Finding Aid to the Robert Allerton Parker Papers, 1927-1970

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Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
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Note
Arts and Humanities --Performing Arts --TheaterArts and Humanities --Literature --Criticism and Theory
Finding Aid to the Robert Allerton Parker Papers, 1927-1970

Collection number: BANC MSS 71/235 z

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Date Completed:
ca. 1971
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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Robert Allerton Parker Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1927-1970
Collection Number: BANC MSS 71/235 z
Creator: Parker, Robert Allerton
Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes, 4 cartons, 1 oversize folder
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Abstract: Correspondence, mainly about his writing; mss., with related materials, of his biographies; articles and book reviews by him relating to art and the theater; mss. of film scenarios and plays; unfinished ms. on the theater in America; unpublished novel based on the Donner Party; notes; and subject files.
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English
Access
Collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Robert Allerton Parker Papers, BANC MSS 71/235 z, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Books, written by Parker, which came with the collection, have been removed for separate cataloging.
Photographs have been transferred to the Portrait Collection of The Bancroft Library.

Acquisition Information
The collection was given to The Bancroft Library by Parker's widow, Mrs. Robert Allerton Parker, on May 13, 1971.

Biographical Sketch
Robert Allerton Parker (1888-1970), American journalist, editor, biographer and critic, born and raised in Alameda, California, and a graduate of the University of California in 1909, was to reside most of his life in New York. From associate editor of Current Opinion (1914-1920), Parker turned to writing and editing for magazines of art - Arts & Decoration, The Arts, and The International Studio. He undertook several biographies - that of John Humphreys Noyes, founder of the Oneida Community of Perfectionists, A Yankee Saint (1935); Father Divine, The Incredible Messiah (1937); and a study of the Quaker family, the Logan Pearsall Smiths, in The Transatlantic Smiths (1959).

Parker was instrumental in the publication in 1944 of Dr. Gladys I. Wade's book, Thomas Traherne, for which he compiled an exhaustive bibliography. He also wrote an introduction to Ananda Coomaraswamy's essays, Am I My Brother's Keeper?, published in 1947, in an attempt to obtain the Nobel Prize for the Indian mystic.

His interest in the history of the American West led to a much reworked unpublished novel, Ox Train, based on the experiences of the Donner Party. At the time of his death, in 1970, Parker was working on a history of the theater in America, with special attention to vaudeville and to the theater in San Francisco.

Scope and Content
The papers include correspondence with authors of note, mainly commenting on or relating to his writings; manuscripts and related materials for his published biographies, and for his translation of Louis Ferdinand Céline's Mea Culpa (1937), as well as manuscripts of some of his unpublished work; book reviews by him; manuscripts of plays and film scenarios; tear sheets of many articles relating mainly to art; outlines and portions of unfinished works dealing with the theater in America; and extensive notes and subject files on the theater and other subjects. The Key to Arrangement which follows describes the collection in greater detail.

Box 1 Letters written by Robert Allerton Parker, 1940-1961.
Scope and Content Note
Typed drafts, carbon copies and holograph. These contain autobiographical information, and often relate to the biographies he was writing.

Boxes 1-2 Letters written to Parker
Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization. A miscellany of single letters is in Box 1; the rest of the letters in Box 2.
They comment in general on his work or contain information on the subjects of his biographies.
A partial list of correspondents follows the Key to Arrangement.

carton Cartons 1-3
Carton 1 Writings by Parker
The Incredible Messiah
Scope and Content Note
Newspaper clippings concerning Father Divine; book reviews.
Mea Culpa
Scope and Content Note
Material relating to Destouches (Céline), including clippings, The Monstrous Giant Céline by Milton Hindus, etc.; reviews of the book, which Robert Allerton Parker translated from the French.

Thomas Traherne
Scope and Content Note
Notes for book by Gladys I. Wade, for which Parker prepared a selected bibliography.

The Transatlantic Smiths
Scope and Content Note
Incomplete draft; revised typescript; editorial revisions; reviews.

How to Write
Scope and Content Note
Notes and clippings; unpublished manuscript.

A Yankee Saint
Scope and Content Note
Notes and materials for the book; book reviews.

Carton 2

Ox Train
Scope and Content Note
Notes and preface; manuscript, with revisions. Unpublished novel based on the Donner Party, with alternate titles, Wagon Train, Undiscovered Country, This Is My Body.

