



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## Nathan Halper papers 4078342

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 26, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and Content .....	3
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Cataloged Correspondence .....	6
Series II: Cataloged Photograph .....	7
Series III: Miscellaneous .....	7
Series IV: Chess .....	7
Series V: Columbia University and Other Schools .....	8
Series VI: Criticism .....	8
Series VII: Fiction .....	8
Series VIII: Fiction--Translations .....	9
Series IX: Jewish Names .....	10
Series X: James Joyce .....	10
Series XI: New England .....	11
Series XII: Memorabilia .....	11

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Halper, Nathan
<b>Title:</b>	Nathan Halper papers
<b>ID:</b>	4078342
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0539
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1923-1986
<b>Physical Description:</b>	13.26 linear feet 28 boxes, 1 flat box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Nathan Halper papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical sketch

---

Nathan Halper, 1907-1983 (Columbia A.B. 1927; Ph.D. 1973), author, translator, and art dealer, was an authority on the writings of James Joyce. He also translated and published much Yiddish literature, reviewed books and operated an art gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts where he lived for half the year.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Content

---

Correspondence, manuscripts, notes, word lists, documents, photographs, clippings, periodicals, and other printed materials concerning his writings, translations, and criticism.

Most of the manuscript drafts and notes are for his critical and analytical studies of *Finnegans Wake* and of other works by James Joyce.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Content

---

There are also draft translations from the Yiddish of various authors, early autobiographical articles and chapters for an autobiographical novel, general literary criticism, articles on chess, as well as notes and drafts for his research in 1938 into the history of the Indians of New England and of the Mashpee Indian Reservation on Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Content

---

There are many periodicals and other printed materials about Provincetown where he maintained his art gallery. Some years before his death, he began a study of Jewish-American family names; there are many notes, drafts, and clippings for his projected book on the subject which was not completed. Among the correspondents are John Cage, Richard Ellmann, Norman Mailer, Robert Motherwell, Lionel Trilling, and Edmund Wilson.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

This collection is arranged in twelve series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.

New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2012-02-14 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

### Restrictions on Access

The following boxes are located off-site: 2-28. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Halper, Marjorie Windust. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1984.

### Processing Information

Papers Processed HR 02/--/86.

## Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Archival Materials

Materials relating to Halper's art gallery were given to: The Archives of American Art in: Address--National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C. 20560.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Yiddish literature -- Translations into English
- Indians of North America -- History
- Mashpee Indians
- Names, Personal -- Jewish
- Chess
- New England -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- Provincetown (Mass.)
- Cage, John
- Ellmann, Richard, 1918-1987
- Joyce, James, 1882-1941
- Mailer, Norman
- Motherwell, Robert
- Trilling, Lionel, 1905-1975
- Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series I: Cataloged Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

Budgen, Frank Levin, Harry	box 1
Cage, John Luening, Otto	box 1
Campbell, Joseph Mailer	box 1
Chomsky, Noam	box 1
Dos Passos, Elizabeth (Mrs John)	box 1
Duchamp, Alexina (Mme Marcel)	box 1
Ellmann, Richard	box 1
Howe, Irving	box 1
Levin, Harry	box 1
Luening, Otto	box 1
Mailer, Norman	box 1
Motherwell, Robert	box 1
Schapiro, Meyer	box 1
Seldes, Gilbert	box 1
Smith, Paul	box 1
Trilling, Lionel	box 1
Wilson, Edmund	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Cataloged Photograph

Title/Description	Instances
Photograph of Nathan Halper	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series III: Miscellaneous

Title/Description	Instances
Miscellaneous and printed miscellaneous	box 1
Miscellaneous and printed miscellaneous	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series IV: Chess

Title/Description	Instances
Articles and notes	box 1
Articles on Russian chess	box 1
Printed--miscellaneous	box 1
Printed--periodicals	box 1
Score sheets	box 1
Trophy--Marshall Chess Club, 1970	box 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series V: Columbia University and Other Schools

