

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Michael Alexander Papers

YCAL MSS 1098



by Monika Lehman

October 2016

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

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1098

**CREATOR:** Alexander, Michael, 1941-

**TITLE:** Michael Alexander papers

**DATES:** 1959-2013

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.52 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers document the personal and professional life of Michael Alexander, professor, translator, and editor, who focused on Ezra Pound's works and his influence during his career. The collection includes submission drafts for Alexander's book, *The Sons of Ezra: British Poets and Ezra Pound*; correspondence with writers and colleagues including Ezra Pound, Peter Whigham, and Peter Russell; and publication information for *The Sons of Ezra*. Also included are papers pertaining to Alexander's role as associate editor at *Agenda*; Alexander's research files on Pound and his influences; typescripts of Peter Whigham's poetry; and an outline for an edition of Catullus's "LXIV."

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

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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.alexander>.

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

Purchased from Joan Winterkorn on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and the Ezra Pound Archive Fund, 2016.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Michael Alexander 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

Michael Alexander Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Michael Alexander (1941-), English professor at St. Andrew's College and editor. Alexander was the co-editor of *The Sons of Ezra: British Poets and Ezra Pound* (Amsterdam, Neth.: Rodopi, 1995) with James McGonigal. Alexander was also an associate editor at *Agenda*, a literary magazine founded by Ezra Pound and William Cookson in 1959.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers document the personal and professional life of Michael Alexander, who focused on Ezra Pound's works and influence on other writers during his career. The collection includes submission drafts for Alexander's book, *The Sons of Ezra: British Poets and Ezra Pound*; correspondence with writers and other colleagues including Ezra Pound, Peter Whigham, and Peter Russell; and publication information for *The Sons of Ezra*. Also included are papers pertaining to Alexander's role as associate editor at *Agenda*; Alexander's research files on Pound and his influences; typescripts of Peter Whigham's poetry; and an outline for an English translation by Whigham of Catullus's *Epithalamium pelei et Thetidos*.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: Series I. Correspondence, 1959-2013. Series II. Editorial Work, 1985-2003. Series III. Ezra Pound Related Materials, 1963-2013. Series IV. Books, 1957-1990.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1959–2013

*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

English

Series I includes correspondence between Alexander and his colleagues, friends, and relatives.

Series I is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The folder contents are in chronological order.

|             |                             |                |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| b. 1, f. 1  | A general<br>English        | 1971–1972      |
| b. 1, f. 2  | B general<br>English        | 1983–1997      |
| b. 1, f. 3  | C general<br>English        | 1962–2005      |
| b. 1, f. 4  | Cookson, William<br>English | 1978–1991      |
| b. 1, f. 5  | D general<br>English        | 1966–1996      |
| b. 1, f. 6  | E general<br>English        | 1991           |
| b. 1, f. 7  | F general<br>English        | 1973–1988      |
| b. 1, f. 8  | G general<br>English        | bulk 1969–2004 |
| b. 1, f. 9  | H general<br>English        | 1964–2011      |
| b. 1, f. 10 | I–J general<br>English      | 1997–2000      |
| b. 2, f. 11 | K–L general                 | 1963–1991      |
| b. 2, f. 12 | M general<br>English        | 1963–1995      |
| b. 2, f. 13 | N–O general<br>English      | 1963–2005      |
| b. 2, f. 14 | Pound, Dorothy<br>English   | 1962–1966      |
| b. 2, f. 15 | Pound, Ezra<br>English      | 1966           |
| b. 2, f. 16 | P general<br>English        |                |

|             |                           |           |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| b. 2, f. 17 | Rudge, Olga<br>English    | 1966      |
| b. 2, f. 18 | R general<br>English      | 1965–2001 |
| b. 2, f. 19 | S general<br>English      | 1967–1998 |
| b. 2, f. 20 | T general<br>English      | 1966–1998 |
| b. 2, f. 21 | W general<br>English      | 1976–1999 |
| b. 2, f. 22 | Whigham, Peter<br>English | 1959–2013 |
| b. 2, f. 23 | X-Z general<br>English    | 1966–1981 |

**Series II: Editorial Work, 1985–2003***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

English

Series II contains major works edited by Alexander: Agenda magazine and "The Sons of Ezra: British Poets and Ezra Pound."