Carton 3

Book reviews by Parker
Outlines for proposed books or articles
Scope and Content Note
Hunger-famine; The Magic of Line; Night Life; Orpheus in Paris; Pacific Panorama; Portraits in Prose

Film scenarios
Scope and Content Note
Cairo; The Donner Party; Fifty-second Street; Hortense; Light in Newgate; Oasis; Song of My Life; Tusitala or Teller of Tales

Theatre
Scope and Content Note
Fragments of two plays; 5050; The Lost Leader (Act 2 only); The Three Strangers
Articles, many relating to art
Scope and Content Note
"Actors of Songs;" (photocopy) "Alfred Stevens: The Beau Sabreur...;" "Antonio Moro ...;"
article on tabernacle belonging to Noël Sullivan, with photograph; "Be Kind to Things"
(Draft, complete?): "Caf Con' and Cabaret;" "Copy Cat" (Clippings of his column);
"Creating a New Europe;" "The Drawings of George Seurat;" "Drawings of the Musée Bonnat at Bayonne;"
with photographs of the drawings; "Emma Ciardi" (translation of article by Paul Léautaud, with photographs of Emma Ciardi's paintings); "Engravings of the Quattrocento;" "Gabriel de St. Aubin and his Brothers;" "The Genius of Jacques Callot;" "The Ladies and Mr. Henry James;" "The Little Portraits of Corneille de Lyon;" "The Masters on Modern Art;" "The Miracle of Poussin's Drawings;" "Modernity and the Drawings of Claude;" "Notes on Drawings at the Fogg Museum;" "Old Masters of the Upper Rhine;" "A Petit-Maitre of the Eighteenth Century;" "A Poet of Old Paris Walls;" "Receptivity or Discovery?" "The Revaluation of Lucas Cranach;" "Samuel Butler: The Art Student and Art Critic;" "Sidelights on the James Family;" "Such Pulp as Dreams Are Made On;" "Too Late in London." Some of these are manuscripts, but for the most part they are tear sheets of the printed articles.

Incomplete articles on art
The Audience
Scope and Content Note
Drafts, notes, outlines; introduction, chapter 1, and fragments of manuscript, an unfinished book Parker was working on at the time of his death.
See also notes and drafts on the Vaudeville Orpheum in Ctn. 4.
Note
Original finding aid refers to Ctn. 5.

Revolution in Amusement
Scope and Content Note
Outline and portions of the manuscript. The subject material ties in with that of The Audience.
See also material in Ctn. 4.
Note
Original finding aid refers to Ctn. 5.

Fragments of MSS
Carton 4
Notes kept by Parker in daybooks, 1947-1963 (9 v.)
Notes on variety shows and the theatre
Physical Description: (3 notebooks)

Miscellaneous subject files including clippings, notes, etc.
American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers
Art
Balzac's Comédie Humaine
China
Conversation
Famine
Films
Humor
Henry James
Las Vegas
Line
Literature
Machines
Mass observation
Edweard Muybridge
Mysticism
Radio
Science
Shadow plays
Television
Theatre
Unconsciousness
Vaudeville
Vaudeville - Orpheum

Additional Note
The Orpheum triumvirate, Martin Beck, Maude Allan, Sarah Bernhardt, Lily Langtree, performers and acts

Vogue magazine layout
Scope and Content Note
Re The Transatlantic Smiths

A-Z Miscellany
Adlard, John
Letter, Dec. 25, 1961
Arensberg, Walter Conrad, 1878-
Letter, June 1, 1942
Barton, Bruce, 1886-
Letter, Jan. 20, 1936
Benét, William Rose, 1886-
Letter, Jan. 14, 1939
Bernays, Edward L., 1891-
Letter, Jan. 29, 1943
Borsodi, Ralph, 1888-
Letter, Sept. 28, 1943
Boston. Museum of Fine Arts
Letter, Apr. 23, 1945, by G. H. Edgell
Botterell, D. R.
Letter, June 8, [1959?]
Scope and Content Note
Re her recollections of members of the Smith family.

Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker), 1892-
Letter, Oct. 31, 1944
Burrow, Trigant, 1875-
Letter, Feb. 23, 1938
Cantwell, Robert Emmett, 1908-
Letter, Nov. 16, 1935
Derleth, August William, 1909-
Letter, Mar. 23, 1943
Desroches, Henri Charles
Letter, Oct. 9, 1957
De Voto, Bernard Augustine, 1897-
Letter, [1935]
Dobell, Percy John
Letter, May 4, 1940
Doubleday, Doran and Company
Letter, Nov. 23, 1943, by Le Baron R. Barker
Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945
Letter, Nov. 1, 1938
Duke University. Press
    Letter, Feb. 12, 1941, by F. C. Brown
Eaton, Gai
    Letter, July 6, 1949
Edgerton, Franklin, 1885-
    Letter, May 8, 1945
Ellis, Havelock, 1859-1939
    Letter, Dec. 13, 1935
Field, Oliver Peter, 1897-
    Letter, Nov. 4, 1950
Fitt, Frank
    Letter, Aug. 13, 1959

    Scope and Content Note
    Re Oxford Religious Movement, Bertrand Russell, etc.

