

# Guide to the Dudley Fitts Papers

YCAL MSS 296



by Michael L. Forstrom

April 22, 2008

P. O. Box 208330  
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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  
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**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 296

**CREATOR:** Fitts, Dudley, 1903-1968

**TITLE:** Dudley Fitts papers

**DATES:** 1928-1968

**BULK DATES:** 1941-1943

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 10.47 linear feet (18 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials in English, Spanish, and French.

**SUMMARY:** The Dudley Fitts Papers consists chiefly of writings and correspondence relating to the production of the first American edition of *An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry* (New Directions, 1942).

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

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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.fitts>.

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  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Dudley Fitts Papers was acquired through gifts from Dudley and Cornelia Fitts from 1941 to 1969.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

*Restricted Fragile* papers in boxes 17-18 may be consulted only with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies or photographic prints for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Dudley Fitts Papers 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Dudley Fitts Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

The Dudley Fitts Papers contains material formerly classed as Za Fitts.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Microfilm available through Access Services.

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## Dudley Fitts (1903-1968)

Dudley Fitts was a poet, translator, literary critic, and educator. Fitts was perhaps best known for his translations of classical texts. He translated several works by Aristophanes, including *Lysistrata* (1954), *The Frogs* (1955), *The Birds* (1957), and *Ladies' Day* (1959) and, in collaboration with Robert Fitzgerald, he translated Euripides' *The Alcestis* (1936) and Sophocles' *Antigone* (1939) and *Oedipus Rex* (1949). He is also the author of *Poems, 1929-1936* (1937) and editor of *An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry* (1942).

Fitts was born April 28, 1903, in Boston and educated at Harvard. He taught at the Choate School from 1927 to 1941 and then served as an instructor of English at Phillips Academy from 1941 onward.

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## Scope and Contents

The Dudley Fitts Papers consist chiefly of material relating to the production of the first American edition of *An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry* (New Directions, 1942). Fitts served as editor for Spanish poetry in the bilingual anthology, selecting material and translators, and supervising and editing translations. The papers include both correspondence and writings, the bulk of which date from 1941 to 1943. There are letters with contributing authors and translators, representatives of the sponsoring agency, the Committee on Publications of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the publisher. The writings include typescript copies of poems, drafts of translations, many of which are corrected and annotated, proofs, and other materials.

In addition to the material relating to the anthology, there are letters from other writers, concerning literary matters, and drafts and proofs to translations by Fitts of several classical texts.

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## Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1928-1968. II. Writings, 1935-1967.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1928-1968

1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)

Correspondence consists chiefly of letters relating to the first American edition of *An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry* (New Directions, 1942). Fitts served as editor for Spanish poetry in the bilingual anthology, selecting material and translators, and supervising and editing translations. There are both original incoming letters and carbon copies of outgoing letters, dating from 1941 to 1943, with contributing authors and translators, representatives of the sponsoring agency, the Committee on Publications of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the publisher. Contributing authors include Jorge Carrera Andrade, Alejandro Carrión, Eugenio Florit, Carlos Izaguirre, Jesús Lara, Rafael Méndez Dorich, Hipólito Quell Sánchez, and others. Translators include Angel Flores, Joseph Leonard Grucci, H. R. Hays, Langston Hughes, Rolfe Humphries, Muna Lee, Lloyd Mallan, Richard O'Connell, Donald Walsh, and others. Correspondence with authors and translators concern submissions, and some include copies of original poems, drafts of translations, and lists of corrections. Correspondence with Robert S. Benjamin, John Peale Bishop, Dudley Poore, and other members of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs documents production of the anthology.

Other noteworthy correspondents include T. S. Eliot, Archibald MacLeish, Thomas Mann, William Somerset Maugham, Ezra Pound, and Gertrude Stein.

Correspondence is in English and Spanish.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	Abril, Xavier	1943
b. 1, f. 2	Acero, Julio	1943 February 24
b. 1, f. 3	Arrom, José Juan	1942, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Asociación de Escritores y Artistas Americanos	1943 January 13
b. 1, f. 5	Asturias, Miguel Angel	1943 June
b. 1, f. 6	Beilenson, Peter	1942
b. 1, f. 7	Benét, William Rose	1952 December 3
	Benjamin, Robert S. See: United States. Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Box 2, folders 63-69	
	Bishop, John Peale See: United States. Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Box 2, folders 63-69	
b. 1, f. 8	Cadilla, Carmen Alicia	1943 August 9
b. 1, f. 9	Carrera Andrade, Jorge	1941-1943
b. 1, f. 10	Carrión, Alejandro	1943
b. 1, f. 11	Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana	1945 July 20

