

# Guide to the Monique Wittig Papers

GEN MSS 1359



by Beinecke staff

June 2017

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

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Monique Wittig .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
September 2014 Acquisition, Part I, circa 1960s-2000s .....	6
Writings, 1960s-2000s .....	6
Correspondence, 1960s-2000s .....	10
September 2014 Acquisition, Part II, 1960–2005 .....	12
Selected Search Terms .....	15

---

## 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 1359

**CREATOR:** Wittig, Monique

**TITLE:** Monique Wittig papers

**DATES:** 1960–2005

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 17.58 linear feet (30 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials in French and English.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of correspondence, writings, lectures, teaching materials, writings by others, conference materials, printed material, electronic media, and other papers documenting the life and work of Monique Wittig. Writings include manuscripts, typescripts, and corrected proofs for works including *Lesbian peoples: Material for a dictionary* (Grasset, 1976), *Virgile, non* (Les éditions de Minuit, 1985), *Paris-la-politique et autres histoires* (P.O.L., 1999), and *The straight mind and other essays* (Beacon Press, 1992). Correspondence includes letters from writers, publishers, editors, and others. Teaching materials include syllabi, correspondence, and other papers related to Wittig's teaching at the University at Buffalo and the University of Arizona. Writings by others include writings about Wittig. Also includes correspondence, clippings, writings, and conference materials relating to Nathalie Sarraute.

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

---

## 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.wittig>.

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

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from the Monique Wittig Literary Estate, LLC. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2014.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 23 (digital media): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The Monique Wittig 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.

---

### Preferred Citation

Monique Wittig Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

---

### 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 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, including rehousing and minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below and titled according to month and year of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn 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 finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

---

## Monique Wittig

Monique Wittig (1935-2003) was a French writer and lesbian feminist theorist. She is survived by her partner Sande Zeig, an American filmmaker.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, writings, lectures, teaching materials, writings by others, conference materials, printed material, electronic media, and other papers documenting the life and work of Monique Wittig. Writings include manuscripts, typescripts, and corrected proofs for works including *Lesbian peoples: Material for a dictionary* (Grasset, 1976), *Virgile, non* (Les éditions de Minuit, 1985), *Paris-la-politique et autres histoires* (P.O.L., 1999), and *The straight mind and other essays* (Beacon Press, 1992). Correspondence includes letters from writers, publishers, editors, and others. Teaching materials include syllabi, correspondence, and other papers related to Wittig's teaching at the University at Buffalo and the University of Arizona. Writings by others include writings about Wittig. Also includes correspondence, clippings, writings, and conference materials relating to Nathalie Sarraute.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into two groupings: September 2014 Acquisition, Part I; and September 2014 Acquisition, Part II.

The two groupings were acquired at the same time, but were previously received on deposit separately.

## Collection Contents

### September 2014 Acquisition, Part I, circa 1960s-2000s

10.0 linear feet (23 boxes)

	Writings	1960s-2000s
b. 1	<a href="#">Notes on L'Opoponax structure</a>	
b. 1	Offprint (tiré à part) French Introduction to Le Corps Lesbien	
b. 1	<a href="#">Photocopy of Peter Owen hardcover edition-Les Guerilleres</a> Handwritten corrections for Beacon. These are complete corrections as Wittig wanted but these corrections were never made.	
b. 1	<a href="#">Les Irreelles (Brouillon pour un dictionnaires des amantes) with handwritten corrections</a>	
b. 1	Virgile, incomplete photocopied manuscript with missing pages and handwritten corrections	
b. 1	Virgile, Non: galley (2 folders)	
b. 1	Letter to Guggenheim Fellowship for "The City"	undated
b. 1	<a href="#">Virgile, Non: Choice of Name for Manastabal</a> One file with handwritten page of names written by Wittig to decide the name of her guide in Virgile, Non.	
b. 2	3 manuscript and typescript early drafts of La Cité (Virgile, non) (3 folders)	
b. 3	<a href="#">Paris-la-Politique, early working manuscripts</a> 2 folders	1980s-1990s
b. 3	Paris-la-Politique, 74 page manuscript with handwritten notes	circa 1985
b. 3	Paris-la-Politique, later version (3 folders)	circa 1999
b. 3	Paris-la-Politique, early version	1980s-1990s
b. 3	Paris La Pol, proofs 4 folders	circa 1998-1999
b. 4	The Tchiches and the Tchouches, French and English manuscripts (5 folders)	circa 1983
b. 4	Un Jour mon prince viendra	1978
b. 4	<a href="#">Le Chantier manuscript</a>	
b. 4	<a href="#">Chantier photocopy</a> 3 folders	
b. 5	<a href="#">Chantier</a> (4 folders)	

