

Abraham Leventhal:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator	Leventhal, Abraham Jacob, 1896-1979
Title	A.J. Leventhal Collection
Dates:	1918-1982
Extent:	1 box (.42 linear feet)
Abstract:	This collection contains correspondence and a few works by Leventhal, including essays on James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. The bulk of the collection comprises letters from Beckett to Leventhal.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04855
Language:	English.
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchase, 1991 (R12354)
Processed by	Chelsea S. Jones
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Abraham Jacob Leventhal (1896-1979), often called "Con" by his friends, grew up in Dublin and attended a protestant school, despite his Jewish heritage. Just after the first World War he took a break from his university studies to work for the first Zionist Commission in Palestine and to help found the *Palestine Weekly*. When, upon returning to Dublin, the *Dublin Magazine* turned down his review of James Joyce's *Ulysses* he founded his own literary journal, the *Klaxon*, in order to publish it. When his friend Samuel Beckett left a post at Trinity College, Leventhal assumed the position.

Leventhal's friendship with Beckett continued on and off through out Leventhal's life. It cooled off considerably when Leventhal, a married man, began an affair with Ethna McCarthy, a women for whom Beckett harbored strong feelings. After years of openly living together, Leventhal married Ethna, and Beckett reconciled himself to the couple. Later on Leventhal acted as a secretary for Beckett, intercepting and answering correspondence and generally helping to shield Beckett from his admiring public.

Scope and Contents

Letters from Samuel Beckett to Leventhal make up the bulk of the A. J. Leventhal Collection, 1918-1982, supplemented with typescripts of poems and essays and other correspondence. The collection is arranged by the name of the individual to whom the materials relate: Samuel Beckett, James Joyce, Valery Larbaud, A. J. Leventhal, and Marion Leigh Leventhal. All correspondence and individual works are listed in the Index of Correspondents and Index of Works at the end of this finding aid.

The Samuel Beckett section contains typescripts of a few poems published in Beckett's *Collected Poems in French and English*, as well as over 150 letters and postcards written to A. J. Leventhal (1934-1979), and a few written to Leventhal's wife, Ethna. Also present are two groups of letters written to Beckett by obsessed followers and some ephemera associated with a production of *Waiting for Godot*.

The James Joyce section holds a visiting card and a letter from Joyce, as well as several articles written about Joyce by Leventhal. The Valery Larbaud section contains two exchanges between Larbaud and T.B. Rudmose Brown as well as an article about Larbaud. The A.J. Leventhal section contains mostly personal correspondence, including several letters from Leslie Daiken, and the Marion Leigh Leventhal section has letters written to Marion.

Related Material

Other materials associated with A. J. Leventhal may be found in the Mary Hutchinson Collection at the Ransom Center.

Index Terms

Correspondents

Beckett, Samuel, 1906- .

Daiken, Leslie H.

Subjects

Joyce, James, 1882-1941.

Larbaud, Valery.

Authors--Irish--20th Century.

Authors--Jewish--20th Century.

Document Types

Postcards.

Beckett, Samuel

<i>Collected Poems in French and English</i> and other writings, typescripts with corrections, nd	box 1 folder 1
Tour schedule, call sheet, program, and add sheet for a production of <i>Waiting for Godot</i> , nd, 4pp	folder 2
Letters to A.J. Leventhal	
1934	box 1 folder 3
1953-1963	folder 4
1969-1971, includes letters to Leventhal from people interested in contacting Beckett	folder 5
1962-1979	folder 6
Letters to Leventhal, Ethna, 1957-1959	folder 7
Doody, Myles to Beckett, 1982-1983	folder 8
Travers, W. M. to Beckett, 1978-1979	folder 9

Joyce, James

Joyce, James, visiting card and letter to Gertrude Zlotover, 1921

box 1
folder
10

Typescript articles about Joyce written by A.J. Leventhal, 1923-1941, 23pp

folder
11

Larbaud, Valery

Letters to T.B. Rudmose Brown with Brown's responses, 1926-1927

box 1
folder
12

Roger Little, "Valery Larbaud et les Lettres Irlandaises: Connaissance de Rudmose-Brown," by Roger Little, sent to Marion Leigh in 1982, 21pp

folder
13

box 1 folder 14 Leventhal, A.J., correspondence

Leventhal, Marion Leigh

Lake, Carlton to Leventhal, 1982

box 1 folder 15

McLaren, Norman and Edward Williams to Leventhal, 1982

folder 16

A.J. Leventhal--Index of Correspondents

Box and folder numbers are followed by a number in parentheses which indicates the number of items by that person. A single item is indicated where there is no number in parentheses following the box and folder number. So in the following example:

Beckett, Samuel, 1906- --1.3-6 (155), 1.7 (19)

there are 155 letters from Beckett box 1, folders 3-6, and 19 letters from Beckett in box 1, folder 7.

- A.P. Watt & Son (firm)--1.14
- Beckett, Samuel, 1906- --1.3-6 (155), 1.7 (19)
- Cotter, Denis--1.5
- Daiken, Leslie H.--1.14 (12)
- Doody, Myles--1.8 (17)
- Edwards, Hilton, 1903-1982--1.14
- Elias, Rahael--5.1
- Fallon, Padraic, 1905- --1.14
- Gates, Merrion--1.14
- Gontarski, Stan--1.5
- Jenkin, Lucien--1.5
- Johnston, Denis, 1901- --1.14
- Lake, Carlton--1.15
- Larbaud, Valery--1.12 (2)
- MacLiammoir, Micheal, 1899-1978--1.14 (7)
- McLaren, Norman, 1914- --1.16 (3)
- Nicholson & Watson (firm)--1.14
- O'Hara, Don--1.5
- Rudmose-Brown, T.B. (Thomas Brown), 1878-1942--1.12 (2)
- Share, Bernard--1.5
- Travers, W.M.--1.9 (10)
- Williams, Edward, fl. 1982--1.16
- Wilson, Colin--1.14 (3)
- Yellin, Herb--1.5 (2)
- Zeifman, Hersh--1.5 (3)

A.J. Leventhal--Index of Works

- Beckett, Samuel
 - *Collected Poems in French and English*--1.1
- "Echo's Bones"--1.1
- "Fizzle II"--1.1
- "Lessness"--1.1
- "Poems"--1.1
- "The Lost Ones"--1.1
- "Three Poems"--1.1

- Daiken, Leslie H.
 - London Square Revisited--1.14
- The Sea-Horses--1.14
- Squatter--1.14

- Leventhal, A. J.
 - James Joyce--1.11
 - The *Ulysses* of Mr. James Joyce--1.11
 - Lines Written by One Gloucester to S.O.'s--1.11
 - Xantipathy--1.11

- Little, Roger
 - Valery Larbaud et les Lettres Irlandaises: Connaissance de Rudmose-Brown--1.13

- Travers, W. Michael
 - Beckett's Cancer--1.9