b. 1, f. 12	Castro, Oscar	1942 July
b. 1, f. 13	Chapin, Katherine Garrison	1946 March 19
b. 1, f. 14	Davis, Milton B.	1941, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Diaz Casanueva, Humberto	1941 September 27
b. 1, f. 16	<a href="#">Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns)</a>	1928-1940
b. 1, f. 17	Figueira, Gastón	1943 October 20
b. 1, f. 18	Flores, Angel	1941-1943
b. 1, f. 19	Florit, Eugenio	1943-1951
b. 1, f. 20	<a href="#">Girondo, Oliverio</a>	1943 April 30
b. 1, f. 21	González, Martínez, Enrique	1942
b. 1, f. 22	Grierson, Herbert John Clifford, Sir	1942 May 1
b. 1, f. 23	Grucci, Joseph Leonard	1941
b. 1, f. 24	Guillén, Jorge	1947
b. 1, f. 25	Hays, H. R. (Hoffman Reynolds)	1941-1942
b. 1, f. 26	Heredia, José Ramón	1942-1943
b. 1, f. 27	Hespelt, E. Herman (Ernest Herman)	1942
b. 1, f. 28	How, Louis	1941 July
b. 1, f. 29	<a href="#">Hughes, Langston</a>	1941-1942
b. 1, f. 30	Huidobro, Vincente	1943
b. 1, f. 31	<a href="#">Humphries, Rolfe</a>	1941-1942
b. 1, f. 32	Izaguirre, Carlos	1943
b. 1, f. 33	Kirstein, Lincoln	1943 February
b. 1, f. 34	Lara, Jesús	1943
b. 1, f. 35	<a href="#">Laughlin, James</a>	1941-1946, undated
b. 1, f. 36-37	Lee, Muna	1941-1943
b. 1, f. 38	Lieber, Maxim	1941
b. 1, f. 39	Lopez Castellón, Blanca	1941-1942
b. 1, f. 40	<a href="#">MacLeish, Archibald</a>	1941-1942
b. 1, f. 41	Mallan, Lloyd	1941-1942

b. 1, f. 42	<a href="#">Mann, Thomas</a>	1952 January
b. 2, f. 43	<a href="#">Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset)</a>	1943
b. 2, f. 44	Méndez Dorich, Rafael	1941-1943
b. 2, f. 45	Mizener, Rosemary Includes poem entitled ""Metathalmion""	1937-1939
b. 2, f. 46	Neruda, Pablo	1942 February 8
	<i>New Directions</i> See: Laughlin, James, Box 1, folder 35	
b. 2, f. 47	Obaldia, Maria Olimpia de	1943 April 15
b. 2, f. 48	Ocampo, Silvina	1946 February
b. 2, f. 49	O'Connell, Richard	1941-1942
b. 2, f. 50	<a href="#">Ortiz de Montellano, B.</a>	1941-1945
b. 2, f. 51	Pan American Union	1942
b. 2, f. 52	Pedroso, Regina	1941-1943
b. 2, f. 53	Peralta, Alejandro	1944 July 10
	Poore, Dudley See: United States. Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Box 2, folders 63-69	
b. 2, f. 54	<a href="#">Pound, Ezra</a>	1931-1949
b. 2, f. 55	Reyes, Alfonso	1943 April 14
b. 2, f. 56	Rokha, Pablo de	1942-1943
b. 2, f. 57	Romero James, Concha	1942
b. 2, f. 58	Salazar Mallén, Rubén	1946 March 21
b. 2, f. 59	Sánchez Quell, Hipólito	1943 May 28
b. 2, f. 60	South African Broadcasting Corporation	1948 June 9
b. 2, f. 61	<a href="#">Stein, Gertrude</a>	1935 February 2
b. 2, f. 62	Toklas, Alice B.	1935 [August 1?]
b. 2, f. 63-69	United States. Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs Includes third-party correspondence	1941-1946, undated
b. 2, f. 70	Valle, Rafael Heliodoro	1943-1944
b. 2, f. 71	Vásquez, Emilio	1943
b. 2, f. 72	Vaval, Duraciné	1943 May 5

b. 3, f. 73-76	Walsh, Donald Devenish	1941-1946, undated
b. 3, f. 77	Westphalen, [Emilio Adolfo?]	1941
b. 3, f. 78	Wicker, C. V. (Cecil Vivian)	1941
b. 3, f. 79	Yale University. Library	1968
b. 3, f. 80	General correspondence Includes carbons of outgoing correspondence to José Antonio Dávila, Pablo Neruda, Jacques Roumain, and others	1941-1947, undated



**Series II: Writings, 1935-1967***3.13 linear feet (8 boxes)*

Writings consist chiefly of material relating to the first American edition of *An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry* (New Directions, 1942). Fitts served as editor for Spanish poetry in the bilingual anthology, selecting material and translators, and supervising and editing translations. Materials include typescript copies of poems, drafts of translations, many of which are corrected and annotated, proofs, and other materials. Copies of poems and drafts of translations, housed in boxes 4-7, are arranged alphabetically by author.

In addition to the material relating to *An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry*, there are drafts, proofs, and other materials relating to several translations by Fitts. These translations, some done in collaboration with Robert Fitzgerald, include texts by Aristophanes ( *Lysistrata*, *The Frogs*, *The Birds*, and *Ladies' Day*), Euripides ( *The Alcestis*), and Sophocles ( *Antigone* and *Oedipus Rex*).

