

Webster Aitken:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Aitken, Webster, 1908-1981
- Title:** Webster Aitken Collection
- Dates:** 1899-1985, undated
- Extent:** 8 document boxes, 1 oversize box (5.03 linear feet)
- Abstract:** Includes manuscripts and chiefly correspondence of the American classical pianist Webster Aitken. Correspondents represented in the collection include Aitken family members, Paul Cadmus, Aaron Copland, Jim Ede, Kelly Fearing, E. M. Forster, Edward McKnight Kauffer, Ernst Krenek, Mabel Dodge Luhan, Georgia O'Keeffe, Priaulx Rainier, Moriz Rosenthal, Artur Schnabel, Virgil Thomson, Sir Hugh Walpole, and others.
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-0048
- Language:** English, French, German, Sanskrit
- Access:** Open for research
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Administrative Information

- Processed by:** Joan Sibley and Sara Saastamoinen, 2013 **Note:** 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.
- Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)
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Works:

Untitled work on Diabelli variations, typescript, 6 pages, undated. Included with this: handwritten manuscript / fragment on Beethoven. **Container**
1.1

Untitled work on the nature of music, typescript, 12 pages, undated.

Autobiographical summary, handwritten manuscript / photocopy, typescript, and printed page, 20 pages, undated.

Journey into defeat: Germany, April 7-28, 1949, typescript / photocopy, 87 pages, 1949. **Container**
1.2

A little tour of Baja California, handwritten manuscript, 49 pages, 1953. Included with this: 2 letters of introduction for Webster and Lilian Aitken; snapshots, transferred to Photography Collection. **Container**
1.1

A note on the short pianoforte pieces, handwritten and typed manuscript, 8 pages, undated.

Poems, handwritten and typed manuscript, 40 pages, undated. 1 written in French, 10 written in German.

Letters:

ALS to unidentified recipient Eunice, undated.

Container 1.3

272 ALS, 101 ALI, 7 AL, 340 TLS, TLS / photocopy, 15 TLI, 16 TL, ANI, 29 APCS, 19 APCI, 2 APC, TPC, 4 telegrams to Aitken, E. S., Mrs., 1925-1940, undated. Included with these: 11 ALS, ALI, 11 TLS, TL Webster Aitken to Hugh Aitken; 2 ALS, ALI, 3 APCS Webster Aitken to Margaret Aitken; TL / copy Webster Aitken to Moriz Rosenthal; TLS Webster Aitken to his Aunt Agnes; 5 photographs with explanatory notes on back; 2 ALS, APCS Marie Prentner to Mrs. E. S. Aitken; T invitation / copy Webster Aitken to Baronin Seidl; APCI unidentified author M. N. to Mrs. E. S. Aitken; 2 ALS Frances von Szuborits to Mrs. E. S. Aitken.

**Container
1.4-3.2**

ALS, TPC to Aitken, Hugh, 26 June 1928, 31 December 1930. Included with this: 3 ALS Hugh Aitken to Webster Aitken.

**Container
1.3**

ALS, 2 APCS, 5 APCI to Aitken, Margaret, 1926-1973, undated.

APCI to Aitken, Murray, 3 January 1929.

ALS, 2 APCS to Craig, M. R., Mrs., 1928-1929, undated.

APCS to Macgregor, Willard, 12 November 1933.

TLS to Powley, Agnes, 24 July 1921.

TLS, 4 APCS to Powley, Agnes, 1928-1959.

ALS to Powley, Agnes, 19 December 1948. Included with this: 4 APCS Powley to Webster and Lilian Aitken; ALS Mrs. E. S. Aitken to Powley; 2 snapshots.

9 ALS, 3 ALI, AL, 16 TLS, TLI, 99 APCS, 129 APCI, 5 APC, 9 TPCI, telegram to Szuborits, Frances von, 1928-1933, undated. Included with these: APCI unidentified author to Szuborits; copies of the letters.