## Writings (continued)

b. 5	<a href="#">Chantier #2</a> <i>2 folders</i>	
b. 5	<a href="#">The Straight Mind</a> <i>4 folders</i>	1970s
b. 6	<a href="#">Cheval de Troie</a> Typed notes in French and English.	circa 1985
b. 6	Text for Pensee St., original in French <i>3 folders</i>	
b. 6	<a href="#">The Point of View</a>	undated
b. 6	<a href="#">The Category of Sex, original French and English</a>	1970s
b. 6	<a href="#">Homo Sum, photocopied manuscript with handwritten corrections</a>	undated
b. 6	L'ordre du poeme <i>2 folders</i>	
b. 7	Le Brouillon <i>2 folders</i>	1970s-1980s
b. 7	Lesbian Peoples <i>4 folders</i>	1980s
b. 7	<a href="#">Lesbian Peoples Press</a> <i>4 folders</i>	
b. 7	The Straight Mind, first layout from Beacon Press Numbered on front page 000001 -100.	
b. 7	<a href="#">Early manuscript of The Straight Mind</a>	
b. 7	<a href="#">The Straight Mind, correspondence and related papers</a>	circa 1991
b. 8	The Straight Mind: Beacon Galley	
b. 9	Lesbian Peoples: Material For a Dictionary manuscript ( <i>3 folders</i> ) Typescript with handwritten page numbers.	
b. 10	<a href="#">La mécanique, unpublished manuscript</a>	1960s
b. 10	<a href="#">Dialogue 2 frères et de la soeur (radio play)</a>	2001
b. 10	<a href="#">La Recreation, English translation</a> Translated into English by Barbara Wright and produced by Martin Esslin.	1971 January 3
b. 10	Dialogue in German	October 20, 1970
b. 10	<a href="#">L'Amant vert</a> <i>2 folders</i>	
b. 11	<a href="#">L'Amant vert, partial manuscript</a>	undated

## Writings (continued)

b. 11	<a href="#">Le Parloir (5200 Signes)</a>	undated
b. 11	<a href="#">Le Grand-Cric-Jules/ Feu de la St-Jean / Le Geographiques</a> 2 folders	
b. 11	La mort du Satyre, short film script	1970s
b. 11	The Constant Journey, manuscript, in French 2 folders	
b. 11	<a href="#">Le Voyage sans fin early manuscript with Avant Note</a> 2 folders	undated
b. 11	The Constant Journey, in French 4 folders	1981
b. 12	<a href="#">Le voyage sans fin Paris production items</a> 2 folders	undated
b. 12	Voyage Sans Fin 8 folders	
b. 12	<a href="#">The Constant Journey for Modern Drama</a> 3 folders	
b. 12	<a href="#">The Constant Journey, manuscripts, in English</a> 4 folders	
b. 13	<a href="#">The Constant Journey, US workshops and performances</a> 5 folders	
b. 23	"CD of lecture at poetry center, University of Arizona-Tuscon" 1 CD-R  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1991 April 27
b. 23	Kate Bernheimer + Monique Wittig w/Sandre Zeig April 27, 1991 Poetry Ctr Courtyard Univ. of AZ 2014-genm-29-0001 1 CD-R 658444796 bytes (658.44 Megabytes.) <a href="#">[Aviary] Kate Bernheimer Monique Wittig w/Sandre Zeig April 27 1991 Poetry Ctr Courtyard Univ. of AZ</a>	
b. 14	The Girl Story, early manuscript 6 folders	undated
b. 23	The Girl Story disc 1 3.5_floppy_disk  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 23	TIM GIRL STOR 2014-genm-29-0002 1 3.5_floppy_disk 737280 bytes (737.28 Kilobytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)	
b. 14	The Girl 1,2,3	undated



## Writings (continued)

b. 14	The Girl Story <i>6 folders</i>	undated
b. 15	The Girl Story "coupé" <i>2 folders</i>	undated
b. 15	The Girl Story, partial manuscript <i>3 folders</i>	undated
b. 15	The Girl Film script <i>3 folders</i>	1990s-2000s
b. 16	The Girl script ( <i>2 folders</i> )	1997-1999
b. 16	The Girl script, corrected <i>4 folders</i>	undated
b. 16	Notes on The Girl	
b. 17	Jeanne d'Arc, in French and English	
b. 17	Jeanne d'Arc, full script, in French One photocopied manuscript of Jeanne d'Arc with original handwritten corrections in red pen.	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 17	Jeanne d'Arc, script, in English	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 17	Joan of Arc, in English <i>8 folders</i>	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 17	Joan of Arc, original English translation Copy of James Shamus's translation of Jeanne d'Arc with handwritten correction on page 18 in pencil.	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 17	Jeanne d'Arc, James Shamus letters and contracts	1988-1989
b. 17	Jeanne d'Arc manuscript, symbolic exchange in French and English <i>2 folders</i>	1988, 2005
b. 17	Jeanne d'Arc typescript <i>2 folders</i> Two typescripts by typist Linda Sullivan of Word Smart with related correspondence and corrections.	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 18	Jeanne d'Arc <i>2 folders</i> Jeanne d'Arc photocopied script, incomplete original manuscript, and production notes in French and English.	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 18	Notes on Jeanne D'Arc	circa 1980s-1990s
b. 18	Notes on Jeanne D'Arc	
b. 18	Other materials related to Jeanne d'Arc	1980s-1990s

