O. K. (Oets Kolk) Bouwsma, 1898-1978:
An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Bouwsma, O. K. (Oets Kolk), 1898-1978
Title: O. K. Bouwsma Papers,
Extent: 50 document boxes (21 linear feet)
Call Number: Manuscript Collection MS-00473
Language: English
Access: Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
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Administrative Information
Biographical Sketch

Oets Kolk (O. K.) Bouwsma, born in 1898 in Muskegon, Michigan, was an American philosopher, teacher, and writer. He studied English literature and philosophy, first at Calvin College and later at the University of Michigan (BA 1920, MA 1921, PhD 1928). Bouwsma taught philosophy at the University of Nebraska from 1928 to 1965 and at the University of Texas at Austin from 1965 until his death in 1978.

On leave from the University of Nebraska from 1949-1951, Bouwsma traveled to Cornell University, Smith College (where he held a one-semester teaching appointment), and the University of Oxford, meeting and talking in all three locations with the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. Bouwsma took detailed notes recording his conversations with Wittgenstein, posthumously published as Wittgenstein: Conversations, 1949-1951 (1986). In 1950-1951, Bouwsma delivered the inaugural series of John Locke Lectures in Philosophy at the University of Oxford, after Wittgenstein declined to participate due to ill health.

Bouwsma served as President of the Western Division of the American Philosophical Association from 1957-1958. Some of his published articles were collected in the volumes Philosophical Essays (1965) and The Nature of Philosophical Inquiry (1970). Selections from Bouwsma’s unpublished papers and notes were published posthumously in Toward a New Sensibility (1982), Without Proof or Evidence (1984), Bouwsma’s Notes on Wittgenstein’s Philosophy, 1965-1975 (1986), and O. K. Bouwsma’s Commonplace Book: Remarks on Philosophy and Education (2001). Bouwsma taught many students who went on to become philosophers, including Norman Malcolm, Morris Lazerowitz, and Ronald E. Hustwit. After his death in Austin, Texas in 1978, Bouwsma was survived by his wife, Gretchen (later Gretchen Bouwsma Bos), and his three children, Charles E. Bouwsma, William J. Bouwsma, and Gretchen Bouwsma Emmons.

Sources:

In addition to materials within the collection, the following sources were used:


Scope and Contents

The O. K. Bouwsma Papers, 1907-1988 (bulk 1925-1978) consist of journals, notepads, correspondence, notes, lectures, essays, articles, clippings, drawings, invitations, receipts, and printed material related to the American philosopher O. K. Bouwsma. The papers are organized into two series, I. Journals and Notepads, 1925-1978 and II. Seminar Notes, Correspondence, and Other Works, 1907-1988.

Series I. contains Bouwsma’s handwritten journals and notepads, arranged mainly in chronological order. The journals are mostly dated and run from 1925 through 1957, with some gaps in years, notably between 1925 and 1932. Entries in the journals run consecutively and are chiefly personal in nature, recording Bouwsma’s responses to books he reads and sermons he hears, discussions with colleagues, thoughts on government and education, and reflections about himself, family, and friends. Ronald E. Hustwit created the descriptions of the journals’ contents transcribed in the container list while reviewing microfilmed copies of the originals; these descriptions are not intended as a comprehensive list of topics contained in the journals.

Bouwsma’s notepads are arranged mainly in chronological order, spanning the years 1955 through 1978. Some notepads overlap in date, as Bouswma took notes on various topics during the same period, while others continue Bouswma’s notes on a particular topic from the previous pad. Philosophy professor John P. Murphy abstracted the contents of the notepads and assigned numbers to the pads. These pad numbers and descriptions are transcribed in the container list. The notepads generally record Bouwsma’s thoughts on topics in philosophy, specific philosophers, and works of philosophical thought and may include preliminary notes for essays and articles that later were published. A few folders contain newspaper clippings on general topics (apparently unrelated to the contents of the accompanying notepad) and correspondence. Correspondence in this series is indexed at the end of this finding aid.

Series II. Seminar Notes, Correspondence, and Other Works, 1907-1988 predominantly consists of Bouwsma’s handwritten and typewritten notes for seminars and lectures, with a small amount of other materials. The first five boxes in this series were described and numbered by John P. Murphy; his cataloging numbers are reproduced in each folder’s description in the container list, but do not correspond to the current box and folder numbers. Besides class notes, lecture notes, and class handouts, the series contains correspondence, works by other authors, offprints of articles by Bouwsma, clippings, drawings, invitations, receipts, and printed material. Correspondence is indexed at the end of this finding aid and includes letters from such notable correspondents as Ludwig Wittgenstein and Yorick Smythies. Of particular interest in Series II are Bouwsma’s annotated copies of Wittgenstein’s "Blue Book" and "Brown Book." These are bound typescripts of Wittgenstein’s lecture notes prepared by his assistants at the University of Cambridge that were distributed to Wittgenstein’s students and colleagues during his lifetime and published posthumously as a single volume. Many of Bouwsma’s entries in the handwritten notepads filed in Series I refer to the "Blue Book," and to a lesser extent, the "Brown Book."
Separated Material

93 books from the personal library of O. K. Bouwsma were transferred to the Ransom Center Library. These books are cataloged online in The University of Texas Library Catalog.

An audiocassette of O. K. Bouwsma reading from his notebooks on his conversations with Ludwig Wittgenstein was transferred to the Center's Sound Recordings Collection and is described separately in the Center’s Sound Recordings Database, available in the Center's Reading and Viewing Room.

VHS and DVD recordings of Remembering O. K. Bouwsma: an interview with Chuck Bouwsma and Gretchen Bouwsma Emmons were transferred to the Center's Moving Image Collection and are described separately in the Center’s Moving Image Database, available in the Center’s Reading and Viewing Room.

Index Terms

People
Bouwsma, O.K.

Subjects
Philosophers--United States.
Philosophy.

Document Types
Clippings.
Correspondence.
Drawings.
Essays.
Journals.
Manuscripts.
Notebooks.
Typescripts.
Series I. Journals and Notepads, 1925-1978

Journals

1925, 1932, 1934-1936, undated: Notes on various philosophy books for class/ Notes on books of literature, perhaps for teaching English literature/ Some family matters/ General philosophical reflections/ Education

1936-1939: Joyce's Ulysses/ Ethics/ Logic/ Government/ Education/ Discussions with Langford/ Review of minister's sermons/ Family

1939-1943: Travels to Southampton/ Notes from Alice's copy of the Blue Book/ Travels in New England/ Back in Lincoln/ Talk of war/ The minister's sermons on pacifism/ More books of philosophy and literature/ The war/ Literature-discussion of various books/ Pride/ Dante

1943-1949: Hedonism/ Politics/ Religious belief/ Literature: Milton, War and Peace/ Bill's wedding/ Pleasure/ Chuck in the war/ Pride/ Literature and various philosophers/ Swift/ Collingwood/ Plato/ Trip to Holland/ Religious themes/ Liberalism in politics/ Wittgenstein's conversations/ Some other conversations mixed in/ Smith College

1950-1951, 1953-1954, 1957: Religion/ Morals/ General readings/ Discussion with philosophers in Oxford/ Travel in Europe (People, places, and books)/ Notes for classes on discussions and books

Notepads

Pad 1.1, October 1955 (England): Smythies on Non-Logical Falsity/ Acton's class in ethics/ Ethics

Pad 1.2, January 1956 - February 1956 (England): The meaning of words/ Hume/ Kant/ Melden/ Ethics/ Moral rules-playing chess/ Use of a word/ Smythies’s notes

Pad 1.3, March 1956 - April 1956 (Seattle): Language/ Psychology/ What is thinking/ Russell: Analysis of Mind/ Hume

Pad 1.4, April 1956 - May 1956 (Seattle): Hume/ Smullyan and Dietrichson on dreaming/ Hume existence

