

# Guide to the Earl E. Fisk Papers

GEN MSS 342



by Beinecke Staff

July 1996

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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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 342

**CREATOR:** Fisk, Earl E. (Earl Ellsworth), 1892-1954

**TITLE:** Earl E. Fisk papers

**DATES:** 1911-1953

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes) + 1 portfolio

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Collection includes correspondence, writings, and other materials by and relating to book collector, anthologist, writer, and insurance agent Earl E. Fisk. Correspondence contains letters to and from writers, publishers and others, including Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., Warren Beck, John Chipman Farrar, Farrar, Straus and Company, Harry Hansen, Robert Cortes Holliday, H. L. Mencken, A. Edward Newton, Carl Van Vechten, and Eudora Welty. Many of the letters concern Haldane Macfall. Writings include typescripts of articles by Fisk and others, and page proofs for Fisk's "Lovely Laughter: An Anthology of Seventeenth Century Love Lyrics". Other materials include specimen pages, illustrations, greeting cards and bookplates by Fisk, Claud Lovat Fraser, and others, and a detailed typescript list of Fisk's book collection.

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

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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.fisk>.

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 on the Matthiessen Fund, 1956.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

*Restricted Fragile Papers* in the portfolio may only be consulted with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Earl E. Fisk Papers are 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

Earl E. Fisk Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. Portions of the correspondence were formerly cataloged in the Yale Collection of American Literature.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Earl E. Fisk, born in Green Bay, Wisconsin in 1892, was an insurance agent, book collector, and casual literary agent to writers who were also his friends. Fisk entered the insurance business after graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 1913, and became chairman of the National Association of Insurance Agents. At the same time, he continued collecting first editions of books by contemporary authors, including Max Beerbohm, A. E. Coppard, Claud Lovat Fraser, Holbrook Jackson, and A. Edward Newton. Although Fisk lived in Wisconsin for all of his adult life, he maintained a connection to the British literary scene. He actively promoted the work of authors whom he enjoyed, and he helped to place books by Haldane Macfall and Holbrook Jackson with American publishers. He also wrote many articles for *The Bookman*, and edited several books, including two collections of Elizabethan poetry and an edition of William Cobbett's *Advice to Young Men and to Young Women*. Fisk died in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1954.

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## Scope and Contents

The Earl E. Fisk Papers contain letters, writings, printed material and other papers by and related to book collector, anthologist, writer, and insurance agent Earl E. Fisk. The papers have been arranged into three series. [Series I, Correspondence](#), consists primarily of letters from individuals, publishing companies and others to Fisk, as well as some of Fisk's replies. Many letters contain illustrated cards and bookplates. [Series II, Writings](#), contains proofs and typescripts of articles and other writings by Fisk and others. [Series III, Other Papers](#), contains Fisk's research files, consisting of lists, notes and newspaper clippings about book collecting and his own publications; printed materials, containing specimen pages, printed illustrations, and

articles by various individuals; and other materials, consisting of a typescript list of Fisk's book collection, and lists of people to whom he sent Christmas cards. [\*Restricted Fragile Papers\*](#) contains materials from Series III.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1911-1953

0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	Abramson, Ben. 1 TLS and 1 form- letter (with 3 paragraphs typed), Chicago, Ill. Letter of Sept. 8 concerning Ben Hecht	1944
b. 1, f. 2	Adams, James Donald. 1 TLS, New York, N. Y. With carbon copy of Fisk's reply, and clipping of an article by Adams	1947 Jun 12
b. 1, f. 3-5	Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York Concerning Haldane Macfall, A. E. Coppard, Fisk's <i>Lovely Laughter</i> , and a reprint of a book by William Cobbett, edited by Fisk  Includes: carbon typescripts of several replies by Fisk  Includes: Letters from Alfred A. Knopf  Includes: Letter from Blanche W. Knopf	1926-52
b. 1, f. 6	Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Third-party correspondence Includes: carbon of TLS from [Knopf?] to Wilmarth S. Lewis  Includes: copy of TL from Adolf Kroch to Alfred A. Knopf  Includes: carbon copy of a TLS from Alfred A. Knopf to A. E. Coppard	1951
b. 1, f. 7	Babb, James T. TLS, New Haven	1950 May 2
b. 1, f. 8	Baer, Carlyle Solomon. ALS, Washington, D.C. With printed circular from the American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers	1925 Jan 22
b. 1, f. 9-10	Beck, Warren. 3 ALS, 6 APCS, 1 TLS and 4 TPCS, Appleton, Wis. With a TLS from Carmen Beck to Fisk, 24 Oct. 1945	1945-51
b. 1, f. 11	<a href="#">Benington, Wilson. ALS, London</a> With printed Christmas greeting from Eric Partridge Ltd.	1931 Dec 23
b. 1, f. 12	Benthall, Dwinelle. 1 TLS and 1 TL, Hollywood, Cal.	1929, 1930
b. 1, f. 13	Book-of-the-Month Club. 8 TLS, New York, N. Y. Accompanied by carbon typescript of a letter from Fisk to Schermann, 1950 Oct 22; and list of the British and American authors to whom Fisk sent letters requesting opinions on the work of A. E. Coppard  Includes: Letters from Henry Scherman	1950-51
b. 1, f. 14	Boyce, [Clara?]. ALS, Portsmouth, England	1931 Mar 20
b. 1, f. 15	Butcher, Fanny. TLS, Chicago	1944 Jul 27
b. 1, f. 16	Cameron, Mrs. Alan C. Carbon of TLS from Fisk	1950 Jul 24
b. 1, f. 17	Collamore, H. B. TLS, Hartford, Conn.	1948 Jun 24