## Writings (continued)

b. 19	Colloque Nathalie Sarraute papers relating to Sabine Raffy, Lauri Sanou, and Lise Leichbacher	1990-1991
b. 19	Colloque Nathalie Sarraute Manuscripts of some participants at the UA Colloque on Nathalie Sarraute printed by Lise Leichbacher on 8 October 1995.	1995 October 8
b. 19	Galley L'Esprit createur sur Nathalie Sarraute Notes to Lise Leichbacher, original galleys of Nathalie Sarraute, handwritten corrections. Letter from Valerie Minogue with comments on the magazine.	circa 1995
b. 19	<a href="#">Correspondence with editors</a>	1985-1992
b. 20	<a href="#">Notes for Lesbian Body lecture at Swarthmore</a>	1997 March
b. 20	Conference invitations	circa 1980s-1990s
b. 20	<a href="#">Press related materials and academic writings about Wittig</a>	1980s-2000s
b. 20	Je by Syn Guerin French radio play based on The Lesbian Body.	undated
b. 20	No Good Reason Play by Nathalie Sarraute.	1981
b. 20	Book proposals	1973, 1975
b. 20	Proofs, contracts, and notes	circa 1980s-1990s
	Correspondence	1960s-2000s
b. 21	<a href="#">Letters from writers</a> Correspondents include Mary McCarthy, Claude Simon, Jean Ricardou, Ludovic Janvier, Claude-Michel Cluny, and Marguerite Duras.	circa 1960s-1990s
b. 21	<a href="#">Letters from publishers</a> Correspondents include Jerome and Annette Lindon, Dalmas, Peter Owen LTD, Jean Guichard Meili, Louis Marin, Jean Ruau, Viking Press, and others.	circa 1960s-1970s
b. 21	<a href="#">Letters from editors</a> Correspondents include Who's Who in France, Editions de Minuit, Cercle Francais Du Livre, Svetova Literatura, Giulio Einaudi, David LeVay Margaret Crossland, and others.	circa 1960s-1990s
b. 21	<a href="#">General correspondence</a> Personal and business correspondence including letters about Wittig's green card, and letters from Gerard Genette, Jerom and Irene Lindon, Paul Otchakovsky-Laurens, Joanna Russ, Leo Bersani, Jill Johnston and Ingrid Nyeboe, Martin Duberman, Laura Cottingham, Didier Eribon, Teresa De Lauretis, Germaine Bree, Erika Ostrovsky, PEN American Center, Peter Brook, Margo Viscusi, Lynn Diamond-Nigh, The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, George Moskos, and other people or organizations.	1980s-2000s

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 22	<a href="#">Various correspondence</a> Includes invitations to publish, invitations to conferences and lectures, and a typescript Wittig lecture for David Kessler.	1980s-2000s
b. 22	<a href="#">Correspondence with related writings</a> Includes writings and correspondence about Wittig's bibliography with Namascar Shaktini and Diane Crowder, and an English translation of Paris-la-Politique with Winter Bronwyn and Julia Creet.	1980s-2000s
b. 22	<a href="#">Other correspondence</a> Correspondents include Edmond Lutrand, Rowohlt Verlag, David LeVay, Margaret Crossland, Jacques from Yallancou Africa, June Jordan, Aidan Higgins, Mary Daly, Christian Rochefort, and others.	circa 1960s-2000s