Pad 1.5, April 1956 - September 1956 (Seattle and Lincoln): Dreaming/ Hume/ Philosophy/ Meaning is use/ Language

Pad 1.6, May 1956 - August 1956 (Seattle, California): Free-will/ Hume on personal identity
Pad 1.7, April 1956 - July 1956 (Lake Tahoe, Claremont): Christianity/ Sartre/ Death/ Freud/ Sin/ Meaning is use

Pad 1.8, April 1956 - May 1956: Hume on abstract ideas and continued existence

Pad 1.9, May 1956 - August 1958 (Seattle, Claremont): Hume/ Free-will/ Philosophical Investigations "reading"

Pad 1.10, May 1956 - August 1956 (California): Free-will/ Smythies’s notes on Non-logical Falsity/ Hume on personal identity


Pad 1.12, May 1958 - June 1958: Philosophy of religion/ Religious language/ God exists/ Anselm's argument

Pad 1.13, June 1958 - July 1958: Philosophy of religion (Conference in Minnesota)


Pad 1.15a, August 1958 - September 1958: Infants/ Meaning-use-words as tools

Pad 1.15b, October 1958 - November 1958 (Pad fragment): Gospels/ Literature/ Locke/ Job/ José


Pad 1.17a, September 1958 - November 1958: Aesthetics/ Beauty-form/ Lowell/ Notes from Underground and Smythies/ Meaning

Pad 1.17b, December 1958 - January 1959: Theaetetus/ Thinking is an event/ Truth/ Christmas/ Malcolm's sour taste/ Emotion in Art/ Dewey and perception

Pad 1.18, January 1959 - April 1959: Soul/ Blue Book: pain/ Phaedo-Apology/ What I do/ Phaedo-soul/ Reading/ Aristotle-predicates


Pad 1.20, January 1959 - May 1959: Phaedo/ Aristotle-cause and substance
Pad 1.21, February 1959 - August 1959: Apology/ Christianity-Jesus/ Wittgenstein-philosophy and ordinary language

Pad 1.22, February 27 - May 1959: Brown Book/ Blue Book/ Ordinary language

Pad 1.23, April 1959 - June 1959: Romeo and Juliet/ Aristotle predicates/ Wittgenstein/ G.E. Moore/ Confusion

Pad 1.24, June 1959 - September 1959: Blue Book/ Descartes-"I think"/ Blue Book

Pad 1.25, June 1959 - September 1959: Memory/ Berkeley's apple/ Descartes/ Christianity/ C.S. Lewis/ Wittgenstein-Blue Book: many topics

Pad 1.26, July 1959: Wittgenstein: Meaning/ The mind is in the brain/ Blue Book/ Speaking-writing-understanding/ Thinking/ Machines can't have toothaches/ Machines Thinking?/ Perception

Pad 1.27, September 1959 - October 1959: Blue Book/ Operating with signs/ Expecting/ Wishing/ Zeno's paradoxes-Achilles/ Blue Book/ Hidden analogies

Pad 1.28, September 1959: Blue Book/ Grammar/ What is not the case

Pad 1.29, September 1959 - October 1959: Books and themes of the Bible

Pad 1.30, October 1959: Locke/ Plato

Pad 1.31, September 1959 - December 1959: Locke/ Kierkegaard and Wittgenstein/ Note on Wittgenstein's task in philosophy/ Meaning/ Blue Book/ What Wittgenstein is doing/ Biblical themes/ Stoicism/ What sort of book is the Blue Book? (These are the notes for Bouwsma's paper The Blue Book)/ Alice Ambrose’s letter/ Blue Book themes

Pad 1.32, October 1959 - May 1960: Locke-text analysis


Pad 1.34, October 1959 - November 1960: Locke-text analysis/ St. Paul/ Thinking/ Locke

8
Pad 1.35, January 1961- March 1960: Kierkegaard's existentialism/ Blue Book: Russell and wishing/ Pascal/ Tolstoy: How much land...?/ Seeing an ashtray/ Ethics and literature/ Anselm's argument/ Sin/ Belief/ Meaning is use/ Tractatus/ Philosophical Investigations

Pad 1.36, January 1960 - March 1960: Wittgenstein: various themes in the Blue Book/ Feigl's paper on ordinary language

Pad 1.37, January 1960 - March 1960: Blue Book continued/ Queerness/ Rules/ Notes for paper on: "The Terms of Ordinary Language are..."/ Feigl/ What is Wittgenstein doing?/ Feigl and ordinary language

Pad 1.38, March 1960: Beauty-taste/ Queerness/ Feigl and ordinary language/ Rules

Pad 1.39, March 1960 - November 1960: Feigl continued/ Rules/ What is Wittgenstein doing?/ Notes from Underground/ St. Anselm


Pad 1.41, June 1960 - July 1960: Locke/ Wittgenstein: Understanding the Blue Book/ "Discussion"/ Queerness/ Temptation


Pad 1.43, September 1960 - November 1960: Wittgenstein-other philosophers/ Descartes's doubt-illusion-dreaming/ Giving reasons/ Wittgenstein-"expectation" Blue Book/ Reading literature-value/ Notes from Underground


Pad 1.45, October 1960 - January 1960: Kierkegaard/ Wittgenstein: expecting/ Rights/ "This is a glass of water"/ Tithing/ Knoll's teaching English/ Motives and actions/ Anselm's argument

Pad 1.46, June 1960 - July 1960: Manuscript of "The Blue Book"/ Achilles and The Tortoise

Pad 2.1, January 1961 - June 1961: Evan's glass of water/ Jesus-existentialism/ Anselm/ What is art?/ Nielsen and Pascal/ Freedom and necessity/ Church sermons/ Reasons for Bouwsma's transferring church membership

Pad 2.2, January 1961 - February 1961: Anselm's Argument (looks like notes for the paper)
Pad 2.3, February 1961 - May 1961: What is art? All men are selfish/ Socrates/ Class discussions/ The children's sermon-awful/ Proverbs/ Job/ Investigations/ More on Children's sermons/ Hamlet/ "I don't know"/ Evil in Genesis

Pad 2.4, April 1961 - June 1961: Propositions-Tractatus and Philosophical Investigations

Pad 2.5, June 1961 - July 1961: Descartes’s cogito

Pad 2.6, July 1961 - August 1961: Descartes’s cogito and additional themes in Meditations/ "Notes on the Cogito"

Pad 2.7, July 1961 - November 1961: Miss Anscombe on Tractatus/ Ordinary language/ Cogito/ The cause of joy in music

Pad 2.8, August 1961 - November 1961: Morality-character/ Blue Book/ Descartes’s cogito/ Miscellaneous-art, music

Pad 2.9, September 1961 - February 1962: Cogito/ The Tempest/ Thinking/ Dreams/ Kierkegaard/ Descartes/ Socrates-Glaucon on justice/ Recollection

Pad 2.10, September 1961 - November 1962: Socrates (2 pages)/ Descartes’s Meditations (remaining pages)

Pad 2.11, October 1961 - March 1962: Augustine-Philosophical Investigations/ What is knowledge?/ Descartes/ Behaviorism/ Dreams

Pad 2.12, November 1961 - May 1962: Hedonism/ "Existence is not a predicate"/ Private language/ Carl Rogers/ Paige

Pad 2.13, November 1961 - December 1961: Hedonism/ Punishment/ Notes from Underground/ Gorgias/ Hedonism

Pad 2.14, December 1961 - March 1962: The earth is flat-skepticism/ What is John Dewey up to?/ Plato-Republic/ Pain-hedonism/ Phaedo/ Aesthetics

Pad 2.15, December 1961 - March 1962: Natural rights/ Descartes/ Plato-Phaedo/ Descartes/ The ring of Gyges-Descartes’s I/ Thinking-Pascal

