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Lucien Carr papers 4078588

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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

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Carr, Lucien, 1925-2005
Title:	Lucien Carr papers
ID:	4078588
ID:	MS#0201
Date [inclusive]:	1951-1975
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 1 manuscript box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A founding member of the Beat Generation, Carr was a friend of Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and other beat writers, and attended Columbia University in 1944. The Lucien Carr Papers contain correspondence with prominent Beat writers Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac, as well as some clippings and ephemera.

Preferred Citation

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

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Biographical / Historical

Lucien Carr was born in New York City in 1925, but spent most of his childhood in St. Louis, Missouri. It was in St. Louis that he first met Washington University instructor David Kammerer and Kammerer's childhood friend William S. Burroughs.

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Biographical / Historical

After graduating from Andover Academy, Carr briefly enrolled in Bowdoin College, but soon transferred to the University of Chicago, where he stayed for two semesters until an apparent suicide attempt caused him to be briefly institutionalized. His mother, living in New York at the time, convinced Carr to transfer to Columbia University. At Columbia, Carr, a brilliant student, befriended his Columbia dormmate Allen Ginsberg and recent graduate, Jack Kerouac. He introduced Ginsberg and Kerouac to one another and to William Burroughs, who, along with Kammerer, had moved to New York in Carr's wake. The intelligent and charismatic Carr quickly became the ringleader of the group of friends-- introducing them to the sensualist poetry of Rimbaud and encouraging their exploration of Greenwich Village clubs.

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Biographical / Historical

This period of Carr's life ended abruptly when, after a night of drinking, Kammerer made increasingly persistent and aggressive sexual advances on Carr in Riverside Park. The situation became violent and resulted in Carr stabbing and killing Kammerer. He was convicted of manslaughter and served two years in prison for the crime.

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Biographical / Historical

Though Carr was instrumental in the bringing together the key players who would form the core of the Beat Generation, he later remained on the periphery of the movement. He valued his privacy, and asked that his name not be mentioned in press relating to the beats and even requesting that Allen Ginsberg remove his name from the dedication of "Howl." Though he moved out of the spotlight, he remained close with his college friends, supporting Kerouac and Ginsberg throughout their careers, including briefly allowing Kerouac to live with him and his wife while Kerouac worked on the manuscript for *On the Road*.

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Biographical / Historical

He married Francesca (Cessa) van Hartz and took a job at United Press International where he worked as an editor for the entirety of his 47-year career in the news business. He and Francesca had three children-- Simon, Ethan and the writer Caleb Carr before they divorced.

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Biographical / Historical

Carr died of complications of bone cancer in 2005.

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Summary

The Lucien Carr papers contain Carr's correspondence, primarily with Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac, as well as clippings, book reviews, and articles relating to Ginsberg, Kerouac, Burroughs, and other Beat Generation figures.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-08-14 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1977. Accession number--M-77.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 04/17/89.

Processing Information

Papers processed Henry Rowen 07/1977.

Processing Information

Papers reprocessed Carrie Hintz 08/2009.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Beats (Persons)
- Poets, American -- 20th century
- American literature -- 20th century
- Bohemianism
- American poetry -- 20th century
- Manuscripts (documents)
- Photographic prints
- Carr, Lucien, 1925-2005
- Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997
- Kerouac, Jack, 1922-1969
- Cru, Henri, 1921-1992
- Columbia University -- Students

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1956-1973

Scope and Contents

The correspondence series contains letters, telegrams, and postcards sent to Carr from his friends Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. Some of these letters include fragments of works in progress, such as the Ginsberg letter that includes an early draft of the first section of "Howl: For Carl Solomon." Many of Kerouac's letters take the form of poems.

