

# Christopher Middleton:

## An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator</b>	Middleton, Christopher, 1926-2015
<b>Title:</b>	Christopher Middleton Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1954-2012
<b>Extent:</b>	3 boxes (1.25 linear feet), 1 galley folder, and 176 electronic files (191 MB)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The papers include holographic manuscripts, typescripts, notebooks, galleys, page proofs, electronic files, and correspondence. The three series in the collection comprise Middleton's original poems, research and publication materials of his translations, and professional and personal materials.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-02822
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access</b>	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials. To request access to electronic files, please email <a href="#">Reference</a> .
<b>Restrictions on Use:</b>	Certain restrictions apply to the use of electronic files. Researchers must agree to the Materials Use Policy for Electronic Files before accessing them. Original computer disks and forensic disk images are restricted. Copying electronic files, including screenshots and printouts, is not permitted.

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### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition</b>	Gift; Purchase, 1966, 1968, 1977
<b>Processed by</b>	Robert Kendrick, 1996 Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Brenna Edwards, 2022.
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>



## Biographical Sketch

Christopher Middleton, poet, essayist, and translator, was born June 10, 1926, in Truro, Cornwall, England. He attended Merton College at Oxford, where he earned his B.A. degree in 1951 and his D.Phil. in 1954. He lectured in English literature at Zurich University from 1952 to 1955 before accepting a lectureship at King's College, University of London. In 1966, Middleton accepted a professorship at the University of Texas at Austin in the Department of Germanic Language, a position he held until retiring in 1998. Middleton died on November 29, 2015.

Among Middleton's published books of poetry, there are *Poems* (1944), *Nocturne in Eden* (1945), *Torse 3* (1962), *Nonsequences* (1965), *Our Flowers & Nice Bones* (1969), *The Lonely Suppers of W. V. Balloon* (1975), *Pataxanadu and Other Prose* (1977), and *Carminalenia* (1980). Middleton's essays are collected in the volumes *Bolshevism in Art and Other Expository Writings* (1978) and *The Pursuit of the Kingfisher* (1983). Middleton's translations of German literature include Robert Walser's *The Walk and Other Stories* (1957) and *Jakob von Gunten* (1969), Hugo von Hofmannstahl's *Poems and Verse Plays* (1961), *Selected Letters of Friedrich Nietzsche* (1969), *Selected Poems of Hölderlin and Mörrike* (1972), and Elias Canetti's *Kafka's Other Trial: The Letters to Felice* (1974), as well as translations of the works of Gottfried Benn, Paul Celan, Günter Grass, Gerd Hofmann, and Christa Wolf. In addition, Middleton wrote the libretto for Hans Vogt's opera, *The Metropolitans* (1964).

## Scope and Contents

The collection includes holograph manuscripts, typescripts, notebooks, galleys, page proofs, an advance proof, electronic files, and correspondence, arranged in three series: I. Poetry, 1954-2012, nd (1.5 boxes), II. Translations, 1970-1974, nd (1.5 boxes), and III. Professional and Personal, 2005.

The Poetry series contains holograph and typed manuscripts of Middleton's poems for *Nonsequences*, *Our Flowers & Nice Bones*, and *Torse 3*. The poems do not appear to have been arranged in any particular order. These manuscripts include Middleton's earliest holograph drafts, multiple revised versions, and typescripts of the final version of each poem. Among the materials for *Nonsequences*, there is one outgoing holograph letter, accompanied by two typescript poems, addressed to Mr. Barrell. In addition, the versos of some manuscripts include materials in other formats, including a poem in *Our Flowers & Nice Bones*, which is written on the back of a party invitation from Dr. and Mrs. Alan Ross and Philip Klindt. Among the manuscripts for *Torse 3*, there is part of a carbon copy typescript of a lecture on Lawrence Durrell's *Justine* on the verso of the "The Oystercatchers" and a carbon copy typescript of a review of Paul Celan's *Sprachgitter* on the verso of "Alba After Six Years."