Pad 2.16, January 1962 - March 1962: Descartes/ Phaedo/ Philosophical Investigations/ Descartes/ Behaviorism

Pad 2.17, February 1962 - March 1962: Phaedo-recollection/ Pain

Pad 2.18, March 1962 - May 1962: Dreaming/ Theaetetus/ Letter to Evans on common-sense philosophy/ Descartes’s dreaming/ Philosophical Investigations #75/ Frank (Ebersole)’s paper-seeing stars
Pad 2.19, April 1962 - October 1962: Wittgenstein-activity/ Frank's star/ Carl Rogers/ Socrates-knowledge/ Sartre and existentialism/ Travel to Santa Barbara/ Philosophy of religion/ Camus-The Myth/ The Fall

Pad 2.20, May 1962 - September 1962: Sartre/ Dreaming/ Wittgenstein/ Biblical passages/ Cook-behaviorism/ The Fall

Pad 2.21, June 1962 - November 1962: Consciousness and unconsciousness/ The Preacher in Ecclesiastes: The meaning of a human life/ The "unconscious"/ God/ Negation/ Christian morality/ Plato: "Art is imitation"/ Philosophical theories/ Intention

Pad 2.22, October 1962 – February 1963: John Wisdom: "On Gods"/ Descartes’s dream argument: Objective reality of ideas/ "Third Meditation"/ "Fourth Meditation" with remarks about Wittgenstein/ What was Wittgenstein doing?/ Kierkegaard: the Unknown


Pad 2.24, November 1962 - November 1963: Understanding Wittgenstein/ Descartes/ Consciousness-Body-Soul/ What is knowledge?/ Dread

Pad 2.25, December 1962 - November 1963: Impressions/ Freud's techniques/ Hume: images/ Clemence/ Meaning and knowledge-Socrates/ Kierkegaard: dread/ Wishing-unconscious

Pad 2.26, February 1963 - April 1963: Descartes: Mind-Body-Soul/ Marx: value/ Kierkegaard: dread/ Wittgenstein: What is thinking?/ Descartes-"I think is indubitable"

Pad 2.27, April 1963 - May 1963: Wittgenstein and Descartes: The Cogito and Indubitables

Pad 2.28, June 1963 - November 1963: Religious scripture and language/ Notes on Wittgenstein (from Amsterdam)


Pad 2.30, October 1963 - December 1963: Hume and Wittgenstein: The nature of meaning-ideas and images/ Cause and effect
Pad 2.31, June 1963 - January 1965: Meditations/ Cogito/ "Dream argument"/
Doubt/ "I am sitting by the fire"/ What is thought?/ Austin: to know or to think/
Resolution of doubt/ Meaning-Ryle and Mill/ Names/ Kierkegaard: reason and understanding Christianity/ Kierkegaard: Philosophical Fragments

Pad 2.32, December 1963 - March 1964: Kierkegaard on Christianity/ Paganism/
Fighting/ Racial prejudice/ Meaning of word/ Other minds/ Hume and Reason
(on being a person p. 172)/ Wittgenstein: "I"/ Beetle in the box example/
Kierkegaard on resolution (the meaning of life)/ The consciousness of sin/ Blue Book: Experiences/ Perception/ Russell on perception/ Real temptation/
Solipsism/ Expectations and reality/ Kierkegaard and Nietzsche on Christianity/
Christianity as historic and scientific/ Christ/ Essence and existence/ Respect/
Smythies on non-logical falsity/ Rules/ Kierkegaard on Fear and Trembling

Pad 2.33, November 1963 - February 1964: Other minds/ The Concept of Dread:
Original sin, despair, appropriation, unconscious, infinitude/ The Postscript/ The meaning of life/ Existentialism/ Kierkegaard's objective uncertainty and Socrates/
Camus’s The Plague/ The Brothers Karamazov

Pad 2.34, January 1964 - February 1964: Hume's Enquiry: Cause and effect/
Human Reason/ Foundation/ Natural objects/ Human nature/ Belief/ Conception/
Ideas and impressions/ Hume and Locke on necessary connection/ Absolute incertitude/ Ultimate constituents/ Memory/ Feeling and imagination/ What Hume is doing in the Enquiry/ Berkeley's introduction to the Principles: doubt and uncertainty/ Natural immorality of the soul/ Reality/ Kant on truth/ Russell's Common Sense theory

Pad 2.35, March 1964 - June 1964: Wittgenstein on solipsism/ Russell on perception/ Kierkegaard on Fear and Trembling/ Camus: The Myth/ Hume on cause and effect/ Dread-despair/ Kierkegaard on possibility/ Berkeley on thought and perception/ Body and soul/ The Existential Thinker (Socrates)/ The Apology/
Wittgenstein on meaning/ Smythies on language/ Rogers on Kierkegaard/
Kierkegaard on Christianity


Pad 2.37, March 1964 - August 1964: The Brothers Karamazov/ Fear and Trembling/ Russell on perception/ Freedom/ Camus on the meaning of life and suicide/ Blanshard and Christianity/ Kierkegaard on revelation/ Metzger/ Ivan and Christianity/ Wittgenstein on expectations in Blue Book/ Newton/
Communication and irony

Pad 2.38, May 1964 - August 1964: Berkeley on sensation and spirit/ Hume on principles/ Other minds (Socrates)/ The Brothers Karamazov/ Kierkegaard on Christianity: despair, spirit, and passion
Pad 2.39, June 1964 - August 1964: Berkeley/ Peter's denial (The Brothers Karamazov)/ Kierkegaard on Christianity, subjectivity (Socrates)/ Philosophy and Hegel/ The subjective thinker (all from The Fragments)/ Ways of reading the Bible

Pad 2.40, July 1964 - Sept. 1964: All from The Fragments: the Subjective Thinker/ Reason and Motive/ The Brothers Karamazov (Ivan)/ Socrates/ Christianity/ Frankena on "Love and Principles"/ Wittgenstein and Kierkegaard on Christianity/ Philosophy and Christianity

Pad 2.41, August 1964 - Fall 1964: Philosophy of Christianity/ Wittgenstein and Kierkegaard/ Kierkegaard: Indirect communications/ Subjective thinker/ Socrates/ Truth-Fragments/ Notes on Malcolm's paper on Descartes

Pad 2.42, August 1964 - September 1964: Blue Book/ Kierkegaard: Indirect communications/ Kierkegaard: Reading scripture/ Subjectivity/ Postscript/ Virginia Woolf-the ethical/ Fragments/ Notes on Malcolm's paper on Descartes

Pad 2.43, September 1964 - October 1964: Kierkegaard: Fragments/ Postscript/ Socrates-truth within/ Fragments

Pad 2.44, October 1964 - January 1965: Kierkegaard: Christianity, foolishness/ Kierkegaard and Wittgenstein's tasks/ Indirect communication/ What is Kierkegaard doing?/ Hartshorne's letter/ The Unknown

Pad 2.45, November 1964 - February 1965: Kierkegaard: Fragments/ Martin’s proof for God/ Truth is subjectivity/ The Unknown/ Kierkegaard's Socrates/ Becoming subjective

Pad 2.46, November 1964 - February 1965: Kierkegaard: Postscript/ Language of scripture/ Indirect communications/ Proof for God/ Fear and Trembling/ Martin's proof/ Absolute Paradox/ Fragments


Pad 3.2, March 1965 - September 1965: Kierkegaard: Postscript/ Subjectivity/ The ethical/ Private theater/ "Initial Expression"/ Wittgenstein: Philosophical Investigations/ Guilt/ Moore's "good"/ Hume on meaning/ Augustine on meaning/ Austin on excuses

Pad 3.4, April 1965 - June 1965: Kierkegaard: The ethical/ World historical knowledge/ Baier on Tolstoy/ Postscript: existential pathos/ The knight of faith/ Postscript/ Wittgenstein: Philosophical Investigations

