

# Guide to the George Louis Kline Papers

GEN MSS 650



by Lisa Conathan and Jennifer Meehan

2009

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 650

**CREATOR:** Kline, George L. (George Louis), 1921-2014

**TITLE:** George Louis Kline papers

**DATES:** 1965-2000

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.41 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English and Russian.

**SUMMARY:** The collection documents George L. Kline's work as a translator for Joseph Brodsky and related activities, including the translation of other Russian prose and poetry and scholarship on Russian literature. Included are correspondence, drafts of Brodsky's poems and Kline's English translations, sound recordings of Brodsky, and photographs of Brodsky and others. Other than Brodsky, correspondents include W. H. Auden, Nina Berberova, Leonid Chertkov, Anthony Hecht, Lev Losev, Faith Wiggell and Igor Efimov. Manuscripts include signed typescripts of several of Brodsky's poems and typescript poems of Evgenii Rein inscribed to Joseph Brodsky. Among the sound recordings is a recording of Brodsky reciting his poems in 1968 in his Leningrad apartment, recorded by George Kline.

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

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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.kline>.

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  
■■■■     item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of George L. Kline, 2008.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 6 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The George Louis Kline 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

George Louis Kline Papers. 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, and competing priorities. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing at the time of acquisition, including rehousing and minimal organization. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn 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.

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## George Louis Kline (1921-2014)

George L. Kline, professor emeritus at Bryn Mawr College, was a scholar of philosophy and literature and translator of Russian prose and poetry. His translations include the poetry of Joseph Brodsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, and Anna Akhmatova.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection documents George L. Kline's work as a translator for Joseph Brodsky and related activities, including the translation of other Russian prose and poetry and scholarship on Russian literature. Included are correspondence, drafts of Brodsky's poems and Kline's English translations, sound recordings of Brodsky, and photographs of Brodsky and others. Other than Brodsky, correspondents include W. H. Auden, Nina Berberova, Leonid Chertkov, Anthony Hecht, Lev Losev, Faith Wigzell and Igor Efimov. Manuscripts

include signed typescripts of several of Brodsky's poems and typescript poems of Evgenii Rein inscribed to Joseph Brodsky. Among the sound recordings is a recording of Brodsky reciting his poems in 1968 in his Leningrad apartment, recorded by George Kline.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1972-2000. II. Writings, circa 1965-2000. III. Other Papers, circa 1978-1996.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1972-2000

1.2 linear feet

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence with Joseph Brodsky, Correspondence about Joseph Brodsky, and Other Correspondence.

#### Correspondence with Joseph Brodsky

b. 1, f. 1-3	<a href="#">Incoming letters and copies of outgoing letters</a>	1972-1994
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#### Correspondence about Joseph Brodsky

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. One folder of correspondence with publishers is filed at the end of the alphabetic listing.

b. 1, f. 4	"A" general
b. 1, f. 5	Auden, W.H.
b. 1, f. 6	Anscheutz, Carol
b. 1, f. 7	"B" general
b. 1, f. 8	"C" general
b. 1, f. 9	Chalsma, Bill
b. 1, f. 10	"D" general
b. 1, f. 11	Dunham, Vera
b. 1, f. 12	"E" general
b. 1, f. 13	English, Maurice
b. 1, f. 14	"F" general
b. 1, f. 15	<a href="#">Farrar, Straus &amp; Giroux</a>
b. 1, f. 16	"G" general
b. 1, f. 17	"H" general
b. 1, f. 18	Haight, Amanda
b. 1, f. 19	<a href="#">Haven, Cynthia</a>
b. 1, f. 20	"I" general
b. 1, f. 21	"J" general
b. 1, f. 22	"K" general
b. 1, f. 23	Kocher, Karel
b. 1, f. 24	"L" general

## Correspondence about Joseph Brodsky (continued)

b. 1, f. 25	"M" general
b. 1, f. 26	"N" general
b. 1, f. 27	"P" general
b. 1, f. 28	"R" general
b. 1, f. 29	"S" general
b. 1, f. 30	Schlitz, Veronique
b. 1, f. 31	Shtern, Ludmila
b. 1, f. 32	Stangos, Nikos
b. 1, f. 33	Steckler, Irene
b. 1, f. 34	Struve, Gleb
b. 1, f. 35	"T" general
b. 1, f. 36	<i>Triquarterly</i>
b. 1, f. 37	"U-V" general
b. 1, f. 38	Viereck, Peter
b. 1, f. 39	"W" general
b. 1, f. 40	Wigzell, Faith
b. 1, f. 41	Wolfe, Bertram and Ella
b. 1, f. 42	"Y-Z" general
b. 1, f. 43	Zenkovsky, Betty Jean
b. 1, f. 44-46	Correspondence with publishers
b. 1, f. 47	Unidentified
	Other Correspondence Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
b. 1, f. 48-54	"A-G" general
b. 1, f. 55	Harper & Row
b. 1, f. 56-58	"I-L" general
b. 1, f. 59	Losev, Lev
b. 1, f. 60-61	"M-N" general
b. 2, f. 62	Naiman, Anatoly
b. 2, f. 63-68	"O-V" general

