



ArchivesSpace

a community served by  Lyrasis

Ted Berrigan papers 4079232

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

appm

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	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	7
Collection Inventory	8
Series I: Letters to Sandra Alper Berrigan	8
Series II: Journals	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Berrigan, Ted
Title:	Ted Berrigan papers
ID:	4079232
ID:	MS#0113
Date [inclusive]:	1961-1975
Physical Description:	1.26 linear feet 3 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A second generation New York School poet, Ted Berrigan's life and work was heavily influenced by the Beat poets whom he greatly admired. This collection of personal letters and journals allows insight into the poet's thought processes and inspirations.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Ted Berrigan Papers, 1961-1975; Box and Folder (if known); Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Ted Berrigan, born Edmund Joseph Michael Berrigan, Jr. in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1934, was a member of the second generation of the New York School of Poets. After a year at Providence College, Berrigan enlisted in the army. He served in Korea, and, upon his return, enrolled at the University of Tulsa where he received his bachelor's degree in English in 1959 and his master's in 1962.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Considering himself a late Beat poet, Berrigan drew inspiration from American Expressionism. He also embraced the Beat lifestyle, hitchhiking across the United States and experimenting with drugs. His work is most often compared to that of Frank O'Hara, a poet whom he greatly admired and mentioned in his earlier journals.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

In 1962, Berrigan met and married Sandra Alpers who was eight years his junior and considered a minor in her home state of Florida. Sandy, as he called her, spent the first two months of their marriage in a mental institution in Miami where her parents had her committed because of the marriage. The two went on to have two children, David and Kate, before separating in 1965, due in large part to Berrigan's infidelities. In 1972 he married poet Alice Notley, and they had two sons, Anselm and Edmund.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Berrigan published his most significant work, *The Sonnets*, in 1964. That same year he, along with Ron Padgett and Joe Brainard, founded *C: A Journal of Poetry*. Berrigan also met with success in the classroom, gaining student followings at the various schools where he taught courses in poetry.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Berrigan was in poor health and essentially homebound his final few years after decades of drug use and diet pill abuse. Ted Berrigan died in July 1983 at the age of 48.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The Ted Berrigan collection is divided into two distinct series. The first consists of letters from him to his first wife Sandy during her time in a mental institution in Miami in 1962. Her parents had her committed and had Ted run out of town after learning of their marriage. Most of these letters are typed, but a few are handwritten. Berrigan includes drawings, photographs, and a few newspaper/magazine clippings. The letters describe his work and travels during the two months they are apart as well as his efforts to convince her parents to change their minds. Most of the letters are dated, and there are several envelopes with postmarks. The second part of the collection consists of thirteen of Berrigan's journals dating from January 1961 to March 1975. The journals include both professional and personal aspects of Berrigan's life. He writes of relationships, including his tumultuous marriage to Sandy and his second marriage to Alice Notley. He writes of the influence of other poets and artists, specifically Frank O'Hara and Andy Warhol, both of whom he met. Many of the entries include his poetry and lists of his daily activities. Also included are numerous lists of poems/poets, books, and films of interest to Berrigan. There are many photographs, newspaper/magazine clippings, letters, and drawings (several of which are by Joe Brainard) affixed to the pages of the journals. Friends Dick Gallup, Ron Padgett, Joe Brainard, and Robert Creeley are mentioned frequently. In several of the later volumes, he begins writing from both sides of the journal, leaving several of the middle pages blank.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two 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
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. 2010-09-29 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

697736 (1978); 297 - 1982: Date of acquisition--1978. Accession number--M78-12.

Processing Information

697736 (1978); 297 - 1982 Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 04/05/89.

Processing Information

Papers processed Christina N. Manzella, Pratt SILS 2011 07/--/2010.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Christina N. Manzella, Pratt SILS 2011 07/--/2010.

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](#)

Related Materials

Related Material-- At Columbia

[Kulchur Foundation Records](#)

Related Material-- Other Repositories

[Ted Berrigan Papers](#), Thomas J. Dodd Research Center of the University of Connecticut

Related Material-- Other Repositories

[C: A Journal of Poetry Archive](#), Fales Library and Special Collections of New York University

Related Material-- Other Repositories

[Joe Brainard Archive](#), Mandeville Special Collections Library of the University of California, San Diego

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Bohemianism
- American poetry -- 20th century
- Diaries
- Poems
- Poets
- Brainard, Joe, 1942-1994
- Berrigan, Sandy
- Columbia University

Collection Inventory

Series I: Letters to Sandra Alper Berrigan, 1962

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters		
27 February to 28 March	box 1	folder 1
31 March to 26 April	box 1	folder 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Journals, 1961-1975

Scope and Contents

Each of the thirteen journals cover a range of time from three months to three years within a single volume. A few of the volumes overlap in year covered. Also included in this series is a folder of miscellaneous clippings and letters which were removed from the first two volumes of the journals, 1961 and 1962.

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous clippings and letters, 1961-1962	box 1	folder 3
Journals		
1961	box 1	
1962	box 1	
1962-1963	box 2	
1963-1965	box 2	
1966-1969	box 2	
1969	box 2	
1969	box 2	
1970	box 3	
1971	box 3	
1971	box 3	
1972-1973	box 3	
1972-1974	box 3	
1974-1975		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)