Pad 3.5, May 1965 - June 1965: Guilt/ Language/ "Good"/ Kierkegaard/ Wittgenstein/ St. Augustine on Language/ Early passages in Philosophical Investigations

Pad 3.6, January 1965 - February 1965: Kierkegaard: Postscript/ The historical/ Fragments: "The Interlude"/ "Past is necessary"/ Thought as brain process/ Kierkegaard's tasks/ Conclusion to Postscripts/ Formation of concepts/ Kierkegaard: forgiveness of sin

Pad 3.7, June 1965 - July 1965: Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations/ Little languages/ Justice/ Pain/ Meaning as use/ Grammar/ Philosophical Investigations 400-500s/ Certainty

Pad 3.8, July 1965 - August 1965: Wittgenstein: Philosophical Investigations passages

Pad 3.9, July 1965 - October 1965: Philosophical Investigations/ Meaning/ Existence a predicate?/ Knowledge/ Philosophy a disease/ Words/ Understanding Wittgenstein/ Alice in Wonderland: sense and nonsense (an attempt at a paper)/ Teaching reading: e.g., Hume on perception (draft of paper)/ Language games

Pad 3.10, Fall 1965 and July 1966 - October 1966: Draft of paper on Alice in Wonderland-sense and reading/ Reading/ Understanding philosophers/ Philosophical Investigations/ Meaning/ Reading Hume

Pad 3.11, September 1965 - October 1965: William James’ Principles of Psychology/ Wittgenstein's lectures on psychology/ What is thinking?/ Philosophical Investigations passages

Pad 3.12, October 1965 (pad fragment): "slab"

Pad 3.13, October 1965 - November 1965: Austin's "illocutionary acts"/ Justice/ Ordinary language/ Searle/ Lorenzen

Pad 3.14, November 1965 (pad fragment): "Religious anguish"/ Philosophical undertones

Pad 3.15, November 1965, January 1974: '65: "I said to myself"/ Thinking/ '74: Nietzsche

Pad 3.16, November 1965 - December 1965: Lorenzen's logic/ Murphy's comments on Lorenzen's paper/ Wittgenstein and behaviorism/ Heredity and behavior/ Dostoyevsky's Notes from Underground
Pad 3.17, November 1965 - January 1966: Responsibility/ Determination

Pad 3.18, December 1965 - January 1966: Mainly Kierkegaard and Socrates/ Wittgenstein Philosophical Investigations-perspective/ Kierkegaard’s purpose/ Kierkegaard and Socrates/ Objectivity vs. subjectivity

Pad 3.19, December 1965 - January 1966: Kierkegaard: indirect communication/ Postscript/ Fragments/ Point of View-illusion

Pad 3.20, December 1965 - January 1965: "Self is a Series of Actual Occasions" (Whitehead)/ Describe not explain/ Wittgenstein/ Reading student notebooks

Pad 3.21, January 1966 - April 1966: Wittgenstein seminar discussions/ Lorenzen/ Meno/ Knowledge and perception/ Descartes’s dreaming

Pad 3.22, January 1966 - February 1966: Kierkegaard's Illusions/ Socrates/ Wisdom/ Kierkegaard's Socrates

Pad 3.23, April 1966: Kierkegaard: Point of View/ Illusion/ Fragments


Pad 3.27, 1966: John Wisdom: Religious belief/ Metaphysics/ Commentary on Wittgenstein's techniques regarding the meaning of Language/ Contrast between Wisdom and Wittgenstein

Pad 3.28, 1966: John Wisdom: Metaphysical bewilderment/ Existentialism/ Flew's thinking and experience/ General essays

Pad 3.29, January 1966 - March 1966: "Wittgenstein on Influence" (a graduate seminar)/ The Meno

Pad 3.30, January 1966 - March 1966: Kierkegaard: Christianity and the meaning of a word/ Illusions/ Don Quixote/ Subjectivity and objectivity/ Comparison of Wittgenstein and Kierkegaard on some of these topics
Pad 3.31, June 1966: Paper notes on "Poetry Becomes Truth or Truth Becomes Poetry" given to Bouwsma to read by Douglas Morgan/ Wittgenstein on Christianity, ethics, and aesthetics in connection with poetry/ Carritt on poems and illusion/ Santayana

Pad 3.32, July 1966 - September 1966 (Calgary): Student remarks (Levinson and Kipur) on understanding and truth/ Wittgenstein: misleading pictures/ Wisdom: religious belief and metaphysics/ Review of Wisdom’s "Paradox and Discovery" and "The Logic of God" (review by Bouwsma)

Pad 3.33, August 1966 - December 1966: Poetry/ Aesthetics/ Wisdom/ Ryle: Mind and other minds, emotion/ Responsibility/ The Will/ Wittgenstein on words and meaning (in Philosophical Investigations)/ Locke on objects and the understanding/ Language

Pad 3.34, October 1966 - December 1966: Student comments on Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations sections regarding meaning and use, knowledge, objectivity, and sensation/ Plano and Hume in contrast to Wittgenstein


Pad 3.39, March 1967: Notes on Silber's paper: on dreaming/ Moore on material objects/ Silber on morality/ Pascal

Pad 3.40, February 1967 - December 1967: Pascal's wager

Pad 3.41, March 1968 - February 1969: Notes on someone else's writing/ Blue Book

| Pad 3.45, September 1967 - October 1967 (pad fragment): The meaning of a word | Container 16.9 |
| Pad 3.48, October 1967 - May 1968: Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations: The meaning of a word/ What is thinking?/ Forms/ What is sensation?/ St. Augustine: Book XI, chapter XIV | Container 17.2 |
| Pad 3.49, November 1967 - January 1968: Christianity (Faith) and Evidence | Container 17.3 |
| Pad 3.50, January 1968 - March 1968: Understanding faith and belief in Christianity: Kierkegaard and Wittgenstein, other writers/ Paper on Miss Anscombe's paper on faith | Container 17.4 |
| Pad 4.1, February 1968 - May 1968: Understanding Nietzsche: Ecce Homo/ Beyond Good and Evil/ The Birth of Tragedy-(the death of Christianity)/ An account of the Larry Caroline incident | Container 17.5 |
| Pad 4.2, September 1968 - October 1968: The concept of meaning/ Brewer's definition of a word/ Wittgenstein | Container 17.6 |
| Pad 4.3, October 1968 - January 1969: "Ordinary Language" (a paper read in Cincinnati)/ Notes from Cincinnati/ What is knowledge?/ Remarks about Binkley/ Wanting/ What do philosophers try to do?/ Morality | Container 17.7 |
| Pad 4.4, December 1968: Nietzsche: Who was he? (preparation for writing Intro on Nietzsche's letters) | Container 17.8 |
| Pad 4.5, December 1968 - January 1969: Nietzsche: A Fool's Paradise/ Carl Fucher letter/ Irony and language (Socrates)/ Thought (Water is not wet example)/ Vendler on language/ Nietzsche and Voltaire on Christianity | Container 17.9 |

Pad 4.20, March 1969 - April 1969: MacIntyre: The issue of ought/ Wittgenstein's example of a moral problem/ The illusion of intelligibility-nonsense/ Moore's defense of common sense/ Why study philosophy?/ Heidegger/ Kierkegaard and Nietzsche/ Happiness/ War and peace

Pad 4.21, May 1969 - June 1969: The meaning of life/ Nietzsche/ Kierkegaard on Christianity

Pad 4.22, May 1969: Wittgenstein Philosophical Investigations: language and usage, describe the aroma of coffee, pain, truth, and application/ Theories/ Primary Qualities/ Bufford’s thesis/ Nietzsche's illusion of intelligibility


