

Karl Jay Shapiro Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Revised by Michael McElderry**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
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Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009007>

Collection Summary

Title: Karl Jay Shapiro Papers

Span Dates: 1947-1964

ID No.: MSS15099

Creator: Shapiro, Karl Jay, 1913-2000

Extent: 100 items; 4 containers; 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Poet, editor, and teacher. Drafts, typescripts, proofs, and printed copies of Shapiro's published and unpublished articles, essays, lectures, and writings relating to drafts of his books *The Bourgeois Poet* and *To Abolish Children*.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Shapiro, Karl Jay, 1913-2000.

Subjects

American literature.

American poetry.

Literature and society--United States.

Poetry.

Related Names

Shapiro, Karl Jay, 1913-2000. Bourgeois poet. 1964.

Shapiro, Karl Jay, 1913-2000. To abolish children and other essays. 1968.

Occupations

Editors.

Educators.

Poets.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Karl Jay Shapiro, poet, editor, and teacher, were given to the Library of Congress by Shapiro in 1968. A subsequent deposit made by Shapiro in 1969 was withdrawn by him in 1992.

Processing History:

The papers of Karl Jay Shapiro were arranged and described in 1972. The collection was reprocessed in 2002 following the withdrawal of material deposited in 1992.

Other Repositories:

Other collections of Shapiro's papers are located at the Archives and Manuscripts Department, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Related Material:

The typescript of *The Bourgeois Poet*, as well as other related material, is contained in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection of the Karl Jay Shapiro Papers located in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Karl Jay Shapiro is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Karl Jay Shapiro are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Karl Jay Shapiro Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1913, Nov. 10	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1937-1939	Attended Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1941-1945	Served in the United States Army
1942	Published <i>Person, Place and Thing</i> . [New York]: Reynal & Hitchcock Published <i>The Place of Love</i> . [Malvern, Australia: Bradley Printers] Awarded Jeanette S. Davis Prize
1943	Awarded Levinson Prize Awarded Contemporary Poetry Prize
1944	Published <i>V-Letter and Other Poems</i> . New York: Reynal & Hitchcock
1945	Awarded Pulitzer Prize in poetry Awarded Shelley Memorial Prize Married Evalyn Katz (divorced 1967)
1945-1946	Awarded Guggenheim fellowship
1946-1947	Consultant in poetry, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
1947-1950	Associate professor of writing, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1950-1956	Editor, <i>Poetry Magazine</i>
1953	Published <i>Poems, 1940-1953</i> . New York: Random House Published <i>Beyond Criticism</i> . [Lincoln]: University of Nebraska Press
1953-1954	Awarded Guggenheim fellowship
1956-1966	Professor of English, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.
1958	Published <i>Poems of a Jew</i> . New York: Random House

1960	Published <i>In Defense of Ignorance</i> . New York: Random House
1964	Published <i>The Bourgeois Poet</i> . New York: Random House
1965	Published <i>A Prosody Handbook</i> , with Robert Beum. New York: Harper & Row
1966-1968	Professor of English, University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill.
1967	Married Teri Kovach (died 1982)
1968	Published <i>To Abolish Children</i> . Chicago: Quadrangle Books
1968-1985	Professor of English, University of California, Davis, Calif.
1969	Awarded Bollingen Prize for poetry
1975	Published <i>The Poetry Wreck, Selected Essays, 1950-1970</i> . New York: Random House
1978	Published <i>Collected Poems, 1940-1978</i> . New York: Random House
1985	Married Sophie Wilkins
1987	Published <i>New and Selected Poems, 1940-1986</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press
1989	Robert Kirsch award, <i>Los Angeles Times</i>
2000, May 14	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Karl Jay Shapiro (1913-2000) span the years 1947-1964 and consist of drafts, typescripts, proofs, and printed copies of Shapiro's published and unpublished articles, essays, lectures, and writings, as well as material relating to his books *The Bourgeois Poet* and *To Abolish Children*. Shapiro was also the author or editor of a large body of critical writing concerning the nature of poetry and its place in American society. Shapiro's articles, arranged alphabetically by title, include photocopies, ribbon and carbon typescripts, and mounted cut pages containing occasional notations by him or others. In addition to these articles, a selection of essays and lectures, many of which had been published separately, were assembled and published as *To Abolish Children*, a volume of nine essays on society and literature. The papers also include a printer's typescript copy of this book with changes and corrections. The articles, essays, and lectures in the collection are interrelated and some duplication of portions of text is apparent.

The collection further contains sets of galley proofs for Shapiro's volume of poetry *The Bourgeois Poet*. There are four sets of proofs for the first part of the book and one set for the second part, each containing annotations.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Articles
BOX 1	"An American Jewish Writer Looks Around," undated
BOX 1	"American Poet?" 1964
BOX 1	"The Decolonization of American Literature," undated
BOX 1	"A Defense of Bad Poetry," undated
BOX 1	"The Desert Island Game," 1963
BOX 1	"From the Black Lace Laboratory," undated
BOX 1	"Graduate Training in the Humanities," 1964
BOX 1	"Hatchet-Burying on Olympus," 1963
BOX 1	"Image of the Poet in America," undated
BOX 1	"Is Poetry an American Art?" undated
BOX 1	"Meeting at Wingspread," 1962
BOX 1	"The Poet as Teacher," 1962
BOX 1	"Poet-on-Campus," 1963
BOX 1	"The Present State of Literary Publishing," undated
BOX 1	"Prose Keys to Modern Poetry," undated
BOX 1	"Retort to Criticism of 'The Bourgeois Poet' in <i>Poet as Artist and Critic</i> by Anthony Ostroff," 1964
BOX 1	"Rimbaud's Silence," 1962
BOX 1	"The Three Hockey Games of T. S. Eliot," 1962
BOX 1	"The 'Uses' of Literature," undated
BOX 1	"Washed Out of Europe," 1961
BOX 1	"What Is Creative Writing?" 1964
BOX 1	"What Is a Public?" 1964
BOX 1	"Whitman Today," 1960
BOX 1	"The Writer and the University," 1961
BOX 1	Untitled article for <i>Writers' Digest</i> , 1963
BOX 2	Books
BOX 2	<i>The Bourgeois Poet</i> , galley proofs, 1963, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	<i>To Abolish Children</i>
BOX 3	Draft, undated (13 folders)
BOX 4	Essays and lectures collected for publication, 1947-1949, 1959-1964, undated (36 folders)