

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the George Barker Collection

GEN MSS 858



by Beinecke Staff

2014

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 858

**CREATOR:** Barker, George, 1913-1991

**TITLE:** George Barker collection

**DATES:** 1933-1967

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of poetry and prose by George Barker in autograph, typescript, and printed forms, including poems with autograph revisions by T. S. Eliot. Also present are a small group of letters to Barker from editors and colleagues including Brian Higgins and Oscar Williams, six line drawings by Barker, and a collection of ten typescripts of poems by William Bell.

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

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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.barker>.

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 C. A. Stonehill on the E. J. and F. W. Beinecke Rare Book Endowment Fund, 1967.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The George Barker Collection 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

George Barker Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

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.

The contents of this finding aid are based on the collection inventory provided by the dealer.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat MS Vault 55.

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## George Barker (1913-1991)

George Granville Barker (1913-1991), English poet and author.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of poetry and prose by George Barker in manuscript, typescript, and printed forms, including poems with autograph revisions by T. S. Eliot. Also present are a small group of letters to Barker from editors and colleagues including Brian Higgins and Oscar Williams, six line drawings by Barker, and a collection of ten poems by William Bell.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Writings, 1933-1967. II. Correspondence, 1934-1965. Series III. Other Papers, undated.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, 1933-1967

26 Folders

Series I is organized into four subseries: Poetry, Prose, Proof Sheets, and Printed Material.

#### Poetry

b. 1, f. 1	"A View from the Blind" Autograph manuscript pages of poems used in or gathered for the book.	circa 1962
b. 1, f. 2	Fourteen poems Autograph and typescript drafts of poems.	circa 1960-1966
b. 1, f. 3	"The New Anadyomene" Autograph manuscript, revised, of a twenty-four line poem, accompanied by a typed letter, signed, from Derek Verschoyle accepting the poem for publication.	1935
b. 1, f. 4	Draft of poem Autograph draft beginning "Ichor-pressing my hands whence flow / Liquids of the spirit's fruit" with pencilled note by Barker: "Poem written about 1937."	circa 1937
b. 1, f. 5	Poems published in <i>News of the World</i> Typescripts (11 p.) of three poems: "To My Son," "News of the World," and "Turn on Your Side and Bear the Day to Me," with revisions by T. S. Eliot.	circa 1950
b. 1, f. 6	"The Seraphina" Mimeographed typescript (63 p.) for internal use at British Broadcasting Company, with Barker's pencilled autograph revisions; also an additional two pages of brief autograph notes concerning the play.	circa 1957
b. 1, f. 7-8	"The Golden Epodes" Two octavo notebooks containing 235 pages of Barker's autograph drafts of lyrics; also present are two pencil drawings and 7 pages of typescript drafts.	circa 1964-1966
b. 1, f. 9	"The Golden Epodes" Corrected typescript with autograph revisions, variant autograph drafts of 37 lyrics, and a typed title page.	1966
b. 1, f. 10	"Elegiacs for T. S. Eliot" Autograph draft (7 p.)	circa 1963
b. 1, f. 11	"The Sisteron" Autograph manuscript (70 p.) in a notebook; also present are notes for lectures, teaching schedules, and "Notes on Michelangelo."	1964-1965
b. 1, f. 12	Four poems Autograph and typescript versions of the poems "Lake Erie," "Pan Am Flight 462 Jan. 14 1966," "Inscription for the Gazebo at York University," and "Dupe Eatherly."	circa 1966