Title/Description	Instances	
Cru, Henri to Jack Kerouac	box 1	folder 1
[1957]	box 1	folder 2

Ginsberg, Allen to Lucien Carr		
January 16, 1956 (includes early draft of "Howl" with author's corrections), January 16, 1956	box 1	folder 3
1957	box 1	folder 4
April 4, 1957	box 1	folder 5
October, 1957	box 1	folder 6
December 11, 1957	box 1	folder 7
May 30, 1958	box 1	folder 8
January 26, 1960	box 1	folder 9
April 6, 1960	box 1	folder 10
April 20, 1960	box 1	folder 11
January 17, 1965	box 1	folder 12
March 28, 1965	box 1	folder 13
January 28, 1966	box 1	folder 14
February 14, 1966	mapcase 14-E-7	
July 3, 1967	box 1	folder 16
October 1, 1967	box 1	folder 17
July 17, 1968	box 1	folder 18
July 19, 1968	box 1	folder 19
August 17, 1968	box 1	folder 20
November 4, 1969	box 1	folder 21
1970	box 1	folder 22
March 22, 1970	box 1	folder 23
October 13, 1970	box 1	folder 24
October 16, 1970	box 1	folder 25
November 21, 1970	box 1	folder 26
July 27, 1971	box 1	folder 27
August, 1971	box 1	folder 28
August 19, 1971	box 1	folder 29
September 16, 1971	box 1	folder 30
March 8, 1972	box 1	folder 31
March 17, 1972	box 1	folder 32

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March 27, 1972	box 1	folder 33
May 24, 1972	box 1	folder 34
June 2, 1972	box 1	folder 35
June 12, 1972	box 1	folder 36
June 24, 1972	box 1	folder 37
August 10, 1973	box 1	folder 38
November 10, 1975	box 1	folder 39
Kerouac, Jack to Lucien Carr		
Undated (includes a pencil sketch of a woman's head), Undated	box 1	folder 40
Undated	box 1	folder 41
February 24, 1956	box 1	folder 42
February 28, 1957	box 1	folder 43
March 12, 1957	box 1	folder 44
October 22, 1957	box 1	folder 45
November 20, 1957	box 1	folder 46
December 14, 1957	box 1	folder 47
January 16, 1958	box 1	folder 48
February 18, 1958	box 1	folder 49
August 14, 1958	box 1	folder 50
May 23, 1959	box 1	folder 51
October 12, 1959	box 1	folder 52
January 19, 1960	box 1	folder 53
May 17, 1961	box 1	folder 54
October 31, 1961	box 1	folder 55
December 27, 1961	box 1	folder 56
January 6, 1962	box 1	folder 57
March 15, 1962	box 1	folder 58
May 28, 1962	box 1	folder 59
June 7, 1962	box 1	folder 60
August 11, 1962	box 1	folder 61
June 2, 1965	box 1	folder 62

1967

	box 1	folder 63
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Kerouac, Jack to Francesca Carr		
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October 22, 1962	box 1	folder 64

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Series II: Printed Material and Ephemera, 1951-1973

Scope and Contents

The printed Material and Ephemera series is comprised of clippings, articles, publications, and book reviews relating to members of the Beat Generation and their work. Also included are three small photographs, two of Allen Ginsberg and one of William Burroughs, and a typed copy of the Buddhist text *The Diamond Sutra* that was owned by Jack Kerouac.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings regarding Ginsberg and Burroughs, 1957, 1959 and undated, 1957, 1959, undated	mapcase 14-E-7	
Clippings regarding Kerouac, 1957-1959 (mostly book reviews), 1957-1959	mapcase 14-E-7	
"Rimbaud" published poem by Jack Kerouac, 1960 (2 copies- 1 inscribed to Lafcadio [Orlovsky]), 1960	box 1	folder 67
Typed copy of <i>The Diamond Sutra</i> (typed, owned and annotated by Jack Kerouac)	box 1	folder 68
Photographs		
Ginsberg in San Francisco, 1950s	box 1	folder 69
Burroughs in Colombia, 1951	box 1	folder 69
"The Beat Generation and the Continuing Revolution" by John Tytell, 1973 published in <i>The American Scholar</i> , 1973	box 1	folder 70

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