Finding Aid for the Vachel Lindsay Papers, 1910-1929

Collection number: 754

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Vachel Lindsay Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1910-1929
Collection number: 754
Creator: Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Nicholas Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931) was a highly successful poet on recital tours, especially from 1914-1920. His Collected Poems appeared in 1923. The collection consists of letters of Lindsay to Wilhelm Miller and family, manuscripts, scrapbooks, ephemera, and presentation copies of books by Lindsay. There are also ephemera and newspaper clippings by or relating to Lindsay.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
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Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mary Rogers Miller, 1962.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Vachel Lindsay Papers (Collection 754). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

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Biography
Nicholas Vachel Lindsay was born on November 10, 1879 in Springfield, Illinois; attended Hiram College for three years, then studied art in New York with Robert Henri; walked from Illinois to New Mexico, reading his poems in exchange for food and lodging; in 1913 his poem, General William Booth Enters into Heaven, appeared in Harriet Monroe's magazine, Poetry; other poems include The Congo (1914), Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight (1914), The Santa Fe Trail (1914), The Chinese Nightingale (1917), Bryan, Bryan, Bryan, Bryan (1920), The Golden Age of Springfield (1920), The Flower-Fed Buffaloes (1926), and Johnny Appleseed (1928); was highly successful on recital tours, especially from 1914-1920; his Collected Poems appeared in 1923; he died on December 5, 1931 in Springfield, Illinois.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of letters of Lindsay to Wilhelm Miller and family, manuscripts, scrapbooks, ephemera, and presentation copies of books by Lindsay. Includes a presentation copy to the Wilhelm Millers of The Village Magazine (March 1911, the only number ever issued) with holograph annotations, a copy of Vision (Spring 1912) containing Lindsay's article, The New Localism, with his illustrations and several holograph and typescript poems on the other pages. Also contains a presentation copy of his Rhymes to be Traded for Bread, and his copy of The Art of the Moving Picture (1915), with copious annotations and corrections. There are also ephemera and newspaper clippings by or relating to Lindsay.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog. Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931--Archives.
Poets, American--20th century--Archival resources.

Box 1
Physical Description: Holograph. 4 items.

Box 1
Vision, village number, no.4. Pennsylvania. 1912.
Physical Description: 1 item.
Scope and Content Note
Contains 6 illustrations by Lindsay, and was used by him as a scrapbook for poems: holograph, typescript, and clipped printed verses with holograph notes throughout. Includes a copy of Rhymes to be Traded for Bread, and one broadside, The Sangamon County Place Advocate, no.1, Springfield, Illinois, Christmas, 1909, by Lindsay.
Presentation copy to Wilhelm Miller, Springfield, Illinois, October 15, 1913.
Box 1


Physical Description: 2 items.

Scope and Content Note
A small book of 8 leaves, unbound, ... to be used in exchange for the necessities of life on a tramp-journey from the author's home town, through the West and back...

One of the copies is inscribed, Wilhelm Miller from N.V. Lindsay, and is marked throughout.

Box 1

*Adventures While Preaching the Gospel of Beauty. Chapters 2, 4-6.* *Forum.* 1913-1914.

Physical Description: 4 items.

Scope and Content Note
Some holograph notations. Chapters extracted from *Forum,* a periodical, are:

- Walking through Missouri
- In Kansas: The First Harvest
- In Kansas: The Second and Third Harvest
- The End of the Road, Moonshine, and an Epilogue

Box 1

Clipped articles by or re Lindsay. v.p. v.d.

Physical Description: 9 items.

- Vachel Lindsay, by Arthur Waugh, 2 columns from a British newspaper.
- Proclamation! by Lindsay, one page from *Rural Manhood,* New York. June 1913.
- The New Localism by Lindsay, one page from *Twentieth Century Magazine,* n.p. n.d.

Box 1


Physical Description: 1 item. 29 cm.

Scope and Content Note
Inscription, in ink, inside front cover: To Wilhelm Miller:-with all good wishes. This being my last battered copy of the model for a village magazine... the date, in pencil, is October 16, 1913. Contains holograph remarks about some of the poems; also, on outside front cover, notes in ink, pencil state: By N.V. Lindsay...Reviewed in *Current Literature* for March 1911...Only one number ever issued.

Box 1


Physical Description: 19.5 cm. Red boards.

Scope and Content Note
Picture of Lindsay is pasted inside front cover. Inscription in holograph: Mary Rogers Miller, from W.M., December 25, 1913.

Box 1


Physical Description: 19 cm. Buff-green-black boards.

Scope and Content Note
Includes a long dedication to my dear Miller...Vachel, January 5, 1915, Springfield, Illinois. Also: author's extensive underlinings and margin notations throughout, as well as a clipped article, Better 'Movies' for Children, by E. Leslie Gilliams.