

# Julian Beck:

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

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Beck, Julian, 1925-1985
<b>Title:</b>	Julian Beck Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1937-1968, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	3 boxes (1.26 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Contains mostly correspondence of the American actor, director, and poet Julian Beck and his wife Judith Malina. Beck and Malina co-founded the Living Theatre, an experimental theatre group in New York City. Correspondents include Edward Albee, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Jack Gelber, Allen Ginsberg, Ezra Pound, Terry Southern, Tennessee Williams, William Carlos Williams, and other notables.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-0296
<b>Language:</b>	English, French, German
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research

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### Administrative Information

<b>Processed by:</b>	Apryl Voskamp and Joan Sibley, 2015 <b>Note:</b> This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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**Works:**

Director's notes, revisions and stage directions for Trial horse No. 1 (Many loves), by William Carlos Williams, handwritten manuscript / notes, 69 pages bound, undated. Included in printed copy of New directions number seven, 1942.

**Container**  
1.1

**Letters:**

3 TccL to Abel, Lionel, 1956-1963.

**Container 1.2**

3 TccL to Albee, Edward, 1962-1963.

4 TL, 6 TccL, TccLS to Bentley, Eric, 1957-1961. On verso of letter dated 26 May 1958: unidentified play, carbon copy typescript / page, undated.

TccL to Bentley, Eric, 12 March 1961. Typed signature: Julian Beck and Judith Malina.

3 AL / drafts, 3 TL / copies to Bissinger, Karl, 1965. Included with this: signed typescript / explanatory note; photostat of published letters in New York Times; TLS Beck to Ron Wolin re these letters, 1968.

TccL to Dahlberg, Edward, 27 March 1959.

TccL to Deren, Maya, 24 April 1959.

TccL to Eberhart, Richard, 30 April 1958.

TccL to Ferlinghetti, Lawrence, 18 July 1962.

2 TccL to Fowlie, Wallace, 13 and 22 November 1957.

TL, 14 TccL, TccLS, 2 TccN to Gelber, Jack, 1959-1961, undated.

**Container  
1.3**

TccL to Gelber, Jack, 4 March 1961. Addressed to Jack, Carol, Jed. Typed signature: Judith and Julian.

TccL to Hennacy, Ammon, 29 March 1960. Written on verso: TFL from The Living Theater to various recipients re the production of The cave at Machpelah by Paul Goodman, undated.

**Container  
1.2**

TccL to Jones, LeRoi, 29 July 1963.

TL / draft with handwritten emendations to Laughlin, James, 27 July 1951.

TccL to Littauer and Wilk, 18 March 1959.

TccL to Litvinoff, Seymour, 6 April 1961.

5 TccL to Murray, James re Many loves by William Carlos Williams, 1957.

TccL to New York City Motor Vehicle Bureau, addressed to William S. Hults, Commissioner re Jack Gelber, 3 April 1962.

TccL to Nin, Anaïs, 10 February 1959.

TccLS to Patchen, Kenneth, 26 March 1960.

TccL, TL /draft with TccLS / final copy to Pound, Ezra re Women of Trachis, 21 September and 30 October 1955.

TL / draft with handwritten notations, 8 TccL, TccL with TccL / copy, 2 AN to Rexroth, Kenneth, 1950-1953, undated. **Container**  
1.4

AL / draft, 3 TL, 3 TccL, AN to Van Vechten, Carl, 1951-1952, undated. **Container**  
1.2

3 AL / drafts, 2 TL / drafts, TL, 34 TccL, TccLS, TN to Williams, William Carlos, 1948-1961, undated. **Container**  
1.5

