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Jack Kerouac papers 4078982

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Kerouac, Jack, 1922-1969
Creator:	LaVigne, Robert, 1928-2014
Title:	Jack Kerouac papers
ID:	4078982
ID:	MS#0708
Date [inclusive]:	1945-1971
Physical Description:	.5 linear feet 1 document box
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Novelist and member of the Beat Generation. The collection includes a small amount of correspondence, manuscript material and ephemera by and relating to Jack Kerouac.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Jack Kerouac Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Jack Kerouac, born Jean-Louis Lebris de Kerouac, was born in 1922 in Lowell, Massachusetts to French Canadian parents. Kerouac spent much of his youth engaged in sports and other physical activities. His athletic prowess earned him a football scholarship to Columbia University where he matriculated in 1940, but he left Columbia in the Fall of 1941 after sustaining an injury that left him unable to play football.

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Biographical / Historical

Upon leaving the University Kerouac joined the Merchant Marine and later the US Navy, but retained close ties to members of the Columbia community. He lived on Manhattan's Upper West Side with his girlfriend, later first wife, Barnard student Edie Parker and her friend Joan Vollmer. It was through Parker that Kerouac met Columbia students Allen Ginsberg and Lucien Carr and their friends William Burroughs and Herbert Huncke. This group of friends and writers which would later form the nucleus of the Beat Generation, was the inspiration for much of Kerouac's work.

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Biographical / Historical

Kerouac married Edie Parker in 1944 and moved with her to her home in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, but their marriage lasted less than a year. Upon the annulment of the marriage, Kerouac returned to New York and his bohemian friends and began to write the novel which would become The Town and the City-- this novel, Kerouac's first, was published in 1950 to mild acclaim.

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Biographical / Historical

Kerouac's next novel, One the Road proved to be much more commercially and critically successful. This novel, published in 1957 documents a trip Kerouac took across the US and Northern Mexico with Neal Cassady. This fictionalized account of Kerouac and his friends introduced the beats to America solidified the image of the beatnik with his interest in sexual freedom, jazz, and drug use in the popular imagination.

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Biographical / Historical

Though Kerouac's goal had long been to be a writer, the success of On the Road never sat entirely well with its author. Kerouac continued to write his thinly veiled autobiographical novels chronicling his bohemian, literary circle of friends, but in his personal life he began to pull away from the public eye and distance himself from his Beat Generation associated. He moved to Northport, Long Island to care for his aging parents and growing more personally and politically conservative.

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Biographical / Historical

Kerouac died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1969.

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Summary

This is a collection of material related to Jack Kerouac pulled together from various sources and donors. It includes correspondence and ephemera as well as manuscripts of small poems and prose fragments and proofs of Desolation Angels and Tristessa.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 2 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. 2010-03-11 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Alternate Form Available

William Burroughs letters available on: microfilm.

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Reader must use microfilm or photocopies of materials specified above.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Lucey, Ellen. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1970. Accession number--M-70.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 07/--/89.

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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Related Materials

Related Material-- At Columbia

William S. Burroughs Papers Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University

Related Material-- Other Repositories

Jack Kerouac Papers, 1920-1977, bulk (1935-1969). Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature New York Public Library

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Controlled Access Headings

- Beats (Persons)
- Bohemianism -- United States
- American literature -- 20th century
- Louisiana -- Description and travel
- Mexico -- Description and travel
- Morocco -- Description and travel
- Portraits
- Authors, American
- Burroughs, William S., 1914-1997

- Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997
- Kerouac, Jack, 1922-1969
- Lucey, Ellen

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1945-1971

Scope and Contents

This series consists of letters sent to Kerouac by friends and associates, as well as letters sent by Kerouac to fans and admirers. This series also consists of a few letters about the author sent to and from Kerouac's family and acquaintances. These include 35 letters of William Burroughs to Jack Kerouac which deal with his daily life and thoughts in Louisiana, Mexico, and Morocco, with his writings and those of Kerouac, and with their mutual friends including Allen Ginsberg. Several examples of Burroughs' experimental prose are included.

Title/Description	Instances	
Arrabel, Fernando to Kerouac, 1968 February 28	box 1	folder 1
Burroughs, William to Allen Ginsberg, 1959 June 8	box 1	folder 2
Burroughs, William to Kerouac		
1945 July - 1950 December (14 letters), 1945 July, 1950 December	box 1	folder 3
1951- 1952 April (7 letters), 1952 April	box 1	folder 4
1945 April- 1955 June (11 letters), 1945, 1955 June	box 1	folder 5
1957, 1962 (2 letters), 1957, 1962	box 1	folder 6
Giroux, Robert to Ellen Lucey, 1952 July 14	box 1	folder 7
Kerouac, Jack		
to Elbert Lenrow, 1949 (2 letters), 1949	box 1	folder 8
to Ellen Lucey, 1951, 1961 (2 letters), 1951, 1961	box 1	folder 9
Kerouac, Stella Sampas to Ellen Lucey, 1969-1971 Physical Description: 4 letters	box 1	folder 10
Lax, Robert to Ellen Lucey, 1959-1971 Physical Description: 2 letters	box 1	folder 11
O'Neill, John H. to Kerouac, 1950 December 5	box 1	folder 12

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Series II: Manuscripts and Miscellaneous, 1960-1965, undated

Scope and Contents

This series consists of a small number of manuscripts of Kerouac's poetry and prose fragments as well as proofs of two of Kerouac's novels, *Desolation Angels* and *Tristessa.* This series also includes clippings and reviews and some of Kerouac's published work. It includes *Big Table* 1 which contains the first installment of Kerouac's "Old Angel Midnight" as well as *Evergreen Review* no.33 which contains the second installment. There is also a memorial portrait of Kerouac by Robert LaVigne

Title/Description	Instances	
Desolation Angels- Uncorrected Proof, 1965	box 1	folder 13
"If onions made the eye more weep…" (includes lines later incorporated into "Pull My Daisy")	box 1	folder 14
"My eagle…"	box 1	folder 14
"In the rainy night the bat…" (untitled prose fragment)	box 1	folder 15
Tristessa- advance proof, 1960	box 1	folder 16
Clippings and Miscellaneous	box 1	folder 17
Posters		
Poster for *Jack Kerouac: A Chicken-Essay* by Victor Levy-Beaulieu	shelf Oversize	
Photo Poster of Kerouac by Antonio A. Rubino	shelf Oversize	
Poster for "On the Road: The Jack Kerouac Conference,", 1982	shelf Oversize	

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