**Container
3.3-11**

Recipient:

- Unidentified author Hal. 3 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1930. **Container 4.1**
- Unidentified author Margaret. 15 ALS, ALI, 9 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1966-1980, undated. Some directed also to Lilian Aitken; some signed Margaret and Jerry. Included with these: ALS, APCS Jerry and Margaret to Lilian Aitken; APCS Jerry to Lilian Aitken; 3 ALS Jerry to Webster Aitken. **Container 4.2**
- Unidentified author Peggy. 2 ALS, 3 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1930-1933, undated. **Container 4.1**
- Unidentified author R. M. L. 5 APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1930-1933.
- Unidentified author Ruth. APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 6 August 1930, 5 July 1934.
- Unidentified author Tom. 2 APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1970-1973, undated.
- Unidentified author Una. 2 ALS, APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1977-1979, undated.
- Unidentified author Volsdia. ALS, 5 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1931-1939, undated. Written in German.
- Unidentified author Willard. 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 18-19 August 1938.
- Unidentified authors. 5 ALS, ALI, APCS, APCI, APC to Aitken, Webster, 1931-1971, undated. 1 written in German.
- Unidentified authors R. and G. 5 APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1930-1931.
- Aitken, E. S., Mrs. 23 ALS, ALS / photocopy to Aitken, Webster, 1925-1940, undated. **Container 4.4-5**
- Bogianchino, Massimo. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 30 July 1952. **Container 4.3**
- Breydert, Frederick Matthias. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 3 April 1972.
- Brynley, David. 100 ALS, 60 ALI, ALI / fragment, 4 AL to Aitken, Webster, 1969-1981, undated. **Container 4.6-5.11**
- Bülow, Marie Schanzer von. 2 ALS, APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1931. 2 written in German. **Container 4.3**
- Cadmus, Paul. 23 ALS, 10 ALI, 8 APCS, 20 APCI, APC to Aitken, Webster, 1947-1980, undated. Included with these: 2 ALS Cadmus to Lilian Aitken; AN by Aitken; photo of Cadmus? **Container 6.2-3**

- Cadmus, Paul. 2 ALS, APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1950-1971, undated. **Container**
6.1
- Carter, Elliott Cook, 1908- . ANS, APCS to Aitken, Webster, 27 June 1947, undated.
- Cawdor, Wilma Mairi Vickers, Countess of. 6 ALS, ANS to Aitken, Webster, 1937-1970, undated. **Container**
6.4
- Clapp, Frederick Mortimer, 1879- . 50 ALS to Aitken, Webster, 1946-1961. Not described in card catalog (Gift, 1974). **Container**
6.5-6
- Clapp, Frederick Mortimer, 1879- . ALS, ALI, ANS, APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1941-1958, undated. 1 part written in Sanskrit, later translated into English. **Container**
6.1
- Clapp, Frederick Mortimer. ANS, APCS to Aitken, Webster, 12 July 1949, December 1957. Signed Tim and Maud. Some written in German.
- Cohen, Julius. TLS to Aitken, Webster, 13 July 1962.
- Copland, Aaron, 1900- . 2 TLS to Aitken, Webster, 14 April 1947, 29 July 1953.
- Cox, Allyn. ALS, TLS to Aitken, Webster, 1 December 1950, 13 February 1951.
- Craft, Alice. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 23 November 1935. Enclosures. Written in German.
- Curzon, Clifford Michael, 1907- . TLS, APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1934-1936.
- Ede, Helen. 6 ALS, 3 ALI to Aitken, Webster, 1937-1971, undated. **Container**
6.7
- Ede, Jim. 15 ALS, 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1934-1980, undated. Included with these: 3 ANS Elizabeth Ede to Aitken; ANS Mary Ede to Aitken; ALS Jim Ede to F. M. and Maud Clapp; ALS Jim Ede to Lincoln Kirstein; ALS Jim Ede to Stephen Clark. **Container**
6.8
- Eger, Frieda von. Death notice to Aitken, Webster, 12 October 1930. **Container**
6.1
- Fearing, Kelly. ALS, ALS / incomplete, ALI, 11 APCS, 6 APCI, APC to Aitken, Webster, 1958-1978, undated.
- Fisher, Trevor. 3 ALS, 6 APCS, ANS to Aitken, Webster, 1935-1980, undated.
- Fleming, Bill. APCS to Aitken, Webster, 22 February 1977.