b. 1, f. 18	Cresset Press. TLS, London	1930 Aug 15
b. 1, f. 19-20	Cunningham, Scott. 12 TLS and 2 ALS, Chicago, Ill. With a TL (copy) from Fisk to Cunningham, enclosing a TL (copy) from T. R. Smith to Fisk, with original envelope, concerning Mr. Cunningham, and a copy of Fisk's reply	1928-29
b. 1, f. 21	Danielson, Henry. 2 TLS, London	1922
b. 1, f. 21A	Drake, James F. 1 TLS, New York, N.Y.	1950 February 15
b. 1, f. 22	Drinkwater, John and Daisy. Printed notice of change of address	n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	E. Mathews (firm). 4 TLS, 1 ALS, and 1 Christmas greeting With a carbon of a TLS from Fisk, 1951 Includes: letters from Percy H. Muir	1931-49, n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	Faber and Faber. 5 TLS, London With copy of a reply from Fisk	1946-49
b. 1, f. 25	Farrar, John Chipman. 10 TLS, New York, N. Y. Many letters concern <i>The Bookman</i> . With an engraved invitation to Farrar's wedding <a href="#">See also: Farrar, Straus and Co., Box 1, folders 26-28</a>	1921-26
b. 1, f. 26-28	Farrar, Straus and Company. 32 TLS and 3 telegrams, New York Accompanied 5 carbon typescripts of replies by Fisk Includes: Letters from John Chipman Farrar Includes: Letters from Roger W. Straus	1946-50
b. 1, f. 29	Fleming, Mary. 1 TLS, New Brunswick, N. J.	1922 Feb 1
b. 1, f. 30-31	Gallatin, A. E. (Albert Eugene). ALS and 4 TLS, New York and Bar Harbor, Maine Accompanied by 2 typescripts (one corrected) of Fisk's review of Gallatin's <i>Sir Max Beerbohm: Bibliographical Notes</i> , Cambridge, Harvard, 1944; two clippings concerning Max Beerbohm, and manuscript notes in Fisk's hand	1944-46
b. 1, f. 32	George, Daniel. 1 TLS, Mill Hill, England	1949 Mar 16
b. 1, f. 33	George H. Doran Company. Carbon of TLS from Fisk	1926 Aug 21
b. 1, f. 34	Gunther, John. 2 TLS, Chicago, Ill., and New York, N. Y.	1923, 1945
b. 1, f. 35	Hadfield, John and Anna. Printed Christmas card With engraving by Reynolds Stone	1951
b. 1, f. 36-38	Hansen, Harry. 16 TLS, Chicago, Ill., and New York, N. Y. With the proof-sheets (2 leaves) for one of his articles	1922-46
b. 1, f. 39	Henson, Mrs. 1 ALS, Mullingar, Ireland	[1929?] Sep 7
b. 1, f. 40	Hergesheimer, Joseph. 3 TLS and 1 ALS, West Chester, Pa. and Stone Harbor, N. J. With 5 unsigned Christmas cards	1924-52