Pad 4.24, June 1969 - July 1969: Mainly Wallace Stevens/ Davis’s thesis/ Poetic and philosophic truth/ Plato/ Plantinga/ Christianity/ Kierkegaard on Christianity and truth/ Cezanne’s "Primary Force"/ Pincoffs on virtue/ Graham Greene

Pad 4.25, July 1969 (Berkeley): Erde's thesis/ Hustwit's thesis (religious language)/ Comments on "Dr. Johnson and The Stone"


Pad 4.27, August 1969 (Berkeley): Kierkegaard: "What does it mean to become a Christian?" (entire pad)


Pad 4.29, September 1969 - October 1969: Blue Book: Philosophical problems unsolvable/ Meaning of a word/ Locke on meaning

Pad 4.30, October 1969 - March 1969: Miscellaneous notes on student discussions/ Glenn on Gray's paper on violence/ Kierkegaard: A thinker (lengthy)

Pad 4.31, October 1969: Blue Book: Meaning of a word/ The life of a sign/ Intention

Pad 4.32, October 1969: Blue Book: Meaning of a word/ Color blindness/ Grammar/ Substantive
| Pad 4.34, November 1969: Blue Book: Signs/ Newton's laws/ Language as spectacles/ Time/ Expectation | Container 20.10 |
| Pad 4.35, November 1969 - December 1969: Blue Book: Use/ Skinner/ Thinking/ Murphy and logic/ Notes on Kierkegaard continued from earlier pad | Container 21.1 |


Pad 4.51, July 1970: Kierkegaard: The monstrous illusion/ Using Wittgenstein to understand Kierkegaard

Pad 4.52, July 1970 - August 1970: Kierkegaard: Dispelling illusions/ Don Quixote/ Freud/ Wittgenstein/ What it means to be a Christian


Pad 4.56, September 1970 - November 1970: Kierkegaard: Illusions and understanding/ The Ethical, Christianity/ The story of Abraham

Pad 4.57, October 1970 - January 1971: Wittgenstein: Meaning of a word, speaking and writing, illusion and understanding/ Kierkegaard on Christianity and understanding language

Pad 4.59, November 1970 - December 1970: Malone on behavior/
Wittgenstein-Brown Book: The use of "This"/ Language and Understanding/
Speaking and Writing/ Philosophical Investigations (p. 443): to imagine/ The
language-game/ Grammatical illusions/ Emotion/ Perception/ Wilfrid Sellars on
language and thinking

Pad 4.60, December 1970 - January 1971: Wittgenstein (Philosophical
Investigations): Philosophical nonsense (continued from September 1970)/
Analogy with Freud on Phenomenon/ Language conscious/ Illusion and
understanding/ Voltaire on language/ Wittgenstein and Descartes/ Wittgenstein
on imagination and language

Pad 4.61, December 1970 - February 1971: Wittgenstein's conversations:
Aesthetics/ Poetry and language statements

Aesthetics (language and meaning)/ Zettel (155) meaning and causal connection/
The language of poetry (Wittgenstein)/ What is Beauty?/ Auden/ Poems are a lot
like statements

Pad 5.1, January 1971 - April 1971: Bill Gordon's interest in miracles/
Kierkegaard/ Miracle/ Education in Christianity/ Various religious themes/
Miracle/ Judgment/ Creation/ Wittgenstein's lectures on religious belief

Pad 5.2, January 1971 - February 1971: Aesthetics/ Auden/ Poems make
statements/ Understanding a poem

Pad 5.3, February 1971 - June 1971: Seeing Stars/ Philosophical Investigations
43/ Kierkegaard and language/ Kierkegaard a poet?

Pad 5.4, March 1971 (pad fragment): Seeing stars/ Poem's meaning

Pad 5.4a, March 1971 - April 1971: Education in philosophy/ Other minds/ Pain
(a note on Lee Gordon's oral defense)/ Poems and statements/ Meaning and use/
Beginning of paper on what are the uses of philosophy

Pad 5.5, April 1971 - June 1971: Malone's dissertation/ Letter to Tormey on
poetry (poems as statements)/ Purpose-cause-action/ Imagining

Pad 5.6, April 1971 - June 1971 (continued from 5.4a): Wittgenstein:
nominalism/ Concepts rigidly limited/ Discussions with Audi (on a paper on
intentions)/ I am my brain/ Pain

Pad 5.7, April 1971 - May 1971: Poems and statements/ Philosophical
Investigations passages/ Kierkegaard and language/ Paul Holmer's paper "The
Religious Consciousness"/ Auden on poetry/ Either-Or/ Moses/ Poetry


Pad 5.10, July 1971: Kierkegaard/ Plantinga’s article in the Banner regarding a lecture on the resurrection/ Christianity and science/ Christian world view/ Subjective thinker- Kierkegaard

Pad 5.11, July 1971 - August 1971: Pain/ Defenses and rewards/ The brain/ Hume: Necessary connection/ Wittgenstein class: Other minds, words and meaning, being and non-being, red exists, something real, imagine, fit/ Brown Book (33-41): What do we call a rule?, sensation, imagine, truth


Pad 5.13, August 1971 - September 1971: Wittgenstein Philosophical Investigations: ascribing sensation/ Attitude/ Imagine/ Reactions/ Reading/ Guided by, rules/ Behaviorism/ (Hartshorne and Boggs on Behavior)/ Thinking and talking/ Non-sense/ Words and meaning/ Blue Book: Discussion of language and Christianity (Moses example)

Pad 5.14, August 1971 - October 1971: Poems and statements/ Poems and language/ Wittgenstein: "Now I can go on" (Philosophical Investigations)/ Meaning/ Word interpretation/ The working of language/ Meaning and understanding

Pad 5.15, September 1971 - May 1972: Wittgenstein: The question-understanding ourselves/ The meaning of a word/ The proper name/ Imagine/ Blue Book-the mind and expectations/ Zettel:"expectation" and the mind/ Intentions/ Causes/ Russell on expectation

Pad 5.16, September 1971 - January 1972: Kierkegaard: On humor/ Christianity/ Socrates on irony/ Hare's blik/ Moore and knowing/ Bartlett/ Bob Herbert's paper: "We Have A Body of Religious Ideas"/ Nietzsche: Christianity

Pad 5.17, October 1971 - November 1971: Wittgenstein: The activity of operative signs (the use of language)/ Meaning and Intention/ What is piety?/ Socrates Euthyphro on piety/ What is a game in the Tractatus?/ On language and meaning/ Long note on Smythies reacting to Bouwsma's notes on Wittgenstein Conversations
Pad 5.18, November 1971 - July 1973: Wittgenstein: The meaning of a word/ (Philosophical Investigations) the language-game/ Pain/ Prior: World view/ Christianity/ Boggs and Nietzsche-Christianity/ To see ourselves as others see us (Language and mind)/ Ghosts and God/ Morals/ Drury's paper on Freud/ Back to Boggs

Pad 5.19, November 1971 - January 1972: Wittgenstein (Philosophical Investigations): The language of the language-game/ Pain/ Meaning/ Equality/ Vlastos on Equality/ Zettel (p. 530)/ Wittgenstein: on behavior/ Certainty/ Kripke systematic writer/ Proper names/ Schatz, the "I" and the language surrounding it/ Wittgenstein on meaning

Pad 5.20, November 1971: The meaning of life/ Mental disorders/ "Factual difference" and Christianity/ (Philosophical Investigations) Wittgenstein words and definitions/ Kierkegaard on Christianity/ Auden (meaning and Christianity inter-mixed) repeats himself on TV interview

Pad 5.21, December 1971 - January 1972: Understanding Ryle/ Why read philosophy?/ Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations/ Ryle at Rice (The whole pad is on Ryle's autobiographical remark about reading the history of philosophy)


Pad 5.24, January 1972: Primitive man and religion/ Kierkegaard: Christianity and the primitive case(s)/ Reality/ Confessions (St. Augustine)/ Williams: Egoism and William James/ Perceptions of the human mind (Hume, Ryle, Descartes)/ Language, speaking and writing, Locke: The principles of morality, religion, and understanding/ Back to Williams's egoism

Pad 5.25, February 1972: Wittgenstein, Austin, and Ryle: What is Philosophy?/ Grammar and linguistics/ The Misleading Analogy/ What is thinking?

