

# Guide to the Jean Starr Untermeyer Papers

YCAL MSS 52



by Beinecke staff

March 1991

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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:** YCAL MSS 52

**CREATOR:** Untermeyer, Jean Starr, 1886-1970

**TITLE:** Jean Starr Untermeyer papers

**DATES:** 1924-1970 (inclusive)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.39 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Jean Starr Untermeyer Papers contain correspondence, photographs, book reviews, obituaries, poems, offprints, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous papers.

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

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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.unter>.

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

Gift and bequest of Jean Starr Untermeyer. See Description of the Papers for more information.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Jean Starr Untermeyer 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 or assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Jean Starr Untermeyer Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

In June 2014, material from former call number Za Untermeyer was added to the papers. The material spans boxes 2 and 3.

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## JEAN STARR UNTERMAYER, 1886-1970

Jean Starr Untermeyer, poet and former wife of the poet Louis Untermeyer, was born in 1886 in Zanesville, Ohio, to Abram E. and Johanna S. Starr. She attended Columbia University but broke off her studies there in 1907 to marry Louis Untermeyer. Later she envisioned a career as a singer of lieder, debuting in Vienna in 1924, but eventually discontinued that pursuit.

Upon discovering that she had been writing poems secretly for years, her husband encouraged her and submitted her works to magazines. *Growing Pains*, her first volume of poetry, was published by B. W. Huesch in 1918. In 1925, the Untermeyers were divorced. They later remarried but were again divorced in 1951. Their only son Richard died while a sophomore at Yale University in 1927.

The following year Untermeyer began work as a translator. Her major effort in this genre was Hermann Broch's *The Death of Virgil* (1945). She and Broch met at Yaddo in 1939 and remained intimate friends until Broch's death in 1951.

Untermeyer wrote a number of book reviews for *The Saturday Review*, *The New York Times*, and other publications. She taught at writers's conferences at Olivet College in Michigan in the 1930s and lectured at The New School for Social Research from 1948 to 1951. Her major poetry collections include *Dreams Out of Darkness* (1921), *Steep Ascent* (1927), *The Winged Child* (1936), and *Love and Need* (1940). *Private Collections*, her autobiography, was published in 1965.

Jean Starr Untermeyer died in New York City in July 1970.

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## Scope and Contents

The Jean Starr Untermeyer Papers contain correspondence, photographs, book reviews, obituaries, poems, offprints, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous papers. The materials span the years 1924 to 1970, with the bulk falling between 1940 and 1965. The collection consists of papers inserted in the books of Jean Starr Untermeyer's personal library. She gave and bequeathed her library to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 1969 and 1971, respectively, in honor of her son who died at Yale University in 1927. She donated her personal papers to the library of the State University of New York at Buffalo.

The first section of the papers contains [correspondence](#) from others to Jean Starr Untermeyer. Much of this consists of letters and cards from aspiring poets, accompanying the gift of a recently published volume of poetry, such as those from Gladys Greene and Polly Hanson. There is also correspondence from publishers who have sent complimentary copies of books or express thanks for permission to reprint material, such as New Orlando Publications and Crown Publishers. Some letters seek advice, while others

show appreciation for praise and encouragement, such as those from Max and Fanny Berman, Sue Abbott Boyd, and Hazel Hutchinson. A few simply contain greetings and news from friends, such as Alys Bentley, Bryher, Connie Carrier, Michel Farano, Nandor Fodor, Djane Hearst, Eric Mendelsohn, and Edith Sitwell. Folder 25 contains letters from the poet and critic Joel Keith. Letters from *The Saturday Review* and Simon and Schuster concern business matters.

The second section, [Photographs](#), includes pictures of Hermann Broch, Michel Farano, Allen Tate, and Jean Starr Untermeyer, along with photographs of her childhood home in Zanesville, Ohio.