#### Prose

## Prose (continued)

b. 1, f. 13	"Notes on the Function of Metaphor" Autograph manuscript (7 p.)	undated
b. 1, f. 14	"Ansi toute poesie est elegie" Carbon typescript of a translation into French by David Gascoyne of an essay by Barker; signed by Barker and Gascoyne, with a brief explanatory typescript note by Barker. The original essay was titled "Therefore All Poems are Elegies."  Accompanied by pages 9-12 only of a typescript radio talk (in French) possibly broadcast in the BBC Overseas Service, discussing Barker's "The View from a Blind I." Approximately 1-1/2 pages are devoted to a critical assessment of the book, the remainder to a French translation of the poem "I Walked by a Window in Ireland," followed by the original English text. At the foot of page 12 is a pencilled note by Barker to "David" asking for a translation.	circa 1945
b. 1, f. 15	"Deaner Notes May MCMLX" Typescript notes dated May 27 and June 1 (1965?), apparently a fragment of a diary, together with another 4 pages of typed notes of an autobiographical nature.	1959, circa 1965
b. 1, f. 16	Answers to a questionnaire on Dante, recorded for a BBC program Typescript, signed, with autograph revisions; accompanied by a typed note from BBC Drama Department returning the script.	1965
b. 1, f. 17	Introduction to Brian Higgins' <i>The Northern Fiddler</i> Two autograph versions, one draft in pencil, one in red ink; the latter is the closest to the published text.	1966
b. 1, f. 18	"A Little Panegyric for the 60th Birthday of Wystan Auden" Autograph draft (5 pages) and corrected typescript, signed and dated "York 1967," of material for the third BBC program.	1967
b. 1, f. 19	"The Memoirs of Lord B: notes for autobiography" Autograph manuscript (31 pages) and corrected typescript (1 page). Together with 5 pages of photocopied sheets of "Speculative Synopsis of the Autobiography of Lord B" inscribed to Seymour Lawrence and signed by Barker, with one original typescript page.	undated
Proof Sheets		
b. 2, f. 20	<i>Alanna Autumnal</i> Galley proofs with autograph corrections, annotations, and additions, with an autograph letter, signed, from his editor at Wishart & Company.	1933, 1934
b. 2, f. 21	<i>Dreams of a Summer Night</i> Advance proof sheets with autograph revisions.	1965

## Printed Material

## Printed Material (continued)

b. 2, f. 22	<i>George Barker, Martin Bell, Charles Causley</i> , Penguin Modern Poets 3 (Harmondsworth, England: Penguin Books Ltd., 1962) First edition containing twenty-three poems by Barker; signed by Barker on the title page, inscribed by him to "Rose" on page 11, and with autograph notes on each poem on their pages.	1962
b. 2, f. 23	<i>A View from a Blind</i> (London: Faber and Faber, 1962) First edition, signed by Barker; contains autograph notes, corrections, dates, and other observances throughout.	1962
b. 2, f. 24	<i>Moments of Truth</i> (London: Keepsake Press, 1965) First edition; Barker is represented by "Autobiographical [sic] Footnote" which has an autograph correction and an inscription: "G.B. to L.C.R. 1965."	1965
b. 2, f. 25	<i>Poetry</i> , volume 105, number 5 (February 1965) Contains Barker's "Formal Elegy on the Death of Oscar Williams" with autographs corrections and annotations.	1965
b. 2, f. 26	Poems Five leaves cut from periodicals, each bearing a poem by Barker, and each with autograph explanatory notes.	1953-1965, undated

**Series II: Correspondence, 1934-1965***9 Folders*

Series II is organized into two subseries: Letters from Barker, Letters to Barker.

## Letters from Barker

b. 2, f. 27	Autograph draft to David Higham	undated
b. 2, f. 28	Three letters, autograph and typed letters, signed, to his sister "Otto" (Mrs. John Frye)	1962
b. 2, f. 29	Typed letter, signed, to William Butler Yeats	1937 Apr 9
b. 2, f. 30	Typed draft letter to Secretary of the Overseas Manpower Committee	1945 July 13

## Letters to Barker

b. 2, f. 31	Faber Faber	1937-1957
b. 2, f. 32	Higgins, Brian	1962, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Pearn, Pollinger Higham, Ltd.	1949, 1951
b. 2, f. 34	Williams, Oscar	1956-1965
b. 2, f. 35	General correspondence	1934-1958



**Series III: Other Papers, undated***2 Folders*

The series contains one folder of line drawings by Barker and one folder of poems by William Bell.

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b. 2, f. 36	Drawings Six line drawings in graphite and ink on paper and cardboard.	undated
b. 2, f. 37	Poems Typescripts of unsigned poems bearing a title page "Ten Anonymous Elegies." They are accompanied by a typed note, signed, by Barker: "These poems, which were sent anonymously to me in 1943, I believe [ <i>sic</i> ] to be the work of the young poet William Bell, who died in 1948. His one published book Mountains beneath the Horizon, was published by Faber & Faber."	undated

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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**

Authors, English -- 20th Century  
English literature -- 20th Century  
Poets, English -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works) -- Great Britain -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Authors -- Great Britain -- 20th Century  
Poets -- Great Britain -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973  
Barker, George, 1913-1991  
Bell, William, 1924-1948  
Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965  
Gascoyne, David, 1916-2001  
Higgins, Brian, 1930-1965  
Williams, Oscar, 1900-1964