Title/Description	Instances
Course papers & notes	box 3
N.Y. Regents Diploma, 1923	box 3
Printed--miscellaneous	box 3
Printed--periodicals	box 3
Transcripts	box 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series VI: Criticism

Title/Description	Instances
Book reviews--manuscripts and printed	box 3
Canaday, John	box 3
Maugham, William Somerset	box 3
Proust, Marcel	box 3
Shakespeare, William: <i>Titus Andronicus</i>	box 3
Miscellaneous	box 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series VII: Fiction

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence	box 4



Autobiographical articles--manuscripts	box 4
Autobiographical articles--printed	box 4
Autobiographical novel--Drafts <u>Physical Description</u> : 16 folders	box 4
Autobiographical novel--16 folders of drafts (cont.)	box 5
Miscellaneous	box 5
Poetry	box 5
Short stories	box 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series VIII: Fiction--Translations

Title/Description	Instances
Latin poetry	box 6
Yiddish poetry and prose	box 6
Yiddish: Friedman, Jacob	
Glatstein, Jacob	box 6
Grade, Chaim	box 6
Halpern, Moishe Leib	box 6
Hofstein, David	box 6
Kulback, Moishe	box 6
Kvitko, L.	box 6
Leib, Mani	box 6
Raizin, A.	box 6
Ravitch, Melech	box 6
Shneour (Shnayer), Zalman (l)	box 6
Shneour (Shnayer), Zalman	box 6
Wolf, Lazar	box 6
Yungman, M.	box 6
Printed items	box 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Series IX: Jewish Names**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Correspondence	box 7
Printed--clippings: "Your name", newspaper column	box 7
Printed--miscellaneous	box 7
Typescript drafts	box 7
Manuscript Notes and Cards	box 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Series X: James Joyce**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Correspondence: A-H	box 9
Correspondence: J-Z	box 10
Manuscripts and notes	
Dubliners	box 11
Finnegans Wake	box 12
Finnegans Wake	box 13
Finnegans Wake	box 14
Finnegans Wake	box 15
Finnegans Wake--copies annotated by Nathan Halper	box 16
Miscellaneous	box 17
Miscellaneous	box 18
Notebooks and notecards	box 19
Papers by others	box 20
Seminars and symposia	box 21
Sources--readings, arranged by author	box 21
<i>Studies in Joyce</i> . By Nathan Halper. Ann Arbor	box 22
UMI Research Press [c1983]--manuscript	box 22
proofs, typescripts, indicies, etc.	box 22
[ <i>The Young James Joyce</i> ] <i>The Early James</i>	box 22
<i>Joyce</i> . By Nathan Halper. New York, Columbia University	box 22
Press, 1973--manuscripts, proofs, typescripts, indicies, etc.	box 22

Printed materials	
Books	box 23
Clippings	box 23
Misc.	box 23
Offprints and reprints	box 23
Photographs	box 23
Periodicals (1)	box 23
Periodicals (2)	box 24

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series XI: New England

Title/Description	Instances
Early history of New England -- projected book for the	box 25
Federal-Writers' Project in 1938 on the Mashpee MA, 1938	box 25
Indian. Reservation, "book never completed":	
Correspondence	box 25
Notebooks	box 25
Notecards	box 25
Notes & drafts (1)	box 25
Notes & drafts (2)	box 26
Printed miscellaneous	box 26
Provincetown Art Association: Sketchbook of class work, ca.1971	box 26
Provincetown--manuscripts	box 26
Provincetown-periodicals: <i>The Crackerbarrel</i> , 1937.	box 26
<i>Provincetown</i> , 1934.	box 26
<i>Provincetown Poets</i> , 1975-1976.	box 26
<i>Shankpainter</i> , 1970-1981.	box 27
Provincetown--printed miscellaneous	box 27

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series XII: Memorabilia

Title/Description	Instances
Memorabilia From Iran (where Halper was stationed during World War II) and Persian tankard	box 28
Persian Backgammon set [19th century?]	shelf 13v, 32w, 05, 01
Halper's desk nameplate	shelf 13v, 32w, 05, 01

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)