- Fletcher, Stanley. 2 TLS to Aitken, Webster, 24 January and 3 February 1960
- Forster, Edward Morgan, 1879-1970. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 27 March 1949.
- Friedberg, Carl. TLS to Aitken, Webster, 10 March 1942.
- Geelen, Jeannette. 3 ALS, 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1926-1930. Included with these: photograph of Geelen and mother; AN on back of Vienna street scene photo. **Container**
6.10
- Glock, William, Sir. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 16 November 1951. Enclosures. **Container**
6.9
- Goff, Tom R. C. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 20 May 1950.
- Goossens, Eugene, 1893- . 2 TLS to Aitken, Webster, 20 May 1940, 1 May 1941.
- Hendy, Philip, 1900- . ALS to Aitken, Webster, 30 October 1934.
- Hinks, Roger Packman. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 30 November 1938.
- Hovey, Walter. ALS, ALI, 12 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1961-1979, undated.
- Jellinck, Emmy. 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 5 May and 22 December 1929.
- Jessop, Noela. 4 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1933-1936.
- Joseph, Annabelle. 2 ALS to Aitken, Webster, undated.
- Kauffer, Edward McKnight, 1890-1964. 6 ALS, Christmas card to Aitken, Webster, 1938-1948. Included with these: brochure for exhibition of Kauffer posters. **Container**
6.11
- Klemperer, Otto. TLS to Aitken, Webster, 7 December 1936. **Container**
6.9
- Kokoschka, Oskar, 1886- . ALS, ALI, APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1938, undated. Included with these: 2 ALS Olda Kokoschka to Aitken.
- Koscheunikoff, Vladimir W. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 6 September no year.
- Krenek, Ernst, 1900- . 3 ALS to Aitken, Webster, 1939-1941.
- Los Angeles Co., Calif. Museum of Art, Los Angeles. TLS to Aitken, Webster, 18 February 1975. **Container**
7.1
- Luhan, Mabel Ganson Dodge, 1879-1962. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 3 February 1945.
- Lyell, Frank. 15 APCS, 9 APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1963-1976, undated.

Lynes, George Platt. ALS to Aitken, Webster, December 1947.

Macgregor, Willard. 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 8 September 1937, 6 October 1940.

Mänhardt, Mrs. APCI to Aitken, Webster, 14 November 1928. Written in German.

Mänhardt, Fritz. AN to Aitken, Webster, 29 May 1929. Written in German.

Menotti, Gian Carlo, 1911- . TLS to Aitken, Webster, 21 March 1948.

Mirovitch, Mercedes D. ALS, ALI, TLS to Aitken, Webster, undated. Written on TLS: ALS Mrs. E. S. Aitken to Webster Aitken. Included with these: newspaper clipping.

Mirovitch. Mercedes D. TLS to Aitken, Webster, 28 June 1927.

Moss, Edna Leake. ALS to Aitken, Webster, undated.

O'Keefe, Georgia, 1887-. ANS to Aitken, Webster, undated.

Container 7.2

O'Keefe, Georgia, 1887- . ALS to Aitken, Webster, 28 February 1945.

Pinto, Marie Thérèse. 10 ALS, APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1959-1980, undated.

Prentner, Marie. 19 ALS, 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1930-1936, undated. Included with these: mimeo / copy of letter Salzburg Mozarteum Academy to Prentner; ALS, TL, 2 APCS, AN Prentner to Mrs. E. S. Aitken. Written in German.

**Container
7.3**

Priest, Alan, 1898- . 2 ALS to Aitken, Webster, 17 August 1945, 9 March no year.

**Container
7.2**

Rainier, Priaulx, 1903- . 5 ALS to Aitken, Webster, 1955-1975.

Redlich, Kurt. APCS to Aitken, Webster, 19 July 1931. Written in German.

Riddell, Margaret Aitken. 3 APCS, 9 APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1968-1980, undated. Also from Herman Riddell, most also directed to Lilian Aitken. Included with these: APCS Herman Riddell to Webster Aitken.

Riddell, Margaret. APCS to Aitken, Webster, 10 January 1955.

Rosenberger, Carol. APCI, birthday card to Aitken, Webster, undated.

Rosenfeld-Kaise, Alida. 20 ALS, 8 APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1930-1938, undated. Included with these: 2 signed typescript poems. Written in German.