The Translations series contains materials for Middleton's translations of Elias Canetti's *Kafka's Other Trial: The Letters to Felice* and the *Selected Poems of Friedrich Hölderlin and Eduard Mörike*. Among the materials for the Canetti translation, there are a notebook containing a draft of the translation, a corrected photocopy typescript, a corrected advance proof copy, and correspondence between Middleton and Beverly Colman of Schocken Books, concerning editorial matters. Among the Hölderlin/Mörike materials, there are two notebooks of holograph translations of the poems; notes, a holograph manuscript, and typescripts of the Preface and the Introduction; a carbon copy typescript of the text; a set of page proofs; a set of corrected galleys; and correspondence between Middleton and various representatives of the University of Chicago Press, addressing publication of the book.

Additional Middleton materials may be found in the following collections: E. Dahlberg, Robinson Jeffers, John Lehmann, *London Magazine*, Gerard Malanga, *New Departures*, Peter Owen, and Dame Edith Sitwell.

The Professional and Personal series contains electronic photographs from a 2005 poem reading.

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## Index Terms

### Correspondents

Hölderlin, Friedrich, 1770-1843

Mörike, Eduard Friedrich, 1804-1875

### Subjects

English poetry -- 20th century

German poetry -- Translations into English

English poetry -- Translations into German

### Document Types

Electronic documents

First drafts

Galley proofs

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**Series I. Poetry, 1954-2012, nd**

Approximate Essays (unpublished). Draft. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2006 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_001

Collected Poems (2008). Production files. 21 electronic files: Adobe InDesign, Adobe PDF, 2007 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_010

Enjoyment of Shouting (2009)

Cover. 2 electronic files: Adobe PDF, 2009 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_004,  
2205007G\_007

Printer's marks. 2 electronic files: Adobe PDF, 2009

Loose Cannons: Selected Prose (2014). Draft. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2012 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_006

*Nonsequences* [book of poetry, 1965]. Holograph and typescript drafts with corrections, 1961-1963, nd **box 1**  
**folder**  
1-3

*Our Flowers & Nice Bones* [book of poetry and prose, 1969]. Holograph and typescript drafts with corrections, 1965-1968, nd **folder**  
4-6

Poems 2006-2009 (unpublished)

Cover. 1 electronic file: Adobe PDF, 2010 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_009

Printer's marks. 1 electronic file: Adobe PDF, 2010

Slight Poems (2009)

Cover. 2 electronic files: Adobe PDF, 2009 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_003,  
2205007G\_008

Printer's marks. 2 electronic files: Adobe PDF, 2009

Tenor on Horseback (2007). Production files. 9 electronic files: Adobe InDesign, Adobe PDF, encapsulated postscript, 2003-2006 **Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_011

*Torse 3* [book of poetry, 1962].

Holograph and typescript drafts with corrections, 1954-1961, nd

**box 1**  
**folder 7**

Holograph and typescript drafts with corrections, 1954-1961, nd

**box 2**  
**folder 1**

Twenty Tropes for Doctor Dark (2000). Booklet set by Bradley Hutcherson. 9  
electronic files: Adobe PDF, JPG, plain text, QuarkXPress, 2000-2004

**Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_012

**Series II. Translations, 1970-1974, nd**

Canetti, Elias. *Kafka's Other Trial: The Letters to Felice* [book, 1974].

Notebook, nd **box 2 folder 2**

Incomplete photocopy of typescript, titled "The Other Trial: Kafka's Letters to Felice,"nd **folder 3**

Advance proofs, bound in paper wrappers, [1974?] **folder 4**

Correspondence, 1973-1974 **folder 5**

Hölderlin, F. and E. Mörike. *Selected Poems* [book, 1972].

Notebook of Hölderlin translations, 1970-1971 **box 2 folder 6**

Notebook of Mörike translations, 1971-1972 **folder 7**

Drafts of "Unsystematic Introduction" and "Preface,"nd **folder 8**

Typescript, nd **box 3 folder 1-3**

Galleys, nd (removed to Galley Files)

Page proofs, [1972] **folder 4**

Correspondence, 1971-1973 **folder 5**

**Series III. Professional and Personal, 2005**

Poem Present reading. 125 electronic files: JPG, 2005

**Disk-ID-No.**  
2205007G\_002

### **Christopher Middleton--Index of Correspondents**

- Colman, Beverly (Schocken Books)--2.5
- Fitchen, Allen N. (University of Chicago Press)--3.5
- Flack, Margaret (University of Chicago Press)--3.5
- Mitchell, Linda (University of Chicago Press)--3.5
- Osler, Cara (University of Chicago Press)--3.5