	Faber and Faber Limited	1949-1961
b. 2, f. 21	Graves, Richard Massie	1952
b. 2, f. 22	"H" general	1949, 1960
b. 2, f. 23	International Press-Cutting Bureau	1950 October 13
b. 2, f. 24	"J-K" general	1953-1970
b. 2, f. 25	Lewis, Wyndham	1949-1959
b. 2, f. 26	Lyons, Michael	1967
b. 2, f. 27	"M" general	1952-1956
b. 2, f. 28	Michel, Walter	1960-1969
b. 2, f. 29	Newton, Eric	1949-1951
b. 2, f. 30	"P" general	1949-1955
b. 2, f. 31	"Q-R" general	1949-1956
b. 2, f. 32	Rose, William	1949-1958
b. 2, f. 33	Sheet, Sydney	1951

Correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 34	Tate Gallery, London	1949–1956
b. 2, f. 35	Viney, Nigel	1951–1953
b. 2, f. 36	“W” general	1949, 1953
b. 2, f. 37-38	“Wyndham Lewis/ public galleries, museums, etc./ re Reproductions”	1949–1950
b. 2, f. 39	Unidentified	1949
<p>Writings</p> <p>This subseries includes drafts and notes of works written by Handley-Read, including materials related to his book <i>The Art of Wyndham Lewis</i>.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by file title.</p>		
b. 2, f. 40-41	<i>The Art of Wyndham Lewis</i> , drafts and related materials	undated
b. 2, f. 42	Notes and related materials	undated
<p>Photographs</p> <p>This subseries includes photographs of Wyndham Lewis and his artwork.</p> <p>Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.</p>		
b. 3, f. 43-45	Art of Wyndham Lewis	undated
b. 6, f. 65	Art of Wyndham Lewis	undated
b. 3, f. 46	Portraits of Wyndham Lewis	undated
<p>Printed Material</p> <p>This subseries includes two copies of Handley-Read’s <i>The Art of Wyndham Lewis</i>, newspaper clippings, journals, and art and book catalogs.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by title or file title.</p>		
b. 3, f. 47	Blackwell’s <i>Books New and Forthcoming</i>	Autumn 1950
b. 3, f. 48	<i>Britain To-Day</i> , No. 191	1952 March
b. 3, f. 49	<i>British Book Design</i>	1952
b. 3, f. 50	Christie’s, <i>The Collection of Modern Pictures and Drawings</i>	1956 February 3
b. 5, f. 64	<i>Connoisseur</i>	1963
b. 3, f. 51	Faber, <i>Books on the Arts</i>	undated
b. 3, f. 52-53	Handley-Read, Charles, <i>The Art of Wyndham Lewis</i> [2 copies]	1951
b. 3, f. 54	<i>ICA Bulletin</i> 58	1955 November
b. 3, f. 55	<i>Konstrevy</i>	1956
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 66-67	Magazine and newspaper clippings	1950–1966

Printed Material (continued)

b. 7 (Oversize), f. 68	Newspaper clippings	1960-1969
b. 4, f. 56	"Redfern Gallery/ Wyndham Lewis"	1949
b. 4, f. 57	Romano-Germanic Museum, Köln, <i>Exhibition in Dusseldorf Art Museum Catalogue</i>	1951
b. 4, f. 58	Sotheby & Co. <i>Catalogue of Modern British Drawings, Paintings, and Sculpture</i>	1962 June 20
b. 4, f. 59	<i>The Studio</i> , Vol. 127, No. 614	1944 May
b. 5, f. 64	<i>Studio International</i>	1969
b. 4, f. 60-61	Tate Gallery Catalogue, <i>Wyndham Lewis and Vorticism</i>	1956 July 6- August 19
b. 4, f. 62	Truslove and Hanson, <i>New Books</i>	Winter 1950-1951
b. 5, f. 63	<i>Abstract Art in England 1913-1915</i>	1969 November 11-1969 December 5

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

Art, Modern -- 20th Century -- Exhibitions
Art -- Collectors and collecting -- Great Britain
Artists, British -- 20th Century -- Archives
Authors, British -- 20th Century -- Archives

Occupations

Artists -- England
Authors -- England -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)
Photographs
Printed materials (object genre)

Names

Ayrton, Michael, 1921-1975
Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965
Handley-Read, Charles
Lewis, Wyndham, 1882-1957
Mitchison, Naomi, 1897-1999

Corporate Bodies

Cabaret Theatre Club (London, England)
Faber and Faber
Redfern Gallery
Tate Gallery