



University Libraries Special Collections & University Archives

Chester Kallman Papers

Collection Summary

Title:	Chester Kallman Papers
Call Number:	MS 89-01
Size:	0.5 linear feet
Acquisition:	Purchased, circa 1988
Processed By:	KJC: 10-1-1991; JEF, 10-5-1998; MN, 11-26-2013
Note:	Related collection, MS 89-03, W. H. Auden Papers
Restrictions:	None

Literary Rights

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Restrictions

None

Content Note

The collection of Chester Kallman contains 34 sheets of typescript poems and three playbooks. The poems, entitled *The Sense of Occasion*, are written by Chester Kallman as are the two plays. Two playbooks are original typewritten copies, *The Tuscan Players* and *Anne Boleyn: Tragic Opera in Two Acts*. The third playbook is a mimeographed copy of *The Tuscan Players*.

Biography

Chester Kallman (January 7, 1921-January 18, 1975) was an American poet, librettist and translator. His post secondary education was at Brooklyn College and the University of Michigan. Kallman published three literary works, *Elegy* (1951), *Storm at Castle Franco* (1956) and *Absent and Present* (1963).

Kallman was considered a witty, resourceful, most musical poet and operatic scholar. He wrote a libretto for

Carlos Chavez, *The Tuscan Players*, and made singing translations of other operas (*L'incoronazione de Poppea*, *Falstaff* and *Bluebeard's Castle*). His greatest contribution to the realm of fine arts were his collaborations with Wystan Hugh Auden. They formed a corporate personality, writing melodious, elegant poetry.

Auden considered Chester Kallman responsible for his interest in opera. They collaborated on a libretto for Stavinsky's "The Rake's Progress," published *Delia* (a delicate masque) and two librettos *Elegy for Young Lovers* and *Bassard*.

Detailed Description: Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1	Poems. Consists of typescript poem collection, <i>The Sense of Occasion</i> .
Series 2	Box 1 FF 2-4	Playbooks. Contains playbooks of <i>The Tuscan Players: Lyric Drama in Three Acts</i> and <i>Anne Boleyn: Tragic Opera in Two Acts</i> .

Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – Poems

Box 1	FF 1	"The Sense of Occasion: Poems by Chester Kallman." Typescript pages include originals and photocopies with handwritten annotations. Poems include Winter's Journey; The Feasting Tune; On Edge; The Happy Ending; Dead Sender; The Christening; The Middle of The Night: The Hands; Song For A Round Game; Two's Company; The Matrix; Theaters; The Body's Complaint to the Soul; Amoretti; Epilogue to a Lost Comedy for J. B.; Salome Dance (2 pages); The Capital of Away; The Solitudes: A Little Cantata for Elizabeth; Soderstrom & Kersten Meyer (2 pages); Like As Not; Out of Bullfinch; Overture to Collaboration on a Libretto of The Bacchae for Hans Werner Heuze; Delphi for Alan Ansen (2 pages); The African Ambassador a suite for William Meredith; His Birthday Wishes for You; His Private Collection; His Credentials; His Folly His Forbears; His Upper Class Love Affair; His Bohemian Love Affair; His Epitaph His Tour of Naples; His Night Voyages; His Colleague's Tactics; His Reason for Locking Doors; His Likeness; His Rhapsody Against the Moon; His Tactics; His National Anthem; The Honey Divines. Poems were published under same title in 1971 by G. Braziller.
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Series 2 – Playbooks

Box 1	FF 2	Contains a playbook by Kallman, <i>The Tuscan Players: Lyric Drama in Three Acts</i> .
Box 1	FF 3	Contains a copy playbook by Kallman, <i>The Tuscan Players: Lyric Drama in Three Acts</i> .
Box 1	FF 4	Contains a playbook by Kallman, <i>Anne Boleyn: Tragic Opera in Two Acts</i> .

For information, please contact us at:

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