Pad 5.26, January 1972 - April 1972: Kierkegaard: Solomon/ Truth is subjective/ Wittgenstein's descriptive and performatory/ Fragments: The ethical and religious/ The illusion/ Indirect and direct communication


Pad 5.29, March 1972: What was Ryle doing?/ Category mistake/ Theory/ Malone: Intention-what was Wittgenstein doing?/ Teaching a skill

Pad 5.29a, May 1972 - June 1972: Kierkegaard: Subjective thinking/ "Fear and Trembling"/ Understanding Kierkegaard's situation/ Indirect and direct communication/ Religious language and scripture in general

Pad 5.30, May 1972 - July 1972: Wittgenstein and Curran/ Pain behavior/ Private sensations/ Intentions

Pad 5.31, June 1972: Kierkegaard: Christianity/ Language/ Truth, the human being/ Stoicism/ Tom MacMahon's piece on "style"/ Back to Christianity/ The way and happiness/ Justification/ Back to truth and subjectivity

Pad 5.31a, January 1972 - March 1972: Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations: A word is a name/ Meaning/ Zeno and Achilles example/ Zettel: Soulless people/ Human beings and autonomy/ Grammatical illusions/ (Philosophical Investigations) The Uniformity of nature/ Certainty/ Pryor and Miss Ineti on anger and knowing/ The problem of language/ Language as a natural convenience/ Animals and language

Pad 5.32, June 1972 - September 1972: Kierkegaard: Christianity/ Dispelling an illusion (Christianity)/ Indirect communication/ Nietzsche and Kierkegaard: to be a Christian/ Truth and belief

Pad 5.33, July 1972 - August 1972: Ryle: Understanding the proper name/ The concept of mind/ Comparison of Wittgenstein and Ryle (paper) on ordinary language/ Kierkegaard: Christianity and understanding/ Poetry and Christianity/ Izaak Walton's Life of John Danna/ William Blake's "Every Eye Sees Differently"/ Kierkegaard -subjective thinker, the sophist/ Indirect communication and direct communication/ Back to Kierkegaard on Christianity

Pad 5.34, August 1972 - September 1972: Frank Knight on Government and Peace/ Kierkegaard: Understanding Christianity/ Plato-Understood Communication/ Kierkegaard's Fragments (ethical, irony, truth, subjectivity, and Christianity)/ Back to Frank Knight/ Kierkegaard/ Hick on Philosophical Theology and Natural Theology/ The Subjective Thinker (Kierkegaard)/ Returns to Hick

Pad 5.36, September 1972 - December 1972: Prior: Other minds/ Dispositions and expression/ Russell's remark about the history of the earth (meaning)/ Matthews: Discovering, questioning, and showing answers/ On dreaming/ Logical possibility/ Kierkegaard's ideal of "the leap" (faith)

Container 27.7

Pad 5.37, September 1972 - March 1973: Nietzsche: "Frenzy," Christianity, existentialism, belief/ Wittgenstein compared to Nietzsche on belief/ Bill Gordon's thesis "Does Hick Avoid the ad hoc Solution?"/ Kierkegaard on Christianity/ Williams and Kant on Utilitarianism/ Discussion, humor, states of mind (206-207)/ One can talk to oneself

Container 27.8

Pad 5.38, October 1972 - January 1973: Nietzsche: Christianity (Paul), Freedom of the will and Spinoza (a little Wittgenstein mixed through)/ Predestination/ Bill Gordon: Faith as an attitude/ Kierkegaard on Faith/ Wittgenstein on language/ Kierkegaard on understanding Christianity

Container 27.9

Pad 5.39, October 1972-November 1972: Wittgenstein (Philosophical Investigations): Language and the bewitchment of our intelligence, memory/ Religious belief and experience/ Kierkegaard on Christianity (in reference to religious belief and experience)/ Calvin/ Nietzsche on Christianity

Container 27.10

Pad 5.40, October 1972 - November 1972: Nietzsche/ Kierkegaard

Container 28.1

Pad 5.40a, September 1962 - November 1962: Camus’s The Fall, with letter from Herbert Fingarette explaining notes

Container 28.2

Pad 5.41, November 1972 - February 1973: Nietzsche/ Miscellaneous/ Socrates/ Wittgenstein-Augustine

Container 28.3


Container 28.4

Pad 5.43, February 1973 - March 1973: "For a large class of cases"-meaning is use/ Hume-perceptions/ Religious language

Container 28.5

Pad 5.44, February 1973 - March 1973: Meaning/ Hume perceptions/ Williams on character

Container 28.6

Pad 5.45, March 1973 - May 1973: Malcolm argues/ Other minds/ Kierkegaard's Repetition/ Recognition of genuineness/ Miscellaneous

Container 28.7

Pad 5.46, March 1973 - June 1973: Nietzsche-Genealogy of Morals (entire pad)

Container 28.8

Pad 5.47, April 1973 - June 1973: Wittgenstein-philosophy/ Moore's proof of an external world/ Discussion/ Schopenhauer/ Calvin College philosophers/ Miscellaneous

Container 28.9

Pad 5.49a, July 1973 - August 1973: Themes in Christianity/ Wittgenstein-use/ Nietzsche-"bridge"/ Herbert on the resurrection

Pad 5.49b, August 1973: Zarathustra (entire pad)

Pad 5.50, September 1973 - December 1973: Nietzsche (entire pad)

Pad 5.51, September 1973 - December 1973: Paper on Davidson/ Kierkegaard-subjectivity/ Quine-word and object

Pad 5.52, September 1973-October 1973: Nietzsche-morals (entire pad)

Pad 5.53, October 1973 - November 1973: Nietzsche

Pad 5.54, November 1973: Nietzsche

Pad 5.55, December 1973 - January 1974: Nietzsche/ Behaviorism/ Nietzsche/ Wittgenstein-ethics (entire pad related to Nietzsche)


Pad 6.4, February 1974: On Certainty (some on Moore here)


Pad 6.6, February 1974 - April 1974: "Reading" in Philosophical Investigations/ Miscellaneous/ On Certainty

Pad 6.7, April 1974 - May 1974: Kierkegaard: "A kind of poet"/ The devil (Hustwit's interest in Ivan's devil)/ Duck-rabbit/ Allaire’s paper on truth

Pad 6.8, March 1974 - April 1974: Kierkegaard/ Iris Murdoch's book on good/ Philosophy/ Hume-perception

Pad 6.25, March 1975: Wittgenstein: picture/ Names/ Language-games/ Kant's Categorical Imperative and Hume's self.(examples of language-games)


Pad 6.27, April 1975 - May 1975: Persuasion/ Laws/ Kierkegaard's Repetition/ Heidegger/ Audi on ethical relativism/ Close`s thesis (theology)


Pad 6.31, August 1975 - September 1975: Comments on Bill Bouwsma paper: Childhood-parent adulthood/ Ericson/ Tillich/ Nietzsche-Joyful Wisdom

Pad 6.32, September 1975: Nietzsche (entire pad) and a few more notes on Bill Bouwsma’s paper

Pad 6.33, September 1975 - October 1975: Questions of Eisenstein, a student/ Remarks about Bill Gordon, a student/ Remarks about Nietzsche and Christianity in general

Pad 6.34, October 1975: Philosophy does violence to language/ Wittgenstein: Understanding the skill he is teaching/ Nietzsche and the madman: losing faith/ Values/ Christianity, God, Kierkegaard/ Nietzsche: Man is indeterminate/ Morality