**Container
7.4-5**

- Rosenthal, Moriz, 1862-1946. 10 ALS, ANI to Aitken, Webster, 1927-1930, undated. Included with these: ALS / draft, TL / draft Aitken to Rosenthal; ALS Hedwig Rosenthal to Aitken; Rosenthal recital program. **Container 7.6**
- Rudhyar, Dane, 1895- . ALS to Aitken, Webster, 27 October 1925. Enclosure: typescript / copy of poem by Aitken. **Container 7.2**
- Sauer, Emil Georg Konrad, Ritter von Aichried, 1862-1942. 2 ALS to Aitken, Webster, 13 April 1929, 17 December 1930.
- Schnabel, Artur, 1882-1951. 2 ALS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1941-1946.
- Slezak, Leo, 1874-1946. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 2 February 1933. Written in German.
- Students at Carnegie Institute of Technology. Christmas acrostic to Aitken, Webster, undated.
- Szuborits, Frances von. 40 ALS, 20 ALI, 58 APCS, 52 APCI, 2 APC to Aitken, Webster, 1930-1932, undated. Included with these: 2 ALS Szuborits' niece to Aitken; AN on back of mural reproduction; APCS unidentified author to Szuborits; typed copies of poems; snapshot of Szuborits. **Container 7.7-8.3**
- Tandler, Adolph. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 25 October 1925. **Container 8.4**
- Telva, Marion. 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 17 March 1941, 12 May 1947.
- Thomson, Virgil. ALS, TLS, Christmas card to Aitken, Webster, 14 December 1935, 24 July 1951, undated.
- Tracy, Gerald. TLS, 6 APCS, APCI to Aitken, Webster, 1928-1950, undated.
- Trueblood, Samuel. 6 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1966-1979, undated. Directed also to Lilian Aitken.
- Turner, Thomas. 2 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 25 August 1974, 3 January 1975. Directed also to Lilian Aitken.
- Wacksman, Lulika. APCS to Aitken, Webster, 27 September 1937. Written with this: ANS Marie to Aitken.
- Walpole, Hugh, Sir, 1884-1941. 2 ALS to Aitken, Webster, 4 November 1937, 28 October 1938.
- Walter, Bruno, 1876- . ALS to Aitken, Webster, 15 April 1940.
- Ward, Robert, 1917- . APCS to Aitken, Webster, 29 May 1961.
- Weaver, Raymond. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 1 March 1927.

Weisse, Hans, 1892-1940. ALS to Aitken, Webster, 22 February 1936.

Wescott, Glenway, 1901- . APCS to Aitken, Webster, 27 December 1945.

Zanelli, Magda. 3 APCS to Aitken, Webster, 1935-1936. 1 written in German.

Miscellaneous:

Aitken, Webster, 1908-1981:

Concert programs and clippings, 1932-1968, undated. Not described in card catalog (Gift 1369, 1982). 1 written in German. **Container 8.6**

Early photograph, student notes, clipping, program, 1925-1931, undated. Not described in card catalog (Gift 1707, 1983). 1 written in German.

High school transcript, FD, 1 page, 21 September 1927. **Container 8.5**

Synopsis of the tragedy of Faust: Part 2, typescript, 2 pages, undated.

Webster Aitken, musician: collected letters, 1925-1939, page proofs with editorial markings, 475 pages, 1985. With TLS from Orion Book Services to Mrs. Webster Aitken, 29 July 1985 and her AL / draft reply. Not described in card catalog (transfer from Fine Arts Library, 1994). **Container 9.1**

Albert, Eugen d', 1864-1932. ALS to Moullé, E., 2 February 1899. **Container 8.5**

Curtis Institute of Music. Alumni Association. TLS / photocopy to Gorman, Dolores A., 20 July 1981.

Fulsinan, A. TccL to Mills, Helen Harrison, 31 January 1936.

Goldfarb, Robert. TLS / photocopy to Thorndike, John L., 18 September 1975.

Mirovitch, Alfred. TLS to Aitken, E. S., 5 April 1926. Included with this: ALS, TLS to Mrs. Aitken.

Newlean, Mae. ALS to Aitken, E. S. and Mrs., 15 March 1928.

Pears, Peter, 1910- . TLS to Aitken, Lilian, 28 July 1981.

Smallens, Alexander. ALS to Haggin, Bernard H., undated.

Waley, Arthur David, 1889-1966. ALS to Moore, Vera, 12 November 1933.

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