Flexner, James Thomas, 1908-
    Letter, Apr. 5, 1959
Fremantle, Anne (Jackson), 1909-
    Letter, May 13, n.y.
Friends of Emma Goldman
    Letter, Apr. 5, 1940, by John Haynes Holmes
Gathorne-Hardy, Robert 1902-
    Letter, May 25, 1959

    Scope and Content Note
    Re Logan P. Smith

Hall, Adelaide Brooks (Mrs. Robert C. Hall)
    Letter, Aug. 22, 1956

    Scope and Content Note
    Re Smith family

Hare, Constance (Mrs. Montgomery Hare)
    Letter, Sept. 15, [1959]

    Scope and Content Note
    Re her recollections of Henry James, B. Berenson, et al.

Harvard University. Press
    Letter, Feb. 14, 1941, by Dumas Malone
Heard, Gerald, 1889-
    Letter, Apr. 22, 1937
Hindus, Milton
    Letter, Apr. 20, 1947
Hough, Graham Goulden, 1908-
    Letter, May 21, 1949
Houghton Mifflin Company
    Letter, June 26, 1944, by Paul Brooks
Huxley, Aldous Leonard, 1894-1963
    Letter, July 26, 1937
Johnson, Alvin Saunders, 1874-
    Letter, Nov. 1, 1935
Kerenskii, Aleksandr Fedorovich, 1881-
    Letter, Nov. 9, 1943
Knepper, Olga Chekhova
    Letter
Kummer, George Nicholas
    Letter, Mar. 30, 1966
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Correspondent</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster, Henry Carrington</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1941</td>
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<td>Lanham, Edwin Moultrie</td>
<td>Dec. 3, 1935</td>
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<td>Lloyd, John William</td>
<td>Apr. 10, 1936</td>
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<td>Luhan, Mabel Dodge</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>Macdonald, Allan Houston</td>
<td>Nov. 23, 1935</td>
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<td>Markevitch, Igor</td>
<td>Aug. 9, 1956</td>
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<td>Marshall, Sarah Catherine (Wood)</td>
<td>May 15, 1961</td>
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<td>Maurois, André</td>
<td>Jan. 31, 1942</td>
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<td>Maurois, Simone (de Caillavet)</td>
<td>Mar. 1942?</td>
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<td>Montillon, Michael</td>
<td>Aug. 13, 1959</td>
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<td>Neilson, Francis</td>
<td>Feb. 2, 1943</td>
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<td>New York World Telegram</td>
<td>Nov. 14, 1935, by Harry Hansen</td>
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<td>Perkins, Maxwell Evarts</td>
<td>Nov. 22, 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumer, James Marshall</td>
<td>Mar. 12, 1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Putnam’s (G. P.) Sons</td>
<td>Aug. 17, 1938, by E. H. Balch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read, Sir Herbert</td>
<td>Apr. 19, 1946</td>
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<td>Reyneau, Betsy Graves</td>
<td>Apr. 23, 1960</td>
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<td>Seldes, Gilbert</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>Slater, John Rothwell</td>
<td>May 21, 1942</td>
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**Scope and Content Note**
- Re his recollections of Mrs. Berenson
- Re Cyril Connolly
- Re his interest in J. H. Noyes
- Re his work on Traherne
- Reminiscences re Walt Whitman, Bertrand Russell
Partial List of Correspondents

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
   Letter, Jan. 9, 1944, by Theodore Newcomb
Stillman, Clara (Gruening)
   Letter, Jan. 27, 1948
White, Helen Constance, 1896-
   Letter, Jan. 29, 1941
Yale University. Press
   Letter, Dec. 23, 1940, by E. Davidson
Abbott, Leonard Dalton, 1878-
   2 letters, 1936
Aldington, Richard, 1892-1962
   9 letters, 1956-1960
      Additional Note
Allport, Floyd Henry, 1890-
   2 letters, 1942-1947
Atlantic Monthly
   12 letters, 1936-1940, by Edward Weeks, Paul Hoffman and Chester B. Kerr
      Scope and Content Note
         Re publication of Parker's book on Father Divine.
Balch, Earle Henry, 1893-
   See Putnam's (G. P.) Sons
Barker, Le Baron R., 1904-
   See Doubleday, Doran and Company
Blood, Anna W., 1887-
   3 letters, 1943
      Scope and Content Note
         Re her father Benjamin Paul Blood.
Brandt, Joseph August, 1899-
   See Princeton University. Press
Brett, George Platt, 1893-
   See Macmillan Company
Brown, Frank Clude, 1870-
   See Duke University. Press
Canavaggia, Marie
   6 letters, 1939-1947
      Additional Note
         One letter incomplete.
Céline, Louis Ferdinand, 1894-1961
   See Destouches, Louis Ferdinand, 1894-1961
Chicago. University. Press
   3 letters, 1941, by W. K. Jordan
Coomaraswamy, Ananda Kentish, 1877-1947
   36 letters, 1943-1947
      Additional Note
Coomaraswamy, Luisa
   5 letters, 1945-1949
Partial List of Correspondents

Davidson, Eugene Arthur, 1902-
See Yale University. Press
Denoël, Robert
2 letters, 1937

Scope and Content Note
Re possible French version of A Yankee Saint.