Pad 6.37, November 1975 - December 1975: Bill Gordon's interest in reason and faith: Penn, Kierkegaard, and St. Augustine/ Frazer's Golden Bough/ Wittgenstein: The meaning of "Discovering nonsense" (Philosophical Investigations)/ Nietzsche and Ivan

Pad 6.38, December 1975 - January 1976: Reason and faith/ Judging/ Language: inherent or learned?/ Remarks about animal behavior/ Dog's pretending


Pad 6.40, February 1976: Remarks on the natural history of man/ Is belief in God rational? (Alvin Plantinga)/ Necessary connection/ Aesthetics/ The soul


Pad 6.42, March 1976: Wittgenstein: His use of the word "grammar"/ Remarks on Ziff's paper-aesthetic impressions and puzzles


Pad 6.46, May 1976 - June 1976: Words as tools/ Habits/ Kierkegaard and the Fragments on illusion and paradox/ (From Craft paper) Kierkegaard on faith, sin, and offense/ Staten on education and community/ Back to Kierkegaard on Christianity/ Honesty/ Thinking and language and religion (Nietzsche and Kierkegaard)/ William James

Pad 6.47, June 1976 - June 1976: Time sequence/ Memory/ Essays on Nietzsche and Kierkegaard/ Heidegger "Why" the possibilities of phenomena/ Wittgenstein on St. Augustine's "worry of time"/ What is thinking?/ Language/ Kierkegaard on Christianity and literature

Pad 6.49, July 1976: Kierkegaard: The Postscript and The Fragments (topics: Christianity, language, purpose)

Pad 6.50, July 1976 - August 1976: Kierkegaard: Reading scripture, the subjective thinker/ Philip Larkin poem "High Windows" (death)/ Back to Kierkegaard on Christianity/ Wittgenstein/ "On becoming subjective"/ Religious subjectivity


Pad 6.53, October 1976: Mental states/ State of mind versus Disposition/ Kierkegaard: "Unknown God," Christianity, the subjective thinker, Truth/ Cioffi-subjective understanding/ Believing (Wittgenstein)


Pad 6.59, March 1977 - April 1977: Harry's paper on eternal life/ Wittgenstein: Religious language/ Hick's Book-belief and God/ Wittgenstein on grammatical confusions, the limits of language/ Fear/ Tolstoy/ Pictures?/ Poetry/ Philosophical nonsense/ What is knowledge?/ Meaning


Pad 6.61, April 1977 - May 1977: Poems (Keith Botsford and Philip Larkin poems)/ Wittgenstein: Words and sentences/ Kant and necessary imperatives/ The perfect metaphor/ Blue Book: words and meaning of expressions/ Locke: Simple ideas/ Berkeley: taking a survey of knowledge/ Wittgenstein: Ideas in the mind (Berkeley, Locke)/ Heidegger’s discoveries


Pad 6.64, June 1977 - August 1977: Motive and intention/ Anna Karenina/ Self-deception: illusion, fantasy/ Freud/ Conscious motives and unconscious motives/ Smythies on Notes From Underground - giving oneself a character

Pad 6.65, August 1977: Wittgenstein: Intention/ Impressions (pictures and images) and sense-data/ Brain-states/ Martinich: "Think of a man"

Pad 6.66, August 1977 - September 1977: Sense-data/ Belief in God: Appearances and sense-data, faith/ Harry Nielsen's paper on confessing belief in God/ What is man?/ The standard meter/ Frege

Pad 6.67, September 1977 - October 1977: Frege: the morning star/ Kripke/ Logic and grammar: contingency, necessity/ Christianity and God

Pad 6.69, November 1977 - December 1977: Vlastos on Plato-"true" and "good" in Protagoras/ M's criteria of truth/ Wittgenstein on empirical and logical/ Colors/ Anscombe and Wittgenstein on "What is thinking?"/ Heidegger: functions/ Hegel on thought

Pad 6.70, December 1977 - January 1978: Nothingness/ Heidegger on nothing (p. 362) and on boredom (p. 364)/ E. on the newness of life/ Wittgenstein: ethics, absolute values/ Berkeley/ Christianity and "Wonderful"/ Tolstoy and deception/ Wittgenstein: if a lion were to talk

Pad 6.71, February 1978: Reflections on God/ Notes for paper: On God in General/ Miss Anscombe and Socrates/ The experience of Being
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>37.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Kierkegaard, Philosophical Fragments and Concluding Unscientific Postscript, 1964-1965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>37.2</td>
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<td>7.2 Nietzsche, 1968-1974, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>37.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 Wittgenstein, Tractatus, 1961</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>37.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 Wittgenstein, Blue Book, 1967</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 Wittgenstein, Blue Book, 1971</td>
<td></td>
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<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
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<td>7.6 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, undated</td>
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<td>Container</td>
<td>38.1</td>
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<td>7.7 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1958</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Container</td>
<td>38.2</td>
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<td>7.8 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1965-1966</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.9 Moore, 1967</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Container</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.10 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1968</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Container</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>7.11 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1969</td>
<td></td>
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<td>38.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.12 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1971</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Container</td>
<td>38.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.13 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1972</td>
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<td>38.9</td>
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<td>7.15 Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 1975</td>
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<td>38.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.16 The idea of spirit, 1961</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>38.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.18 Philosophy in Literature, 1963</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>38.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.19 What is reading?, 1974</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>38.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.20 Who studies language?, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>38.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.21 Notes on metaphysics, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>38.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.22 Response to student’s note about printing needs, undated</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>7.23</td>
<td>What is the good life?, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>Note on &quot;the meaning of a word,&quot; Fall 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>Note on &quot;problem of universals,&quot; September 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.26</td>
<td>Class note on studying philosophy, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>Seattle notes: Wittgenstein, 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.28</td>
<td>San Jose notes: thinking, Summer 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.29</td>
<td>Santa Barbara notes: philosophy of religion, Summer 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Wittgenstein Conversations, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>John Locke Lectures, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Hintz Memorial Lecture: on philosophy of religion, with letter to Bouwsma from Robert W. Bretall, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Does the Bible give us a picture of our lives, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>Anselm's Argument, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>Adventure in Verifications, with letter to Bouwsma from Paul Helm, 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>Notes on &quot;The Monstrous Illusions&quot; and other papers on Point of View, 1970, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>Untitled essay on faith and evidence, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.10</td>
<td>Review of book on Spinoza’s ontology, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.11</td>
<td>Wittgenstein's doubts about Cartesian doubt, 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.12</td>
<td>Introduction to proposed translation of Nietzsche's letters, with letter from Bouwsma to John R. Silber, circa 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.13</td>
<td>Comments on Miss Anscombe's paper on faith, with letter to Bouwsma from Elizabeth Anscombe, 1968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.14 Rough draft of a paper on Philosophical Investigations, 1968

