

# Guide to the John Knowles Papers

YCAL MSS 725



by Beinecke staff

2007-05-21

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
John Knowles (1926-2001) .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
1: March 2002 Acquisition .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	9

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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 725

**CREATOR:** Knowles, John, 1926-2001

**TITLE:** John Knowles papers

**DATES:** circa 1954-2000

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 22.67 linear feet (37 boxes) + 1 art object

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The John Knowles Papers document the career and personal life of American author John Knowles between 1954 and 2000. The papers provide insight into Knowles's career as an author and consist of correspondence, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, printed material, personal papers, audiovisual media, and other papers. The papers also include a portrait (pencil on paper) of Knowles by Don Bachardy. There is some material relating to Knowles's friendships with Truman Capote and Thornton Wilder. Various drafts of his writings, including *A Separate Peace* and its companion novel *Peace Breaks Out*, reflect Knowles's creative life.

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

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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.knowles>.

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  
        item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John Knowles (Yale 1949), 2002.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 18 (audiocassettes, CD): Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The John Knowles 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

John Knowles Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

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

The finding aid for this collection is compiled from individual preliminary lists for each acquisition that were created at or around the time of receipt by the library. The preliminary lists were migrated to comply with current archival descriptive standards and merged into a single file in 2007-2008. As part of the migration, modifications were made to the formatting of individual lists; however, the content of the lists was neither modified nor verified.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part 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 collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat MSS 396.

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

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## John Knowles (1926-2001)

John Knowles was an American novelist best known for his first novel *A Separate Peace*.

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## Scope and Contents

The John Knowles Papers document the career and personal life of American author John Knowles between 1954 and 2000. The papers provide insight into Knowles's career as an author and consist of correspondence, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, printed material, personal papers, audio-visual media, and other papers. The papers also include a portrait of Knowles by Don Bachardy. There is some material relating to Knowles's friendship with Truman Capote and Thornton Wilder. Various drafts of his writings, including *A Separate Peace* and its companion novel *Peace Breaks Out*, reflect Knowles's creative process.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into one grouping: I. March 2002 Acquisition.

## Collection Contents

### 1: March 2002 Acquisition

22.59 linear feet (36 boxes) + 1 art object

Contains correspondence, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, printed material, personal papers, audio-visual material, a framed portrait, and other papers by and relating to John Knowles.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 396

Box 18 (audiocassettes): Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 1	Notebooks	
b. 2	Notebooks	
b. 3	Notebooks	
b. 4	Notebooks	
b. 5	Correspondence	
b. 6	Correspondence	
b. 7	<i>The Private Life of Axie Reed</i> : typescripts	circa 1986
b. 8	<i>The Private Life of Axie Reed</i> : typescripts	circa 1986
b. 9	<i>A Vein of Riches</i> : typescripts and drafts	circa 1978
b. 10	<i>A Vein of Riches</i> : typescripts and drafts	circa 1978
b. 11	<i>A Separate Peace</i> , adaptations; <i>A Stolen Past</i> ; <i>Peace Breaks Out</i>	1960s-1990s
b. 12	Miscellaneous writings Learning and Teaching; Rapture of the Deep; A Special Time; a Special School; Intro to Collection of Short Stories; Worthy of the Sea; Hawthorne, an Introduction; The Interruption; The Yale Mystique; Egypt on the Brink of the Six Day War; and writings of others	circa 1960
b. 13	<i>Spreading Fires</i> and other writings Includes diaries and lecture notes; essays, stories, and fragments of various works	1970s-1980s
b. 14	Miscellaneous writings and papers Diaries; reviews of <i>Peace Breaks Out</i> ; essays and reviews by Knowles	1970-1980s
b. 15	<i>Spreading Fires</i> ; <i>Other Seas, Other Ships</i> Includes miscellaneous other papers	
b. 16	<i>A Stolen Past</i> Includes clipping file "The Rockefeller Swindle"	1974-1983
b. 17	Yale University Class of 1959, <i>The American Century: Our Half</i> (50th Reunion, 1999). 1999 Includes essay by Knowles: "Writing at Yale...And Beyond."	