Other Correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 69	Vashestov, Andrei
b. 2, f. 70	Venclova, Tomas
b. 2, f. 71	Volkogonova, Ol'ga
b. 2, f. 72	"Y-Z" general
b. 2, f. 73	Zenkovsky, Betty Jean



**Series II: Writings, circa 1965-2000***2.8 linear feet*

Includes typescripts (originals and photocopies) of Joseph Brodsky's poetry in Russian, many annotated by Kline, drafts of Kline's translations, some corrected by Kline and/or Brodsky, and a holograph manuscript of an occasional poem Brodsky wrote for Kline ("Fast-shrift (sic) for George L. Kline"). Also present is a proof of *Ostanovka v Pustyne*, heavily corrected by Brodsky. Among George Kline's writings and translations are drafts of English translations of poetry by Anna Akhmatova, Boris Pasternak, and Marina Tsvetaeva, among others. Also present are two folders of clean copies of Kline's published writings, 1949-1970.

Organized into three subseries: Joseph Brodsky Writings, George L. Kline Writings, and Other Writings.

## Joseph Brodsky Writings

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 2, f. 74	"Fast-shrift for George L. Kline," holograph, signed	
b. 2, f. 75	"Didi i Enei," holograph, signed	
b. 2, f. 76	"We do believe in ...," holograph	
b. 2, f. 77	"Strofy," typescript, inscribed to Kline	
b. 2, f. 78	Translations of John Donne	
b. 2, f. 79	<i>Ostanovka v Pustyne</i> , printed version, annotated by Kline	
b. 2, f. 80	Various poems, typescripts	1960s
b. 2, f. 81-84	Prose writings, typescripts, photocopies and printed versions	

## George L. Kline Writings and Translations

Files contain drafts of translations, essays, lectures and correspondence related to Kline's translations of Russian poetry and literary analyses.

Arranged alphabetically by topic.

b. 2, f. 85-93	Akhmatova, Anna	
b. 2, f. 94	Bely, Andrei	
	Brodsky, Joseph	
b. 2, f. 95-100	Translations, drafts and notes	
b. 2, f. 101	"JB for <i>Kontinent</i> (English edition)"	
b. 2, f. 102	<a href="#">"Eclogue 5"</a>	
b. 2, f. 103	<a href="#">"20 Sonnets"</a>	
b. 3, f. 104	"Biblical ..."	
b. 3, f. 105	"Razvivaia Platona"	
b. 3, f. 106	"Living Mirror"	
b. 3, f. 107	"Nazidanie"	

## George L. Kline Writings and Translations &gt; Brodsky, Joseph (continued)

b. 3, f. 108	"Razgovor s nebozhitelem"	
b. 3, f. 109	"The butterfly"	
b. 3, f. 110	<a href="#">"Cape Cod Lullaby"</a>	
b. 3, f. 111	"Translations since <i>Selected Poems</i> "	
b. 3, f. 112	"For QSP"	
b. 3, f. 113	"Vtoroe Rozhdestvo"	
b. 3, f. 114	"Newest Poems"	
b. 3, f. 115	"Six New Poems," annotated by Brodsky	
b. 3, f. 116-121	Copies of typescripts of Russian-language versions of Brodsky's poetry	
b. 3, f. 122-124	Kline interviews of Brodsky	
b. 3, f. 125-132	Kline essays and other writings on Brodsky	
b. 3, f. 133-135	"Istoriia dvukh knig"	
b. 3, f. 136	"Variations on the theme of exile"	
b. 3, f. 137-139	"Muhlenberg talk"	
b. 3, f. 140-145	Selected Poems	1973
b. 3, f. 146	"Translating Brodsky"	
b. 3, f. 147	"Poeziia Brodskogo"	
b. 3, f. 148	<i>New and Selected Poems</i> ("Second edition")	
b. 3, f. 149	"Brodsky/Rein/Kushner BMC Talk"	1990
b. 3, f. 150	"A Part of Speech"	
b. 3, f. 151	"Revising Brodsky"	
b. 3, f. 152	"Bibliography"	
b. 3, f. 153-154	"Chronology"	
b. 3, f. 155-157	Unidentified notes	
b. 4, f. 158	"Brodsky Conference"	1991
b. 4, f. 159-160	"Presepio"	
b. 4, f. 161-162	Kushner, Aleksandr	
b. 4, f. 163	Okhapkin, O.	
b. 4, f. 164-172	Pasternak, Boris	
b. 4, f. 173-175	Rein, Evgenii	1994

## George L. Kline Writings and Translations (continued)

b. 4, f. 176	Skovoroda, Hryhorii
b. 4, f. 177	Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr
b. 4, f. 178-179	Tolstoy, Lev
b. 4, f. 180-183	Tsvetaeva, Marina
b. 4, f. 184-186	Essays on translating Russian poetry
b. 4, f. 187	"Published articles 1949-1963"
b. 4, f. 188	"Published articles 1964-1970"
b. 4, f. 189	Abstracts of essays on philosophy
Other Writings Not arranged in any particular order.	
b. 4, f. 190-193	Translations of Brodsky by others
b. 4, f. 194-198	W.H. Auden's foreword to Brodsky's <i>Selected Poems</i>
b. 4, f. 199	"Russian poetry manuscripts" Typescripts of poems by Evgenii Rein, Vladimir Ufliand, Leonid Chertkov, Dmitri Bobyshev and _____ Krasovedskii.