Arranged alphabetically by title.

<i>An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry</i>		
b. 4, f. 81	Lists of authors	1941
b. 4, f. 82	Research materials	1941
b. 4, f. 83-115	Copies of poems and drafts of translations	[1941-1942]
b. 5, f. 116-147	Copies of poems and drafts of translations	[1941-1942]
b. 6, f. 148-177	Copies of poems and drafts of translations	[1941-1942]
b. 7, f. 178-193	Copies of poems and drafts of translations	[1941-1942]
b. 8, f. 194	Table of contents	1942
b. 8, f. 195-196	Notes, drafts and page proofs for preface	1942
b. 8, f. 197-200	Drafts for Biographical and Bibliographical Notes by H. R. Hays	undated
b. 8, f. 201	Comments on Notes by Muna Lee	undated
b. 8, f. 202	Page proofs for Biographical and Bibliographical Notes by H. R. Hays	undated
b. 8, f. 203	Galley proofs Also stored in: Oversize, Box 12, folders 237-253	[1942?]
b. 8, f. 204-207	Page proofs	undated
b. 9, f. 208-209	Page proofs	undated
b. 9, f. 210	Printed ephemera Also stored in: Oversize, Box 12, folder 254	1942-1943, undated
b. 9, f. 211	Financial records	1946, undated
<i>Alcestis</i>		
b. 10, f. 212-213	<a href="#">Drafts</a>	1935, 1959
<i>Antigone</i>		

## Antigone (continued)

b. 10, f. 214-215	<a href="#">Drafts</a>	1938
b. 10, f. 216	Correspondence	1938
<i>The Birds</i>		
b. 10, f. 217	Setting copy	1957
	Galley proofs Stored in: Oversize, Boxes 13-14, folders 255-256	undated
b. 10, f. 218	Page proofs Also stored in: Oversize, Boxes 15-16, folders 257-258	1957
<i>La Comédie de Maître Mimin</i>		
b. 10, f. 219	Draft	1936 October
"Five Poems" by Rafael Alberti		
b. 10, f. 220	Drafts	1937
<i>The Frogs</i>		
b. 10, f. 221	<a href="#">Draft</a>	1954
<i>Ladies' Day</i>		
b. 10, f. 222-223	Drafts	1958
<i>Lysistrata</i>		
b. 10, f. 224-225	<a href="#">Draft</a>	1957
b. 11, f. 226	Music for <i>Lysistrata</i> by Thomas Eastwood	undated
<i>Oedipus Rex</i>		
b. 11, f. 227-230	<a href="#">Draft</a>	1945
b. 11, f. 231	Galley proof of index and notes	undated
b. 11, f. 232	Script for BBC version	1952
<i>Sixty Poems of Martial</i>		
b. 11, f. 233-234	<a href="#">Drafts</a>	1954, 1967
b. 11, f. 235	Setting typescript	1966
b. 11, f. 236	Page proofs	1967

**Oversize, 1942-1957***5.67 linear feet (5 boxes)*

b. 12, f. 237-253	Galley proofs of <i>An Anthology of Contemporary Latin-American Poetry</i> (In Series II)	[1942?]
b. 12, f. 254	Printed ephemera (In Series II)	1943
b. 13, f. 255	Galley proof of <i>The Birds</i> (In Series II)	1957
b. 14, f. 256	Galley proof of <i>The Birds</i> (In Series II)	1957
b. 15, f. 257	Page proof of <i>The Birds</i> (In Series II)	1957
b. 16, f. 258	Page proof of <i>The Birds</i> (In Series II)	1957

## Restricted Fragile Papers

*0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Boxes 17-18: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 17, f. 259-282 Correspondence (In Series I)

Box 17: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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b. 17, f. 283-334 Writings (In Series II)

Box 17: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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b. 18, f. 335-356 Writings (In Series II)

Box 18: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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## 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

Editors -- United States -- 20th Century --  
Archives  
English literature -- 20th Century --  
Translations from Spanish  
Latin American literature -- 20th Century --  
Translations into English  
Translators

### Names

Aristophanes, 449-  
Carrión, Alejandro  
Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965  
Euripides (Alcestis)  
Fitts, Dudley, 1903-1968  
Fitzgerald, Robert, 1910-1985  
Florit, Eugenio, 1903-1999  
Guillén, Jorge, 1893-1984  
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967  
Izaguirre, Carlos  
Lara, Jesús, 1898-1980  
MacLeish, Archibald, 1892-1982  
Mann, Thomas, 1875-1955  
Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset),  
1874-1965  
Méndez Dorich, Rafael  
Mizener, Arthur  
Pound, Ezra, 1885-1972  
Rokha, Pablo de, 1894-1968  
Sophocles, 495-  
Stein, Gertrude, 1874-1946

### Corporate Bodies

New Directions Publishing  
United States. Office of the Coordinator of  
Inter-American Affairs

### Contributors

Fitts, Dudley, 1903-1968  
Fitzgerald, Robert, 1910-1985