8.15 Double talk, Jackie Vernon and X (lecture), undated

8.16 A Difference Between Ryle and Wittgenstein

8.17 Allaire on Truth, undated

8.18 Lengthier Zettel, undated

8.19 Is belief in God rational?, 1975

8.20 Notes on Berkeley's Idealism, 1957

8.21 Achilles and the Tortoise, undated

8.22 Russell's argument on universals, article by Bouwsma, off-print from The Philosophical Review, March 1943

8.23 On this is white, article by Bouwsma, off-print from The Philosophical Review, January 1939

8.24 Feigl on justification, undated

8.25 Reply to Hartshorne, 1964

8.26 What is meaning?, undated

8.27 Two Failures, undated

8.28 (Peter) Geach’s notes, undated

8.29 The Language of Poetry, with letter to Bouwsma from Alan Tormey, undated

8.30 Two short papers on poetry, undated

8.31 On Many Occasions I Have in Sleep Been Deceived, undated

8.32 I Think I Am, undated

8.33 Remarks on the Cogito, undated

8.34 Notes on the Cogito, undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8.35 The meaning of a word is the object for which the word stands, 1968</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1 Index to Philosophical Investigations, typescript, author unknown, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2 96 pages of nonsense (regarding characters in a film), typescript, author unknown, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3 Does Oxford Moral Philosophy Corrupt the Youth?, by Elizabeth Anscombe, typescript, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4 Unfinished biographical sketch of Wittgenstein by Friedrich Hayek, typescript, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.5 Times Literary Supplement piece on Wittgenstein, typescript, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6 BBC talk on Wittgenstein, copy of typescript, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.7 Correspondence, notes, printed material, and typescripts by other authors, 1963-1968, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.8 Reviews of Philosophical Essays, with correspondence, 1965-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.9 Wittgenstein's notes on knowledge and certainty, copy of typescript, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10-11 Wittgenstein's lectures on philosophical psychology, copies of typescript, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.12 Correspondence and notes, 1961, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.13 Bricks and Ducks, typescript, author unknown, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto mats of notes, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 41.16, 42.1-2</td>
</tr>
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<td>Empty envelopes and folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 42.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class handouts, 1954-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes on Berkeley and Hume, 1954-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 43.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes on Descartes, 1956-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container 43.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes on Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations, 1965
Container 43.4

Notes on Hustwit’s thesis on Kierkegaard, 1969
Container 43.5

Descartes/ Motives/ Language/ Spinoza/ Meaning of a word, 1951
Container 44.1

Brothers Karamazov/ Johnson and the stone/ Locke/ Berkeley/ Aristotle/ Hume, language, and philosophy, undated
Container 44.2

Hedonism, 1950
Container 44.3

On describing uses of words/ Austin, undated
Container 44.4

Mimeographed class handouts, 1956-1962
Container 44.5

Carbon and mimeographed class handouts, 1958-1959
Container 44.6

Logical possibilities, 1954-1955
Container 44.7

Hume, 1955
Container 44.8-10

Descartes Meditations, undated
Container 44.11

Moore, 1959
Container 44.12

Aesthetics and ethics, 1958
Container 45.1

Dreaming, undated
Container 45.2

Various topics, 1957-1958
Container 45.3

Meaning, undated
Container 45.4-5

Descartes: dreams are illusions, 1957
Container 45.6

Berkeley/ Descartes, 1957
Container 45.7

Moore, 1954
Container 46.1

Notes in preparation for John Locke Lectures, circa 1950-1951
Container 46.2-6

Typescript of John Locke Lectures, circa 1950-1951
Container 46.7

Concept of mind, undated
Container 46.8

Topics in philosophy of mind, 1954
Container 46.9
**Plato, undated**  Container 47.1

**Hume, 1954-1955**  Container 47.2-5

**Hume, 1951**  Container 48.1

**Miscellaneous notes**

**Dostoyevsky/ Universals/ Thinking/ Republic, 1952**  Container 48.2

**Education/ Music/ Democracy/ Dostoyevsky, 1952**  Container 48.3

**Education/ Montaigne/ Pain, undated**  Container 48.4

**Substance/ Illusion/ Language/ Berkeley, 1953**  Container 48.5

**The Flux, John Locke Lectures (1951), computer printout with introduction by Ronald Hustwit, undated**  Container 49.1

**Class handouts on Hume and Plato, 1954-1955**  Container 49.2

**Book withdrawals, 1907-1976, undated**  Container 49.3-11

**Off-print of articles by Bouwsma, 1939-1966**  Container 49.12

**Non-Logical Falsity by Yorick Smythies, typescript, undated**  Container 49.13

**Bouwsma’s notes on Smythies’s paper on non-logical falsity, undated**  Container 50.1

**Bouwsma’s notes on the subject of dread, 1963**  Container 50.2

**Correspondence and offprint of article, 1941-1972**  Container 50.3

**Correspondence, drawings, invitations, notes, printed material, receipts, and works by others, 1930-1988**  Container 50.4-5

**Photocopies of correspondence, clippings, and drawings, 1915-1984**  Container 50.6

**The Blue Book by Ludwig Wittgenstein, bound typewritten manuscript with Bouwsma’s annotations, undated**  Container 50.7

**The Brown Book by Ludwig Wittgenstein, bound typewritten manuscript with Bouwsma’s annotations, undated**  Container 50.8
## Index of Selected Correspondents

- Ambrose, Alice, 1906--50.5 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos)
- Anscombe, G. E. M. (Gertrude Elizabeth Margaret)--39.18
- Arnott, J. S.--50.4
- Audi, Robert, 1941-50.6 (to Agnes Arthaud)
- Baylor, John R.--50.6
- Bobbitt, Philip--50.5 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos)
- Bouwsma, O. K.--50.4, 50.6 (outgoing)
- Bracken, Harry M.--50.4
- Bretall, Robert W. (Robert Walter), 1913-1980--39.8, 41.9
- Browning, Douglas, 1929--50.5-6
- Carney, James D. (James Donald)--50.4
- Cioffi, Frank--50.3
- Cook, John W. (John Webber), 1930--50.6
- Craft, J. L. (Jimmy Lee), 1947--50.5 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos and Jon Bos)
- Daugherty, William E.--50.6 (to Agnes Arthaud)
- Dekker, Peter?--50.6 (to Oscar Bouwsma)
- Edman, Irwin, 1896-1954--50.4
- Fingarette, Herbert--28.2
- Goodhart, Cecily--50.4 (to Gretchen Bouwsma)
- Gustavson, R. G.--50.5
- Helm, Paul--39.12
- Herbert, Robert T., 1928--50.5-6
- Hirsch, Edward J.--50.5
- Holland, R. F. (Roy Fraser), 1932--41.10
- Howey, Richard Lowell, 1937--41.4
- Hustwit, Ronald E., 1942--50.4 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos and Jon Bos)
- Jackman, Jim--50.6 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos)
- Jager, Ronald--50.5 (to William J. Bouwsma)
- Kimmel, Larry--50.6
- Kuntz, Paul Grimley, 1915--41.9
- Lazerowitz, Morris, 1909-1987--50.4, 50.6 (to Agnes Arthaud)
- Mabbot, J. D. (John David)--50.6
- Malcolm, Norman, 1911-1990--50.6
- Melville, P. C.--50.6
- Moore, Dorothy--50.6
- Murphy, John P. (John Peter), 1937-1987--50.6 (to Robert Audi)
- Paton, H. J. (Herbert James), 1887-1969--50.4
- Philip, J. R.--50.4
- Pincoffs, Edmund L.--50.6
- Pospishil, Lloyd L.--50.5
- Price, H. H. (Henry Habberley), 1899-1984--50.4
- Prokop, Robert J.--50.5
- Ross, Stanley R. (Stanley Robert), 1921-1985--50.5
- Ryle, Gilbert, 1900-1976--50.6
- Scheer, Richard K.--50.6
- Silber, John, 1926-2012--39.17, 50.6
- Smythies, Yorick, 1917-1980--50.5-6
- Spoolhof, William, 1909--50.6 (to Agnes Arthaud)
- Sprague, Elmer--50.4-5 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos), 50.6 (to Agnes Arthaud)
- Sullivan, John Patrick--50.5
- Tormey, Alan--40.16
- Unnson, J. O.--50.4
- Varner, D. B.--50.5
- Weatherhead, A. Kingsley (Andrew Kingsley), 1923- --50.6
- Werbow, Stanley N. (Stanley Newman), 1922-2005--50.5
- Wetzel, Charles Robert, 1934- --50.4 (to Gretchen Bouwsma Bos)
- Whipp, Leslie T.--50.6 (to Agnes Arthaud)
- Wittgenstein, Ludwig, 1889-1951--50.6
- Wright, G. H. von (Georg Henrik), 1916-2003--50.6
- Zumberge, James Herbert--50.5