The third section, [Miscellaneous Papers](#), includes book reviews of Bryher's *The Player's Boy* and Edith Sitwell's autobiography *Taken Care Of*, obituaries of Nandor Fodor, a controversial psychoanalyst, and Erich Kahler, cultural historian and close friend of Hermann Broch, along with offprints of articles by Lancelot Law Whyte, and poems translated by Untermeyer. Folder 48 contains an epistolary biography of Carl Heinrich Hertz, a German officer in World War I, who was killed in 1918.

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence, 1940-59

b. 1, f. 1	Ackland, Valentine	1940-59
b. 1, f. 2	Allen & Co. (J. A. Allen & Co.)	1952 Jul 19
b. 1, f. 3	Atkins, Russell	n.d.
b. 1, f. 4	Bentley, Alys	n.d.
b. 1, f. 5	Berman, Max and Fanny	1939-50
b. 1, f. 6	Boyd, Sue Abbott	1962
b. 1, f. 7	Broch, Annemarie Meier-Graefe ("Buch")	1951 Jul 26
b. 1, f. 8	Bryher	1945-51
b. 1, f. 9	Carrier, Constance ("Connie")	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10	Cook, William	1957 Apr 26
b. 1, f. 11	Crown Publishers, Inc.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	Farano, Michel Batta	1943-59, n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	Fodor, Nandor	1964
b. 1, f. 14	Folsom, Franklin	1938 Apr 15
b. 1, f. 15	Garrigue, Jean	1961 Jun 28
b. 1, f. 16	Glass, Ada M.	1965 May 4
b. 1, f. 17	Greene, Gladys	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	Hanson, Pauline ("Polly")	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	Hearst, Djane	1947-50
b. 1, f. 20	Herring, Robert	1935 Aug 13
b. 1, f. 21	Hurd, Pearl S.	1967 Feb 5
b. 1, f. 22	Hutchinson, Hazel Collister	1950
b. 1, f. 23	Jiménez, Juan Ramón	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	Kahler, Antoinette	1945 May 13
b. 1, f. 25	Keith, Joel	1950-53, n.d.
	Loveman, Amy	
	<a href="#">See: <i>The Saturday Review</i>, Box 1, folder 33</a>	
b. 1, f. 26	Marx, Anne	n.d.

b. 1, f. 27	Mendelsohn, Eric	1945
b. 1, f. 28	Murray, Pauli	1962 Oct 13
b. 1, f. 29	New Orlando Publications	1958
b. 1, f. 30	Rosenfeld, Paul L.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 31	Roth, Julie	n.d.
b. 1, f. 32	Sachs, Charlotte	1948 Apr 11
b. 1, f. 33	<i>The Saturday Review</i>	1951 Nov 29
b. 1, f. 34	Simon and Schuster, Inc. (concerning Hermann Borchardt)	1943
b. 1, f. 35	Sitwell, Edith	1950-51
b. 1, f. 36	Tas, Helen Teschner	n.d.
	Vrbovska, Anca <a href="#">See: New Orlando Publications, Box 1, folder 29</a>	
b. 1, f. 37	Warner, Sylvia Townsend	n.d.
b. 1, f. 38	Unidentified	1927-65, n.d.
b. 2, f. 61-63	Correspondence removed from Untermeyer's books. Correspondents include Ann Adams, Hermann Broch, Toni Cassirer, and Antoinette Kahler.	1923-1969, n.d.

## Photographs

### PEOPLE

b. 1, f. 39	Broch, Hermann	n.d.
b. 1, f. 40	[Farano ?], Michel	n.d.
b. 1, f. 41	Tate, Allen	n.d.
b. 1, f. 42	<a href="#">Untermeyer, Jean Starr</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 43	Unidentified	n.d.

### BUILDINGS

b. 1, f. 44	Untermeyer, Jean Starr: childhood home, Zanesville, Ohio	1965 Jun
b. 1, f. 45	Unidentified church	n.d.
b. 1, f. 46	Unidentified house	n.d.