Destouches, Louis Ferdinand, 1894-1961
9 letters, 1937-[1947?]

Additional Note
Reviews for his Bagatelles pour un massacre and photographs included.
See also Carton 1 for additional material re Destouches and for reviews of R. A. Parker's translation of his Mea Culpa.

Note
Original finding aid refers to “carton” not “Carton 1.”

Dickinson, Robert Larou, 1861-
See National Committee on Maternal Health, Inc.
Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
2 letters, 1941-1942
Dodge, George Harold, 1887-
See Boston. Museum of Fine Arts
Feinberg, Charles E., 1899-
2 letters, 1960
Gilkes, Lillian Barnard, 1902-
2 letters, 1961-1962
Gogarty, Oliver St. John, 1878-1957
2 letters, 1942 and n.d.
Grierson, Margaret S.
2 letters, 1959-1960

Additional Note
1959 letter is copy of letter to Dorothy Brush re Smith family.

Hansen, Harry, 1884-
See New York World Telegram
Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc.
3 letters, 1927-1941, by Harrison Smith, Frank V. Morley and Lambert Davis
Haydn, Hiram, 1907-
3 letters, 1959
Hedden, Worth Tuttle (Mrs. Walter Hedden)
2 letters, 1935
Holmes, John Haynes, 1879-
See Friends of Emma Goldman (in A-Z miscellany)
James, William, 1882-
5 letters, 1959-1960
Jen-Paul
2 letters, 1940-1941

Scope and Content Note
Contain information re Céline

Jolas, Maria
5 letters, 1936-[1959?]

Additional Note
Included is her article, "L’élégant chemin de James Joyce." Undated letter, ca. 1959, is incomplete.
Jordan, Wilbur K., 1902-
See Chicago University. Press

Kroll, Effie Evelyn
2 letters, 1959-1960

Scope and Content Note
Re Agnes Tobin

Lesourd, Catherine Marshall, 1914-
See Marshall, Sarah Catherine (Wood), 1914-

Little, Brown & Company
2 letters, 1937-1940, by Laetitia Bolton and C. Raymond Everitt

Macmillan Company
5 letters, 1934-1943, by G. P. Brett, Jr., Howard S. Cady and Lois Dwight Cole

Malone, Dumas, 1892-
See Harvard University. Press

Miller, Kenneth Hayes, 1876-
2 letters, 1927

Morley, Frank Vigor, 1899-
See Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc.

Museum Press, Ltd.
17 letters, 1959-1961, by D. I. Vesey

Scope and Content Note
Re British publication of *The Transatlantic Smiths*.

Additional Note
Letter of May 27, 1959, incomplete.

National Committee on Maternal Health, Inc.
6 letters, 1935, by Robert L. Dickinson and Raymond Squier

Newcomb, Theodore Mead, 1903-
See Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Northbourne, Walter Ernest Christopher James, baron, 1896-
3 letters, 1949

Noyes, George Wallingford
4 letters, 1927-1935

Noyes, Irene C. (Mrs. George Wallingford Noyes)
3 letters, 1934-1935

Noyes, Pierrepont Burt, 1870-
7 letters, 1927-1937

Scope and Content Note
Re *A Yankee Saint*

Princeton University. Press
26 letters, 1941-1945, by Joseph A. Brandt, Datus C. Smith

Additional Note
Re publication of Gladys I. Wade's *Thomas Traherne*.

Raja Singam, S. Durai
2 letters, 1947

Random House, Inc.
7 letters, 1940-1960, by Saxe Commins, Pat Rose and Mary Heathcote

Rourke, Constance Mayfield, 1885-1941
3 letters, 1938-1941

Smith, Datus Clifford, 1907-
See Princeton University. Press
Partial List of Correspondents

Smith, Harrison, 1888-
See Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc.
Smith, Stella Worden (Noyes) (Mrs. E. Deming Smith)
6 letters, 1930-1937
Scope and Content Note
Re J. H. Noyes and the Oneida Community

Treadwell, Sophie
8 letters, 1959-1962

Vesey, Desmond Ivo
See Museum Press, Ltd.

Wade, Gladys Irene, 1895-
10 letters, 1940-1944
Scope and Content Note
Re publication of her work on Traherne

Weeks, Edward Augustus, 1898-
See Atlantic Monthly