b. 18	<p>Audiovisual Materials of <i>A Separate Peace</i> (16 audiocassettes, 1 CD)</p> <p>Fifteen of the audiocassettes are commercial. They have not been digitized.</p> <p>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>	
b. 18, ■■■■ 39002104613048	<p><i>A Separate Peace</i>: Demo. Rec. 1 Audiocassette 00:25:25 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) <a href="#">[Aviary] ycalmss072539002104613048.u.mp3</a></p> <p>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>	undated
b. 19 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Scrapbooks</a> Stored in oversize	
b. 20 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Scrapbooks</a> Stored in oversize	
b. 21 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks Stored in oversize	
b. 22 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks Stored in oversize	
b. 23 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks Stored in oversize	
b. 24 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks Stored in oversize	
b. 25 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks Stored in oversize	
b. 26	<p><i>Spreading Fires</i> (a novel)</p> <p>Includes 6 notebooks containing notes and drafts; First draft, typescript, revised; Second draft, revised; Third draft, revised; Photocopy, with revisions; draft of letter to publisher from author, 1973 Oct 19</p>	1973-1974
b. 27	<i>Descent to Proselito</i> : 3 notebooks; typescript	circa 1955
b. 27	<i>Indian Summer</i> : 5 notebooks; typescript; revised pages	circa 1966
b. 28	<i>Indian Summer</i> : proofs	circa 1966
b. 29	<i>Double Vision: Thoughts from Abroad</i> : typescript; 18 notebooks	circa 1964
b. 30	<i>Double Vision: Thoughts from Abroad</i> : research notes, clippings and travel literature	circa 1964
b. 30	Miscellaneous writings	
b. 30	<i>The Paragon</i> : 7 notebooks; typescript; photocopy	circa 1971
b. 31	<i>The Paragon</i> : typescript	circa 1971
b. 31	<i>Phineas</i> : Six Stories: typescript; original and carbon; 4 proofs; related notes and other writings	

b. 32	<i>Morning in Antibes</i> : Ms.; typescript; 4 notebooks; French newspapers	circa 1962
b. 33	<i>A Separate Peace</i> : typescript	circa 1960
b. 33	Too Far to Walk (dramatic treatment): Notebook containing ms. and notes; Typescript (notes)	
b. 33	Page proof of John Hersey novel	
b. 33	5 engagement calendars	
b. 33	16 notebooks	
b. 33	Address book	
b. 34	Correspondence	
b. 34	Articles Short articles; Idea memos; An Anglo-American Dream; Book reviews; The Count in his Castle; Forquet; France; The Great City Comes to Virginia; Jack Knowles vacation; The Heart of France; How to be Sick Abroad; The Incomplete Skin Diver; The Last Monks of Byzantium; Natural America; News; Not Taking Things So Hard; Radicofani; Sweden; Thought for the Milestone Year; Wedding in Old France; The Young Writer's Enemies and Friends	
b. 34	Short stories The Cure; Delay en Route; Leaving Home; Night Music; Summer Street; Traffic Control on the Grand Canal	
b. 35	Articles and short stories The Reading of the Will; Publishers Weekly: press article; Paradises I have Known; Ohlik, Giza: School at the Frontier, review; The Heart of France; The Outer Islands of Hawaii; France Fumbles with the American Way; Crossing the Snow Bridge; The Anchor Man; Newsday columns; A Winter in Egypt and The Heart of France	
b. 35	Clippings	
b. 35	Periodicals	
b. 35	Packard, George V.: That Grail Song, Sam, One More Time, uncorrected proof	
b. 35	Printed material	
b. 35	Notebook	
b. 35	Passport	
b. 36	Clippings and periodicals Stored in oversize	
b. 37 (ART)	Framed portrait of John Knowles by Don Bachardy	
b. 38 (Oversize)	"John Knowles - on Contemporary Fiction", Princeton University, event poster	1968 April 3



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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.

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works)  
Sound recordings

### **Names**

Bachardy, Don, 1934-  
Capote, Truman, 1924-1984  
Knowles, John, 1926-2001  
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975