### OBJECTS

b. 1, f. 47	Cameo ring	n.d.
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**Miscellaneous Papers, 1924-1970**

b. 2, f. 64	Diary	1934
b. 1, f. 48	<i>Aus den Briefen von Carl Heinrich Hertz</i>	1924
b. 1, f. 49	Bryher, <i>The Player's Boy</i> : book review by Marianne Moore	1953 May 24
	Fodor, Nandor	
b. 1, f. 50	"Analytical Disc Jockey," <i>The New Yorker</i> (article about Fodor)	1949 Dec 10
b. 1, f. 51	Obituary	n.d.
b. 1, f. 52	Hunter College, Associate Alumnae of: Annual Breakfast, program [JSU spoke on "A Parable of Poetry"]	1941 Feb 15
b. 1, f. 53	Kahler, Erich: obituary	1970 Jun 30
b. 1, f. 54	Poems translated by JSU	n.d.
b. 1, f. 55	Sitwell, Edith, <i>Taken Care Of</i> : book review by Alan Pryce-Jones	n.d.
b. 1, f. 56	Urzidil, Johannes: printed poem ("Jahrestag")	1956
	Whyte, Lancelot Law	
b. 1, f. 57	"The Growth of Ideas": offprint	1955
b. 1, f. 58	"Time and the Mind-Body Problem": offprint	1952
b. 1, f. 59	Newspaper article on lecture, "The Development in Man," <i>The Prattler</i>	1966 Apr 29
b. 1, f. 60	Other papers	1953, n.d.
b. 2, f. 65	Inscriptions removed from Untermeyer's books	n.d.
b. 2, f. 65a	Materials removed from cataloged printed items	1943-1945 and undated
b. 3, f. 66-93	Printed material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement of Jean Starr Untermeyer's translation of Hermann Broch's <i>The Death of Virgil</i>.</li> <li>• Advertisement for MacDowell Colony.</li> <li>• Advertisement for Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam with an introduction by Louis Untermeyer.</li> <li>• Akeley, T. Barton. TS.</li> <li>• Demcourier. Autumn 1939. Issue dedicated to Louis Untermeyer.</li> <li>• Farano, Michel. Intaglios.</li> <li>• House of Books catalogue.</li> <li>• A List of the First 774 Books Published for American Armed Forces Overseas.</li> <li>• Menashe, Samuel. <i>There is No Jerusalem But This</i>. Inscribed to Jean Starr Untermeyer.</li> <li>• NY Herald Tribune. TS.</li> <li>• Miscellaneous advertisements (3 folders).</li> <li>• Miscellaneous articles inscribed to Jean Starr Untermeyer.</li> <li>• Miscellaneous newspaper clippings (8 folders).</li> <li>• Miscellaneous postcards.</li> <li>• O'Gorman, Ned. Dust jacket for <i>The Buzzard and the Peacock</i>.</li> <li>• Pearson, Lester B. "Freedom, Security and Brotherhood"</li> <li>• Program for an exhibition of paintings by Pamela Bianco.</li> <li>• Program. Philharmonic Society of New York, 1921-1922.</li> <li>• Program. Prayer of Youth. Inscribed to Jean Starr Untermeyer.</li> <li>• Speyer, Leonora. House of Calvin inscribed to Jean Starr Untermeyer.</li> <li>• Urzidil, Johannes. <i>Uber Das Handwerk</i>. Inscribed to Jean Starr Untermeyer.</li> <li>Laid in: a poem translated by Jean Starr Untermeyer.</li> <li>• Walt Whitman. Pamphlet poetry series.</li> </ul>	

## **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**

Poets, American  
Women poets -- United States

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Photographs

### **Names**

Broch, Annemarie Meier-Graefe  
Broch, Hermann, 1886-1951  
Bryher, 1894-1983  
Farano, Michel Batta  
Fodor, Nandor, 1895-1964  
Hertz, Carl Heinrich, 1893-1918  
Hutchinson, Hazel Collister  
Keith, Joel  
Mendelsohn, Eric  
Sitwell, Edith, 1887-1964  
Untermeyer, Jean Starr, 1886-1970