**Recipient:**

- Abel, Lionel. TLS to Beck, Julian, 23 March 1963. **Container 1.6**
- Barnes, Djuna. TNS to Beck, Julian, 31 January 1959.
- Bentley, Eric. 17 TLS, 2 TLI, TN, ANI, 2 TNS, 15 TPCS, TL with typed enclosures, 3 TLS with typed enclosures to Beck, Julian, 1958-1961, undated. **Container 1.7**
- Bentley, Eric. TLS to Beck, Julian and Judith Malina, 27 September 1961. Enclosed with this So relax, by Eric Bentley, carbon copy typescript with handwritten emendations, 1 page, undated.
- Birth Press. ANS "Juli" to Beck, Julian, 1 January 1962. Written on: Bills to Julian Beck from the Birth Press. **Container 1.6**
- Cage, John. 2 ALS, TLS, APCS to Beck, Julian, 1956-1961.
- Cocteau, Jean, 1889-1963. 2 ALS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 3 November 1951, 29 September 1954. Written in French.
- Cronyn, Hume. TNS to Beck, Julian, 21 March 1961.
- Dahlberg, Edward. 2 TLS to Beck, Julian, 6 November 1958, 14 January 1959.
- De Kooning, Elaine, 1920- . ALS to Beck, Julian, 8 June 1963.
- Deren, Maya. TLS to Beck, Julian, August 1961.
- Donehue, Vincent J. TLS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 7 January 1960.
- Eberhart, Richard. TLS to Beck, Julian, 21 April 1958.
- Ferlinghetti, Lawrence. APCS, TPCS to Beck, Julian, 6 April and 21 July 1962.
- Fowlie, Wallace. TLS to Beck, Julian, 20 November 1957.
- Gelber, Jack:
- ALS, 3 TLS, ANS, TN, T / telegram to Beck, Julian, 1959-1961, undated. **Container 2.1**
- 5 ALS, 2 TLS, ANS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 1959-1961, undated.
- Signed printed card, T / telegram to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 21 December 1960, undated.

- Ginsberg, Allen. TPC to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 19 October 1959. From Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky. **Container**  
1.6
- Goodman, Paul. TNS to Beck, Julian, 12 December 1959.
- Hawkins, Erick. TLS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 12 May no year.
- Hennacy, Ammon. TPCS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 23 April 1960.
- Herbst, Josephine. TLS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 23 December 1960.
- Kingsley, Sidney S. TLS to Beck, Julian, 27 March 1961.
- Koch, Vivienne. ALS to Beck, Julian, 28 May no year.
- Kreymborg, Alfred. 2 TLS to Beck, Julian, 4 and 27 March 1959.
- Latouche, John Treville, 1917-1956. ALS to Beck, Julian, undated.
- Liben, Meyer. ALS, ANS to Beck, Julian, 1 March and 6 June 1960.
- Logan, Joshua. ALS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 6 October 1960.
- Murray, James F. 2 TLS to Beck, Julian, 11 and 29 March 1957.
- Nin, Anaïs, 1903-1977. TLS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, undated.
- Nin, Anaïs, 1903-1977. 3 APCS to Beck, Julian, 1958-1959.
- Olson, Charles. TLS, T / telegram to Beck, Julian, 19 November 1958, 20 January 1959. **Container**  
2.2
- Page, Geraldine. ANS, TNI to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 8 May 1958, 9 July 1959.
- Patchen, Kenneth, 1911-1972. ALS to Beck, Julian, 6 August 1959.
- Pound, Dorothy. TLS to Beck, Julian, 5 January 1949.
- Pound, Ezra, 1885- . TLS, 2 APCI to Beck, Julian, 1949-1955.
- Rainer, Dachine. TLS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 18 September 1962.
- Rexroth, Kenneth:
- ANS to Beck, Julian, undated. Written on: Note re Beyond the mountains, by Kenneth Rexroth, typescript / note with few handwritten emendations, 1 page, undated. **Container**  
2.3

2 ALS, APCS, APCI to Beck, Julian, 1950-1952.

7 ALS, ANS to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 1950-1951.

Rivers, Larry. ANS to Beck, Julian, 11 September 1961.

**Container 2.2**

Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913- . TLS to Beck, Julian, 1 March 1961.

Szigeti, Joseph. TLS to Beck, Julian, 4 June 1959.

University Players, Inc. TLS Richard Cumming to Beck, Julian, 5 July 1960.

Van Vechten, Carl. 2 APCS Carlo to Beck, Julian and Malina, Judith, 20 September and 17 October 1951. **Container 2.4**

Van Vechten, Carl. 11 TLS, 2 ANS, TN, 3 TNS, 5 APCS to Beck, Julian, 1951-1952, undated. Some postcards include portraits of Gertrude Stein.

Wilder, Thornton. ALS, TFPC to Beck, Julian, 11 October 1958, 1 November 1962. **Container 2.2**

Williams, Florence H. 14 ALS, APCS to Beck, Julian, 1959-1961.