Series II is arranged in the way in which it was received by the library.

|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| b. 2, f. 24 | Agenda #1<br>English                   | 1991–1993 |
| b. 3, f. 25 | Agenda #1<br>English                   | 1985–1991 |
| b. 3, f. 26 | Agenda #2<br>English                   | 1985–2003 |
| b. 3, f. 27 | Agenda #2<br>English                   | 1993–1996 |
| b. 3, f. 28 | Sons of Ezra #1<br>English             | 1993–1994 |
| b. 3, f. 29 | Sons of Ezra #1<br>English             | 1993      |
| b. 4, f. 30 | Sons of Ezra #1<br>English             | 1993–1994 |
| b. 4, f. 31 | Sons of Ezra #2<br>English             | 1991–1995 |
| b. 4, f. 32 | Sons of Ezra #3<br>English             | 1993–2000 |
| b. 4, f. 33 | Sons of Ezra #2<br>English             | 1990–1995 |
| b. 4, f. 34 | Sons of Ezra #2                        | undated   |
| b. 4, f. 35 | Sons of Ezra #3<br>English             | 1993–1994 |
| b. 5, f. 36 | Sons of Ezra #3, 1991- 1993<br>English | 1991–1993 |

**Series III: Ezra Pound Related Materials , 1963–2013***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

English

Series III contains materials about Ezra Pound and Pound scholarship. It also includes information from a conference on Pound and drafts of Peter Whigham's poetry. The conference, the Ezra Pound International Conference, was hosted by the Institute of English Studies and held at the University of London, Senate House in July, 2011.

Series III is arranged in groups by subject.

|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| b. 5, f. 37 | Miscellaneous Ezra Pound materials<br>English                                    | 1963–1989 |
| b. 5, f. 38 | Miscellaneous Ezra Pound materials<br>English                                    | 1980–1995 |
| b. 5, f. 39 | Ezra Pound Conference, Whigham correspondence, and Whigham manuscript<br>English | 1964–2013 |



**Series IV: Books , 1957–1990***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

English

This series contains books owned by Michael Alexander. Many of the books are collections of poetry written or edited by his colleagues Peter Russell and Peter Whigham. Some books have dedications; The Worth Record, Summer Term 1962 is annotated.

Series IV is arranged by title.

|      |   |         |
|------|---|---------|
| b. 6 | The European<br>English   | 1957    |
| b. 6 | Forgotten Kingdom by Peter Goullart<br>English                                | 1957    |
| b. 6 | The Worth Record<br>English   | 1960    |
| b. 6 | The Worth Record<br>English   | 1961    |
| b. 6 | The Worth Record<br>English   | 1961    |
| b. 6 | The Worth Record<br>English   | 1962    |
| b. 6 | The Worth Record<br>English   | 1962    |
| b. 6 | The Worth Record<br>English   | 1962    |
| b. 6 | Arion edited by Thomas Gould<br>English                                       | 1965    |
| b. 6 | The Blue Winged Bee by Peter Whigham<br>English                               | 1969    |
| b. 6 | The Poems of Meleager edited by Peter Jay<br>English                          | 1975    |
| b. 6 | Things Common, Properly: Selected Poems 1942-1980 by Peter Whigham<br>English | 1984    |
| b. 6 | Fragments of a Life by Moelwyn Merchant<br>English                            | 1990    |
| b. 6 | Teorie E Altre Liriche<br>Italian   | undated |
| b. 6 | The Marriage Rite by Peter Whigham and Denis Groacher<br>English              | undated |

## **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.

### **Preferred Titles**

*Agenda (London, England)*

### **Subjects**

Editors -- Great Britain

Poets, English -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Editors -- United Kingdom -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Alexander, Michael, 1941-

Cookson, William, 1939-

Pound, Ezra, 1885-1972

Russell, Peter, 1921-2003

Whigham, Peter

### **Corporate Body**

University of St. Andrews. Department of  
English

### **Acquired From**

Joan Winterkorn, bookseller