b. 1, f. 41	Hill, Walter M. 1 TLS, Chicago	1923 Mar 20
b. 1, f. 42-43	Holliday, Robert Cortes. 9 ALS and 3 TLS, New York, N. Y., Englewood Cliffs and Sussex Co., N. J. With 2 unsigned Christmas cards. With a TLS from Christopher Kilmer, 6 Jan. 1947, announcing Mr. Holliday's death	1920-47
b. 1, f. 44	Holman, Robert. 2 TLS, Mahanoy City, Pa.	
b. 1, f. 45	Hynes, Frank J. 1 ALS, Springfield, Mass. Concerning Haldane Macfall. With carbon copy of TLS from Fisk	1935 Jun 2
b. 2, f. 46	James F. Drake, Inc. 2 TLS, New York, N. Y. Letter of 1944 concerns Alfred Edward Newton	1924, 1944
b. 2, f. 47	Janvier, Meredith. 2 TLS and one Christmas card, Baltimore	1923-28
b. 2, f. 48	Jonathan Cape Limited. 3 TLS, London	1950
b. 2, f. 49	Kennerley, Mitchell. Carbon of TLS from Fisk	1911 Dec 12
b. 2, f. 50	Kroch's International Bookstore. Form letter concerning Fisk's <i>Persuasions to Joy</i>	n.d.
b. 2, f. 51	Lemperly, Paul. 3 ALS, Lakewood, Ohio With 5 of Mr. Lemperly's bookplates	1929-30
b. 2, f. 52	Little, Brown and Company. 1 TLS, Boston, Mass.	1927 Jul 12
b. 2, f. 53	Littman, Frederic. 2 ALS, London	1931
b. 2, f. 54	Macfall, Haldane. 1 ALS, [n.p.]	n.d.
b. 2, f. 55	Maclaren, Hamish, 1 TLS, Turville, Henley, England	[n.y.] Oct 29
b. 2, f. 56	Markey, Gene. 2 ALS, Evanston, Ill. With an original caricature (signed) drawn for Fisk's Christmas Card, 1923, based on Joseph Hergesheimer's <i>The Presbyterian Child</i> ?, and a clipping about Markey	1922-23
b. 2, f. 57	Matthews, Brander. 1 ALS and 1 ANS, New York, N. Y. and Greenwich, Conn.	1921
b. 2, f. 58	Maule, Harry Edward. TLS, Garden City, N. Y.	1928
b. 2, f. 59	Mencken, H. L. 11 TLS and 1 ANS, New York, N. Y. and Baltimore, Md. With a TPC from Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., regarding Mencken's <i>Prejudices: Second Series</i>	
b. 2, f. 60	Morris, Frank M. 2 TLS, Chicago, Ill.	1921
b. 2, f. 61	Newton, A. Edward. 11 TLS, Philadelphia, Pa. With Fisk's list, dated Sept. 1944, of ephemera printed by Newton	1920-31
b. 2, f. 62	Philip C. Duschnes (firm). 1 TLS, New York	1948 Jan 23
b. 2, f. 63	Preston, Keith. 2 ALS and 1 TLS, Chicago, Ill.	1926-27
b. 2, f. 64	Quiz (Powys Evans). 1 APCS to Capt. R. A. Walker [Georges Derry?], Kensington	[1922?]



b. 2, f. 65	Redman, Ben Ray. 2 ALS, 2 TLS and 1 APCS, New York, N. Y. With a carbon of a TLS from Fisk	1930-47
b. 2, f. 66	Rodgers, Elizabeth (Mrs. Robert A.). 1 ALS, Wilmette, Illinois	1953 Oct 21
b. 2, f. 67	Rota, Bertram. 3 TLS, London	1950
b. 2, f. 68	Sarett, Lew R. TLS, Evanston, Ill.	1925 Mar 5
b. 2, f. 69	Schwartz, Jacob. 3 ALS, London With a printed pamphlet concerning Edgar Allan Poe	1930-31
b. 2, f. 70	Shepard, Morgan. 1 TLS, New York	1911 Dec 12
b. 2, f. 71	Shields, James. 1 TLS, Philadelphia	1922 Sep 25
b. 2, f. 72	Simon and Schuster, Inc. 8 TLS, New York, N. Y. With 2 carbon copies of TLS from Fisk	1927-31
b. 2, f. 73	The Spectator. 1 form letter, London	[1922]
b. 2, f. 74-75	Starrett, Vincent. 7 ALS, 4 TLS and 2 APCS, Chicago, Ill. Partially concerning Haldane Macfall	1924-49
b. 2, f. 76	Stone, Wilbur Macey. 2 ALS and 1 TLS, East Orange, N. J.	1929-30
b. 2, f. 77	Tinker, Chauncey Brewster. ALS, New Haven, Conn.	1923 Jan 17
b. 2, f. 78	Van Vechten, Carl. 4 TLS and 1 signed greeting card, New York, N. Y.	1926-51
b. 2, f. 79	Viking Press. 2 TLS, New York, N. Y.	1944, 1949
b. 2, f. 80	Wace & Co. Ltd., Process Engravers. 1 invoice to Alfred Knopf Ltd.	1931 Sep 29
b. 2, f. 81	The Walden Book Shops. 1 TL, Chicago	1929 Mar 1
b. 2, f. 82	Walter V. McKee, firm, publishers. 6 TLS to Earl E. Fisk, New York Accompanied by carbon typescript of TL from Fisk to McKee, and a TLS from McKee to Haldane Macfall, Aug. 3, 1928	1928-30
b. 2, f. 83	Welty, Eudora. TLS, Jackson, Miss. Concerning A. E. Coppard	1950 Dec 2
b. 2, f. 84	West, Herbert Faulkner. 2 ALS and a signed greeting card Hanover, N. H. With an enclosed photograph of Mr. West and Robert Frost	1949-50
b. 2, f. 85	Whitaker, Michael J. G. 1 ALS, St. Johnsbury, Vermont	[1949]
b. 2, f. 86	Wilson, Edmund. 2 APCS, New York, N. Y. and Wellfleet, Mass.	1951
b. 2, f. 87	Wilson, Francis. ALS, [n.p.]	1921 Oct 3