Williams, William Carlos, 1883- . ALS, 23 TLS, TLI, 2 TL, 2 TPCS, 2 TPC to Julian Beck, 1948-1960, undated. **Container 2.5**

Wood, Peggy. TLS to Beck, Julian, 8 November 1961.

**Container 2.2**

**Miscellaneous:**

Albee, Edward. TDS, 1 page, 12 May 1964. Affidavit re Julian and Judith Malina Beck. **Container**  
2.6

Beck, Judith Malina. TccL to Gelber, Jack re The connection, 21 August 1961.

Beck, Julian. Statements to Gelber, Jack, handwritten and typed manuscripts, 3 items, 1962, undated.

Beck, Julian, 1925- . Check to Jones, LeRoi, 29 July 1963.

Bentley, Eric: **Container**

Invitation / mimeo copy to unidentified recipient, undated. Invitation from Eric Bentley, Isaiah Sheffer, Stefan Wolpe, Paul Zimet to premiere performance of The exception and the rule, by Bertolt Brecht and Gamblers, by Nikolai Gogol. On verso: handwritten notations. **Container**  
2.6

TLS to Beck, Judith Malina, undated.

TLI to the Living Theatre, undated.

Berge, Carol:

Chiaroscuro, handwritten manuscript with deletions and additions, 8 pages, undated. **Container**  
2.7

Chiaroscuro, typescript with few handwritten additions, 2 pages, undated. Six-part poem for l'avventura.

Chiaroscuro, signed carbon copy typescript, 2 pages, undated. AN written on page 1.

Circles, as in the eye / Circles, smaller, larger, as in the eye, handwritten manuscript, 3 pages, April 1962.

Circles, as in the eye / Circles, smaller, larger, as in the eye, typescript / variant versions with handwritten emendations, 5 pages, undated. On verso: The cellar men, the attic men; Belling the cat; The polio man; Before the child; typescript, 4 pages, undated.

Circles, as in the eye, signed carbon copy typescript, 1 page, undated.

Scenes from earth substances, handwritten manuscript with one deletion, 1 page, 18 October 1962.

Scenes from earth substances, signed typescript with handwritten emendations, 6 pages, September 1962. On verso of page 4: Lord Randall modern, typescript with few handwritten emendations, 1 page, undated. On verso of page 3: Agnora's song, typescript, 1 page, undated.

Berkson, Bill. Lines for the Living Theatre, carbon copy typescript, 1 page, undated. **Container 2.6**

Big Table Magazine. TLI Albert Podell to James Spicer at the Living Theatre, 28 July 1959.

Brown, Kenneth H. The meeting. The allotment. The assessment (poem), initialed typescript, 1 page, undated. Inscribed: For Julian and Judith.

Brown, Kenneth H. TLS to James Spicer at the Living Theatre, 17 January 1963.

Cage, John. Program for Music of Christian Wolff and John Cage, typescript / mimeo / draft with handwritten notations and typescript / copy, 1 page each, 25 February 1960.

Deren, Maya. Recorded introduction to a program of chamber films by Maya Deren with music by Teiji Ito, typescript / mimeo, 2 pages, undated. Inscribed: For Julian – from Maya.

Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955. TNS to Malina, Max, 15 November 1937. Written in German.

Erdmann, Barbara. Ajanta, adapted by Barbara Erdmann from a poem by Muriel Rukeyser, carbon copy typescript / screenplay, 14 pages, undated. Included with this: signed TccN with handwritten addition by Barbara Erdmann.

Gelber, Jack. TccN to John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, undated.

Gelber, Jack. ALS, ANS to James Spicer at the Living Theatre, 16 March no year, undated.

Ginsberg, Allen. Fortune cookie poems, carbon copy typescript, 2 pages, undated.

Ginsberg, Allen. TccLS to the Village Voice re The connection by Jack Gelber, 14 August 1959. Written at bottom: ANI to Beck, Julian.

Goodman, Paul:

The cave at Machpelah, carbon copy typescript with few handwritten emendations, 13 pages, Spring equinox 1958.

**Container 2.8**

Faustina: Act I, typescript, 28 pages, undated.