**September 2014 Acquisition, Part II, 1960–2005***7.58 linear feet (7 boxes)*

b. 24	<a href="#">Interviews with Monique Wittig</a> Includes interview materials from Anne Garreta and Dominique Bourque, handwritten notes and corrections, and a phone interview transcript.	1996-2001
b. 24	<a href="#">Reviews of Monique Wittig's works</a> Includes reviews by Claude Simon, Marguerite Duras, Francois Nourissier, Claude Michel Cluny, Christine Delphy, Jean Duffy, Isabel Contant, Colette Guillauman and others. Published in Observateur, Les Nouvelles Litteraires, Art Press, Le Quotidien de Paris, NQF, Village Voice, Lesbia magazine and others. Reviews of L'OPOPONAX, Dagbladet, Virgile, and others.	1960-2001
	Correspondence	circa 1970s-2000s
b. 24	<a href="#">Editorial correspondence</a> Correspondents include Jerome Lindon, Ingid Galster, Namascar Shaktin, Marcelle Fonfreide, Claire Devarrieux, and others.	circa 1976-1999
b. 24	<a href="#">Personal and professional correspondence</a> Correspondents include Kate Millett, Germaine Bree, Susan Suleiman, Laura Cottingham, Chaney Holland, Dominique Bourque, Dixie Sheridan, Valerie Minoque, Julia Balen, Michelle Causse, Diane Crowder, Namascar Shaktini, Barie Thorn, Alice Schwarzer, Brad Epps, Suzette Robichon, Susan Wolf, Ericka Ostrovsky, Elizabeth Kennedy, Didier Eribon, and others.	circa 1975-2000
	Writings	
b. 24	<a href="#">By Monique Wittig</a> Includes the Mary McCarthy Conference, l'Order du Poem, Lesbian Body, and others.	circa 1967-1993
b. 24	On Monique Wittig Includes writings by Kristine Anderson, Julia Balen, Sabine Schrader, Alison Phipps, Diane Crowder, Françoise Armengaud, Namascar Shaktini, and others.	circa 1980s-1990s
	Other materials and writings	
b. 24	<a href="#">Article on Le Silence de Nathalie Sarraute</a>	1967
b. 24	Manuscript of interview with Nathalie Saraute	1985
b. 24	Bibliographies	undated
b. 24	Compagne de Basors Presentation of L'OPOPONAX	1993
b. 24	<a href="#">Judith Butler, On The Straight Mind</a>	undated
b. 24	Regents Professorship	2002
b. 24	Announcements and flyers for conferences and and The Girl sneak preview <i>2 folders</i>	circa 1990s

b. 25	Correspondence relating to a Nathalie Sarraute conference Includes letters and faxes from Jacques Lasalle, Jean-Yves Tadié, Germaine Brée, Jean-Louis Rivière. Valérie Minogue, Françoise Asso, Françoise Calin, Sally Barbour, Sheila Bell, Roger Shattuck, Anthony Newman, and Arnaud Rykner.	1992-1993
b. 25	<a href="#">Teaching papers</a> <i>8 folders</i> Includes syllabi, correspondence, progress reports, and other papers from the University at Buffalo and the University of Arizona.	1990-2005
b. 25	Sketches, contracts, correspondence, press releases, French translation, and other materials relating to The Girl	circa 1990s
b. 25	Pompidou Social Contract	1999
b. 25	Correspondence, catalog, and press release for Straight Mind, Beacon Press Correspondence, catalog, press release.	circa 1992
b. 25	Lectures and publications related correspondence Correspondence with Mary Bryson, Georges Moskos and others. Contains invitations, publications and other materials.	1990s
b. 26	Papers and related correspondence <i>4 folders</i>	circa 1990s
b. 26	Nathalie Sarraute clippings and articles	1990-1995
b. 26	LE "for interieur," typescript	1994
b. 26	The First International Conference on Nathalie Sarraute <i>3 folders</i> Notes, ephemera, correspondence, business paper and other related materials.	1994
b. 26	L'Esprit Creature fax	undated
b. 27	University papers <i>15 folders</i> Includes notes, student papers, and University of Arizona administrative announcements from the departments of French and Women Studies.	1990s-2000s
b. 28	University papers <i>20 folders</i> Includes notes, student papers, and University of Arizona administrative announcements from the departments of French and Women Studies.	1990s-2000s
b. 29	<a href="#">Dossier, feminist issues</a> <i>2 folders</i>	circa 1980s
b. 29	<a href="#">Dossier, Monique Wittig and Colette Monique</a> Correspondence and writings, including Christine Delphy, Simone de Beauvoir, Adrienne Rich, Betsy Warrior, Andrea Dworkin, Monique Graziella and others.	circa 1980s
b. 29	<a href="#">Writings and correspondence relating to the Women's Liberation Movement (MLF), France</a>	circa 1970
b. 29	Articles, posters, and press materials for Psych et Po	1979

b. 29	<a href="#">Proofs for Le Pensee Straight by Balland with corrections by Monique Wittig</a> <i>3 folders</i>	circa 2001
b. 29	Catalogue, ROMANS mode d'emploi	circa 2000s
b. 30	University papers <i>6 folders</i>  Includes notes, student papers, and University of Arizona administrative announcements from the departments of French and Women Studies.	circa 2000s

## **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**

Feminism -- France -- 20th Century  
Lesbian feminism  
LGBTQ resource

### **Genres / Formats**

Born digital

### **Names**

Sarraute, Nathalie  
Wittig, Monique