**Series II: Writings, 1921-1931***0.2 linear feet (.5 box)*

## EARL E. FISK

b. 3, f. 88	"The Chesterton-Drinkwater-Lewis Affair". 2 corrected typescripts, one corrected, of an article for <i>The Bookman</i>	[1921]
b. 3, f. 89-90	<i>Lovely Laughter: An Anthology of Seventeenth Century Love Lyrics</i> . Page proofs Published: New York, Knopf, 1931	[1931]
b. 3, f. 91	Typescript drafts of promotional notes [by Fisk?] about <i>Lovely Laughter</i> and <i>Advice to Young Men</i>	n.d.

## OTHER WRITINGS

b. 3, f. 92	Holograph poem entitled "Epilogue to Lord Dunsany's 'The Flight of the Queen'" signed "HNR"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 93	Typescript poem by unidentified entitled "To a Girl in a Black Leather Hat"	1924 Nov 2
b. 3, f. 94	Strong, L. A. G. (Leonard Alfred George). Partial typescript of review(?) about "Mrs. Whitaker"	n.d.

**Series III: Other Papers, 1921-1953***0.2 linear feet (.5 box)*

## RESEARCH FILES

b. 3, f. 95	Typescript list entitled "A Collection of Original Drawings and Books Illustrated by Lovat Fraser for sale by Alexander Greene"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 96	Miscellaneous notes	n.d.
b. 3, f. 97	Newspaper clippings	1922-50

## PRINTED MATERIALS

b. 3, f. 98	Fisk, Earl E. Specimen pages from <i>Advice to Young Men</i>	n.d.
b. 3, f. 99	Fisk, Earl E. Page from <i>Persuasions to Joy</i> , with poem by George Herbert	[1927]
b. 3, f. 100	Gillray, James. Color prints used in Fisk's edition of <i>Advice to Young Men</i>	n.d.
b. 3, f. 101	Lawrence, D. H. Specimen page from <i>Birds, Beasts and Flowers</i> , The Cresset Press Limited, London, 1930	[1930]
b. 3, f. 102	Shepard, Ernest H. Printed holiday greetings with illustrations	1924, n.d.
b. 3, f. 103	Printed pages of poems with illustrations, by unidentified Back of pages say "Designed by A. Wyndham Payne, produced in England by The Chelsea Publishing Co., Printers Morland Press"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 104	"Vera Willoughby: An Appreciation by James Laver" Included in: <i>Current Literature and the Publishers' Miscellany</i> , [London] no. 251, November, 1929, p. 370	[1929]
b. 3, f. 105	Review of <i>This Book Collecting Game</i> , by A. Edward Newton Included in: <i>Current Literature and the Publishers' Miscellany</i> , [London] no. 263, November, 1930, p. 437	[1930]
b. 3, f. 106-108	Greeting cards and bookplates Illustrated primarily by Claud Lovat Fraser, for Fisk	1950-53, n.d.

## OTHER MATERIALS

b. 3, f. 109-114	Typescript list of Fisk's rare book collection This collection was bought by the Yale University Library in 1956	n.d.
b. 3, f. 115	Lists of Christmas cards sent by Fisk	1923-49, n.d.

## Restricted Fragile Papers

(1 portfolio)

*Restricted Fragile Papers* contains fragile originals, which may only be seen with the permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies have been substituted in the main files for the originals.

Port 116-117: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. PORT, f.  
116-117

Box 3, folder 97

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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

Bookplates

### Preferred Titles

*Lovely laughter: an anthology of seventeenth century love lyrics*

### Names

Beck, Warren, 1896-1986  
Farrar, John Chipman, 1896-1974  
Fisk, Earl E. (Earl Ellsworth), 1892-1954  
Fraser, Claud Lovat, 1890-1921  
Hansen, Harry, 1884-1977  
Holliday, Robert Cortes, 1880-1947  
Macfall, Haldane, 1860-1928  
Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956  
Newton, A. Edward (Alfred Edward), 1864-1940  
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964  
Welty, Eudora, 1909-2001

### Corporate Bodies

Alfred A. Knopf, Inc  
Farrar, Straus, and Company