



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Robert Lax papers 4079014

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 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

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

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
Series I: Correspondence and Manuscripts	6
Series II: Uncataloged correspondence and manuscripts by others	6
Series III: Manuscripts	7
Series IV: Manuscripts, untitled	7
Series V: Manuscripts	8
Series VI: Artwork	8
Series VII: Photographs	8
Series VIII: Printed materials	9
Series IX: Oversize, Art	9
Series X: Oversize, Manuscripts	9
Series XI: Uncataloged correspondence and manuscripts by others	9
Series XII: Manuscripts	10
Series XIII: Manuscripts, untitled	11
Series XIV: Manuscripts	12
Series XV: Photographs	12
Series XVI: Printed materials	13
Series XVII: Addition to Lax Papers	14

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Lax, Robert
Title:	Robert Lax papers
ID:	4079014
ID:	MS#0752
Date [inclusive]:	1938-1990
Physical Description:	17 linear feet 32 boxes 1 package
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Poet & editor (Columbia University B.A., 1938) who was born in 1915.

Lax was a noted American poet who wrote concrete or minimalist poetry. He was born in Olean, NY on 30 November 1915 and died there on 26 September 2000. He attended Columbia University where he received a B. A. in 1938. While at Columbia he befriended such notables as Thomas Merton and Ed Rice. After Columbia he worked at the New Yorker University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Time and Jubilee magazine. In 1956 he published his first book The Juggler. He was published in such prestigious journals as New Yorker and Poetry Journal. In 1969 he received a National Council for the Arts Award.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Correspondence, manuscripts, drawings, photographs, and printed material of Lax. Included are letters of Mark and Dorothy Van Doren and Thomas Merton. The bulk of the collection is comprised of Lax's poetry and journal manuscripts, many written in Patmos and Kalymnos, Greece, and originally sent to Emil Antonucci of the Journeyman Press in New York for publication. Also, printed photographs and unprinted negatives of pictures taken by Lax, primarily in Greece.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged as follows. Box 1: Cataloged correspondence & manuscripts; Box 2: Uncataloged correspondence & manuscripts by others; Box 3-20: His poetry; Box 21-23: Prose & journals; Box 24: Drawings & sketches; Box 25-28: Photographs; Box 29-31 & Oversize: Printed materials; Box 32: Addition.

[^ 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

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

Revision Description

Legacy finding aid created from Pro Cite. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-02-16 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Lax, Robert. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1971. Accession number--M-71.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Letters & clippings: Source of acquisition--Lax, Robert. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--10/26/90. Accession number--M-90-10-26.

Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of Robert Lax, 1971-1975 & 1990.

Processing Information

Cataloged 07/--/89.

Processing Information

Processed by MBB 10/75 and HR 5/92. Letters & clippings Cataloged HR 05/05/92.

Accruals

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Literature publishing -- New York (State) -- New York
- American literature -- 20th century
- American poetry -- 20th century
- Publishers and publishing -- New York (State) -- New York
- Greece -- Pictorial works
- Patmos (Greece : Municipality) -- Description and travel
- Kalymnos (Greece) -- Description and travel
- Drawings (visual works)
- Journals
- Manuscripts (documents)
- Notebooks
- Notes (documents)
- Photographs
- negatives (photographs)
- Photographic prints
- Poems
- Sketches
- Authors, American
- Poets, American
- Editors
- Van Doren, Mark, 1894-1972
- Van Doren, Dorothy, 1896-1993
- Merton, Thomas, 1915-1968
- Antonucci, Emil
- Journeyman Press (New York, N.Y.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence and Manuscripts

Title/Description	Instances
Cataloged correspondence and manuscripts	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Uncataloged correspondence and manuscripts by others

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

Photocopies of Thomas Merton correspondence & manuscripts	box 2	folder 1
---	-------	----------

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III: Manuscripts

Scope and Contents

Titled typescripts, in alphabetical order

Title/Description	Instances	
Another play for Nancy Flagg, Sept. 2 1939	box 3	folder 1

Scope and Contents

[Arranged alphabetically]

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series IV: Manuscripts, untitled

Scope and Contents

Arranged chronologically

Title/Description	Instances	
Poetry volumes, 1941-1959	box 10	

Poetry volumes	box 14	
----------------	--------	--

Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

Poetry volumes and scroll poems	box 15	
---------------------------------	--------	--

Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

Loose poetry [No order apparent]	box 16	
----------------------------------	--------	--

Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

Loose poetry [No order apparent]	box 17	
----------------------------------	--------	--

Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

Loose poetry [No order apparent]	box 18	
----------------------------------	--------	--

Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

 Loose poetry [No order apparent] box 19
Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