**Container 2.9**

- Jonah: an opera, carbon copy typescript, 41 pages, undated. **Container**  
3.1
- Jonah: synopsis, carbon copy typescript with one handwritten emendation, 5 pages, undated. Written at head of page 1: Jack Beeson's name, address, and phone number. **Container**  
2.8
- List of books and prices, signed handwritten manuscript, 1 page, undated.
- On the way back from Mount Moriah, carbon copy typescript, 21 pages, December 1955. **Container**  
3.2
- The theory of tragedy, I (after Sophocles), carbon copy typescript with one typed page, 10 pages, January 1947. **Container**  
3.3
- The theory of tragedy, II (after Aeschylus), carbon copy typescript with one typed page and few handwritten emendations, 10 pages, January 1947. **Container**  
3.4
- Works in progress, signed handwritten manuscript / incomplete with revisions, 23 pages, undated. **Container**  
3.5
- The young disciple; martyrology in three acts, carbon copy typescript with handwritten revisions, 52 pages, October 1954. **Container**  
3.6
- Hawk's Well Press. TLS David Antin to the Living Theatre, 13 October 1960. Attached to this: TFPC from Hawk's Well Press to Living Theatre, undated. **Container**  
2.6
- Hellman, Lillian, 1905- . The autumn garden, page proof, 136 pages, 16 April 1951. **Container**  
3.7
- Jones, LeRoi. Signed handwritten manuscript / receipts from the Living Theatre, 4 items, 1963. Included with these: envelope from Jones to Julian Beck. **Container**  
2.6
- Jones, Robert Edmond. ALS to Fitzgerald, Eleanor "Fitzi," 27 December 1940.
- Koch, Kenneth. Fortune cookie poems, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.
- Larsen, Marthe. ALS to Beck, Judith Malina, 15 February 1950. **Container**  
3.8
- Litvinoff, Seymour. Memorandum of agreement between the Living Theatre and Seymour Litvinoff, agent for Jack Gelber, TccD in form of a letter, 4 pages, April 1962.
- Living Theatre. TccL to Ferlinghetti, Lawrence, 28 November 1962. Typed signature: James Spicer.
- Living Theatre. 3 TccL to Robert M. MacGregor at New Directions re Many loves, by William Carlos Williams, 1961. Typed signature: James Spicer.

Loos, Anita. TLS to the Living Theatre, undated.

New Directions. TLI to James Spicer at the Living Theatre re Many loves by William Carlos Williams, 27 September 1961. Typed signature: Robert M. MacGregor.

New York Public Library. TFCS from Edward G. Freehafer, TFLS J. W. Henderson to Gelber, Jack re The connection, 27 July and 4 August 1959.

O'Hara, Frank. Lines for The fortune cookies, carbon typescript, 2 pages, undated.

Pound, Ezra, 1885- . Memorandum of agreement between Ezra Pound and the Living Theatre re Women of Trachis, TccDS by Ezra Pound and Julian Beck, 2 pages, 14 May 1960.

Random House, Inc. Statement to the Living Theatre, March 1962.

Rexroth, Kenneth. ALS to Stryker, Richard, 18 October 1951.

Rochelle. Prosecutor's song, signed typescript 1 page, undated.

Rochelle. While she talks, signed typescript, 1 page, undated.

Southern, Terry. APCS, TLS to James Spicer at the Living Theatre, 12 and 27 November 1961.

Stryker, Richard. TccLS to Rexroth, Kenneth, 30 September 1951.

Van Vechten, Carl. APCS "Carlo" to Beck, Judith Malina, 30 January 1952.

William Morris Agency, Inc. TLS Joseph Singer to the Living Theatre, 26 June 1962. Acting as agents for Edward Albee.

Williams, Florence H. AN to Cherry Lane Theatre, 19 November 1951.

Williams, Tennessee, 1911- . TDS, 2 pages, 1964. Affidavit re Julian and Judith Malina Beck.

Williams, Tennessee, 1911- . ALS to Piscator, Erwin, 2 February 1942.

Williams, William Carlos, 1883-1963:

The art, signed typescript, 1 page, undated. Attached to this: AN by Florence H. Williams. **Container**  
3.8

Many loves / titled Trial horse no. 1, revisions by Curtis Thomas, typescript with handwritten emendations, 5 pages, undated.

Many loves: cast list, typescript / mimeo, 1 page, undated. Original cast of preview performances at the Living Theatre.

Uncatalogued material including: Sam Goody bill; various incomplete notes.

## Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

### Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

### Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date