**Series III: Other Papers, circa 1978-1996***1 linear foot*

Box 6 (Audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 5, f. 200-202	Material for Brodsky poetry readings	
b. 5, f. 203	Material from Brodsky's memorial	1996
b. 5, f. 204-205	Reviews of Brodsky and of Kline's translations	
b. 5, f. 206	Printed articles about Brodsky	
b. 5, f. 207-213	<a href="#">Photographs of Joseph Brodsky and George Kline</a>	
b. 5, f. 214-215	Clippings related to Brodsky	
b. 6	Sound recordings Twelve audiocassettes, including a 1968 recording of Brodsky reciting his poetry in his Leningrad apartment.  Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 6, f. 216, ■■■■ 39002137090487	GLK - JB interview on "Nunc Dimittis" at JFK <i>1 Audiocassette 00:43:25 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. Static on the tape. High background noise. Program distorted at times. High amount of buzz. Audio gaps from 00:22:07-00:22:31, 00:22:39-00:37:41, 00:38:15-00:39:18, 00:40:21-0:43:18. Simultaneous programs on tape from about 00:29:32-00:30:12. Program recorded at non-standard speed from about 00:29:32-00:30:12. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090487a.u.mp3</a>  Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1972 October
b. 6, f. 217, ■■■■ 39002137090495	GLK lecture on JB, Amherst <i>1 Audiocassette 00:27:52 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Speed fluctuations on the tape. Warble and a high amount of hiss can be heard. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090495.u.mp3</a>  Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1978 April 14
b. 6, f. 218, ■■■■ 39002137090503	JB - Russian reading, Sarah Lawrence, Russian portion only <i>1 Audiocassette 00:42:34 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High amount of hum and hiss can be heard. Program distorted at times. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090503a.u.mp3</a>  Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1972 October 26

## Sound recordings (continued)

b. 6, f. 218a, [barcode] 39002137090511	Brodsky 80's - (3) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:15:05 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High background noise can be heard. Program is distorted at times. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090511.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1978 April 12
b. 6, f. 219, [barcode] 39002137090529	Uocuop...at Middlebury <i>1 Audiocassette 0:45:57 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High amount of hiss can be heard. The program is distorted at times. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090529.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 6, f. 219a, [barcode] 39002137090537	J. Brodsky, Ann Arbor, interview by Gene and Gloria Sosin <i>1 Audiocassette 00:29:52 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. High amount of hiss is on the tape. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090537.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1976 Fall
b. 6, f. 220, [barcode] 39002137090545	Joseph Brodsky - Ann Arbor <i>1 Audiocassette 00:31:31 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static and a high amount of hiss can be heard. The audio channels are imbalanced. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090545.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 6, f. 221, [barcode] 39002137090552	Joseph Brodsky Russian patron only, Sarah Lawrence <i>1 Audiocassette 00:40:45 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Program is distorted at times. Static is present. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. High amount of hiss. Gap from about 00:29:16-00:32:59. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090552a.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1972 October 26
b. 6, f. 222, [barcode] 39002137090560	Brodsky 70's (2) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:01:54 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High background noise. Program distorted at times. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090560.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 6, f. 223, [barcode] 39002137090578	Brodsky '68 (1) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:16:09 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio channels are imbalanced. High amount of hiss. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. Static on the tape. Program distorted at times. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090578.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1968 June

## Sound recordings (continued)

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b. 6, f. 224, ■■■ 39002137090586	Leningrad <i>1 Audiocassette 01:04:12 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Program is distorted at times. High background noise. Static on the tape. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. There's a high amount of hiss on the tape. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090586a.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1968 June
b. 6, f. 225, ■■■ 39002137090594	"Myths", George Kline radio interview, OSU <i>1 Audiocassette 00:23:43 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. High amount of hiss is on the tape. Static is on the tape. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss065039002137090594.u.mp3</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1984

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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, Russian  
Poetry -- 20th Century  
Poetry -- Translations into English  
Poets, Russian -- 20th Century  
Russian literature -- 20th Century  
Russian poetry -- 20th Century  
Translators

### Genres / Formats

Audiocassettes  
Audiovisual materials  
Photographs  
Sound recordings

### Names

Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973  
Berberova, N. (Nina), 1901-1993  
Brodsky, Joseph, 1940-1996  
Chertkov, Leonid, 1933-2000  
Efimov, Igor' Markovich  
Hecht, Anthony, 1923-2004  
Kline, George L. (George Louis), 1921-2014  
Losev, Lev, 1937-2009  
Rein, Evgenii  
Wigzell, Faith