



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Jenny S. Bradley Papers, 1964-1983

MS# 1454

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creator

Jenny S. Bradley, 1886-1983

Title and dates

Jenny S. Bradley Papers, 1964-1983

Abstract

The collection consists of monthly correspondence from Jenny S. Bradley to poet and playwright Susan Sherman from 1964 to Bradley's death in 1983. Bradley, a literary agent and scout, is best known for her work in sponsoring James Joyce's career, as well as introducing notable French authors such as André Gide, Albert Camus to an American audience. Her letters include reflections on the later period of her life, personal anecdotes, and commentary on Sherman's literary work.

Size

.5 linear feet (1 document box)

Call number

MS # 1454

Location

Columbia University
Butler Library, 6th Floor
Rare Book and Manuscript Library
535 West 114th Street

New York, NY 10027

Language(s) of material

English, French

Biographical Note

1964 marked the year in which Jenny S. Bradley--Mrs. William Aspenwall Bradley--and Susan Sherman began corresponding; a relationship which lasted until Bradley's death, at age 97, in 1983. Bradley had made a name for herself in publishing as the literary agent who encouraged James Joyce's efforts and brought him to the front of the literary scene. In addition to professional encouragement, Bradley gave Joyce money, sheets, blankets, and even a table. Following World War II, she played a key role in promoting Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Simone de Beauvoir, and others to American audiences abroad.

Bradley was a serious literary presence of the "old guard"; an entity that was clearly dying, in her opinion, in the late 1960s and early 1970s. As a die-hard "insulaire", Bradley cultivated relationships with Charles de Gaulle, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Rainer Marie Rilke, Charles Seignobos, and others, many of whom paraded through weekly literary salons in her apartment on the Ile-St. Louis in Paris. Her letters reflect a continued interest with the French literary scene and in the literary relationships developed over the years through her work with Harcourt, Brace, with Macmillan, and with Gallimard (Bradley's husband had worked as the Paris agent for Harcourt, Brace, and Macmillan up until his death in 1939). Bradley herself had been approached to complete the French translation of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and later went on to translate and produce Joyce's play *Exiles*.

Susan Sherman was introduced to Bradley through the literary agent Paul R. Reynolds. Sherman is a poet, playwright and essayist based in New York City. She is a founding editor of *IKON* magazine and is a member of the faculty at Parsons School of Design and Eugene Lang College, where she teaches in the culture and media program.

Description

The collection includes personal letters and postcards dealing primarily with travel updates, discussions of books and writers, family issues, and commentary on current literary projects. The letters are often three or four pages in length, and are mostly written on Bradley's delicate blue onionskin paper.

In addition to Bradley's letters, the collection includes one file of correspondence between Sherman and Genevieve Serruys (Bradley's niece), Francis Steegmuller, and "Barry," all of which was sent to Sherman after 1983. These letters concern legacy issues, making reference to a biography and a memorial service following Bradley's death.

Arrangement

This material is arranged chronologically.

ACCESS AND USE

Access

This collection has no restrictions.

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Other Finding Aids

William Aspenwall Bradley Papers, 1900-1966. Columbia University

William A. Bradley Literary Agency Records, 1909-1982. University of Texas, Austin.

ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

Provenance and Acquisition

Gift of Susan Sherman, 2005 November

Accrual of Records

No additions are expected

PROCESSING AND OTHER INFORMATION

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Katie Gradowski, GSAS 2012. Finding aid written by Katie Gradowski in June 2008.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*

Encoding

Finding aid written in English.

Preferred Citation

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

Subject Headings

Jenny S. Bradley Papers

These papers have been indexed in the Columbia University Library online catalog using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

Bradley, Jenny S.

French literature--20th century--History and criticism

Literary agents--Europe--Correspondence

Sherman, Susan

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1

	Correspondence
F.1	1964-1966
F.2	1968
F.3-4	1969 (2 folders)
F.5-6	1970 (2 folders)
F.7	1971
F.8	1972-1974
F.9	1975-1980
F.10	Legacy, 1981-1988