 Loose poetry [No order apparent] box 20
Scope and Contents

[Untitled and undated]

 Journal and prose notes [Arranged chronologically], [n.d.]; 1938-1940 box 21

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)
Series V: Manuscripts**Title/Description****Instances**

Journals, notebooks, loose writings, [n.d.]; 1965-1968; 1973, 1974

box 23

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)
Series VI: Artwork**Title/Description****Instances**

Drawings and sketches

box 24

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)
Series VII: Photographs**Scope and Contents**

Arranged by subject

Title/Description**Instances**

Reinhardt

box 25

folder 1

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

 Negatives, completely unlabeled and unorganized box 26

Negatives, completely unlabeled and unorganized	box 27
Negatives, completely unlabeled and unorganized	box 28

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series VIII: Printed materials

Title/Description	Instances
Original and photocopied items written by Lax, including whole journals and other publications, 1968-1973	box 29

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series IX: Oversize, Art

Title/Description	Instances
Lax, Robert [Figure in landscape], [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description:</u> 8 x 11 [on mat] watercolor	flatbox 316
Lax, Robert [Woman], [n.p.], 8 July 1939 <u>Physical Description:</u> 8 x 11 [on mat] watercolor	flatbox 316

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series X: Oversize, Manuscripts

Title/Description	Instances
Lax, Robert "The Sea Poem", [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 manuscripts	flatbox 316

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series XI: Uncataloged correspondence and manuscripts by others

Title/Description	Instances
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1944-1968	box 2 folder 2
Uncataloged correspondence	box 2 folder 3
Uncataloged correspondence & mss. re: "The Circus of the Stars"	box 2 folder 4
Mss. by Gerhard van den Bergh	box 2 folder 5
Merton-Lax mss., Book of Merton letters	box 2 folder 6

	box 5	folder 11
Histories	box 5	folder 12
Omnibus	box 6	folder 1
Recent works, includes photographs and drawings	box 6	folder 2
Poems	box 6	folder 3
Old notebooks	box 6	folder 4
Once & For All	box 6	folder 5
One About the Future	box 6	folder 6
One Two Three (1,2,3)	box 6	folder 7
Miscellaneous poems	box 6	folder 8
Tractatus	box 7	folder 1
Recollections of a Temple Dancer	box 7	folder 2
Songs	box 7	folder 3
Scraps	box 7	folder 4
Tosca	box 7	folder 5
Solomon's High Dive	box 7	folder 6
Miscellaneous poems	box 7	folder 6
Three Days Patmos, many drafts & copies	box 8	folder 1
Winter	box 9	folder 1
The Voyage to Pescara	box 9	folder 2
Winter Lightning	box 9	folder 3
You Gotta Understand the Language	box 9	folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series XIII: Manuscripts, untitled

Scope and Contents

Arranged chronologically

Title/Description	Instances
Poetry volumes, 1959-1960	box 11
Poetry volumes, 1961-1966	box 12
Poetry volumes, 1972-1974	box 13

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series XIV: Manuscripts

Scope and Contents

Arranged chronologically

Title/Description	Instances
Journal and prose notes, 1941-1945	box 22

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series XV: Photographs

Scope and Contents

Arranged by subject

Title/Description	Instances
Rice	box 25 folder 2
Scope and Contents	
[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]	
Jubilee	box 25 folder 3
Scope and Contents	
[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]	
Ringling	box 25 folder 4
Scope and Contents	
[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]	
Alzana	box 25 folder 5
Scope and Contents	
[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]	
Bermuda	box 25 folder 6

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

Lowe	box 25	folder 7
------	--------	----------

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

Van Doren	box 25	folder 8
-----------	--------	----------

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

France; Corps, Eau Vive	box 25	folder 9
-------------------------	--------	----------

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

Cristianis	box 25	folder 10
------------	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

Brittanic	box 25	folder 11
-----------	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

Book of taped in photographs	box 25	folder 12
------------------------------	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

Various envelopes of seaside portraits	box 25	
--	--------	--

Scope and Contents

[Black and white, contact sheets, prints of various sizes]

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Title/Description	Instances
Original and photocopied items written by Lax, including whole journals and other publications. Also includes music scores and writings by others, mainly poetry journals., 1961-1991	box 30
Original and photocopied items written by Lax, including whole journals and other publications. Also includes music scores and writings by others, mainly poetry journals., 1966-1995	box 31

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series XVII: Addition to Lax Papers

Title/Description	Instances
Printed materials written by Lax; correspondence with several notable figures, including Richard Avedon and Jack Kerouac; bibliography of his writing and other miscellaneous items.	box 32

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)