

# Princeton University Library

## DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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### Vachel Lindsay Collection, 1903-1930: Finding Aid

#### Summary Information

<b>Call number:</b>	C0043
<b>Location:</b>	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Manuscripts Division. One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
<b>Size:</b>	0.4 linear feet (1 archival box)
<b>Language(s) of material:</b>	English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Vachel Lindsay Collection consists of correspondence, poetry manuscripts, photographs, drawings, and printed material of the American poet Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931).

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## Biography of Nicholas Vachel Lindsay

Nicholas Vachel Lindsay was born on 10 November 1879, in Springfield, Illinois. He attended Hiram College (1897-1900), and studied art at Chicago and New York (1900-1905). Afterwards, he tramped across the country, writing and performing his poetry, and became entranced by small-town life. From 1910 to 1922, he lectured and recited poems at universities. Beginning in 1914, he lectured on motion pictures at Columbia University and the University of Chicago. He became the first American poet invited to lecture at Oxford, England, in 1920. Ultimately, he became a poet in residence at Gulfport Junior College (1923-1924) and a journalist in Spokane, Washington (1924-1929). His poetic leaflets included *The Tree of Laughing Bells* (1905) and *Rhymes to Be Traded for Bread* (1912). With the publication of *The Congo and Other Poems* (1914), he was widely recognized as an exponent of “new poetry,” and became in great demand as a public reader of his works. He was the recipient of many awards, including *Poetry* magazine prizes (1913 and 1928), the Helen H. Levinson Prize (1915) for the “The Chinese Nightingale,” and others.

Lindsay married Elizabeth Conner on 19 May 1925, and together they had two children, Susan and Nicholas. He died of coronary thrombosis (or perhaps suicide by poison) on 5 December 1931; he was 52 years old.

## Description

Consists primarily of love letters (1923-1925) by Lindsay to Elizabeth Mann Wills and other letters (1921, 1923-1925) by him to Francis Charles MacDonald. Furthermore, there is at least one letter each to Mrs. Edmund Kemper Broadus (1921), Howard L. Hughes (1916, 1925), Jessie Kalmbah (1903), and Elizabeth Mann Wills' mother (1924), as well as two letters by Elizabeth Connor Lindsay to Howard L. Hughes (1925, 1930). Other materials in the collection include seven poetry manuscripts (1903, 1924), a pen-and-ink drawing (undated), three photographs (undated), and a clipping from *The New Republic* featuring the poems “These are the Young,” “The Rhinoceros and the Butterfly,” and “Nancy Hanks, Mother of Abraham Lincoln.”

The following standard abbreviations, or their variations, are used to identify materials in this collection: ALS = autograph letter signed, TLS = typed letter signed, ACS = autograph card signed, ANs = autograph notes, AMsS = autograph manuscript signed, and TMsS = typed manuscript signed.

### Series 1: Writings

### Series 2: Drawings

### Series 3: Correspondence

All the correspondence is by Lindsay, unless otherwise indicated.

### Series 4: Photographs

### Series 5: Printed Material

## Arrangement

Organized into the following series:

- Series 1: Writings
- Series 2: Drawings
- Series 3: Correspondence
- Series 4: Photographs
- Series 5: Printed Material

## Access and Use

### Access

Collection is open for research use.

### Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

## Processing and Other Information

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Vachel Lindsay Collection, Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Ran Tao, Princeton Class of 2006 in 2004. Finding aid written by Ran Tao, Princeton Class of 2006 in 2004.

### Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Techbooks, Cristela García-Spitz, and Diann Benti on May 4, 2007. Created from MARC record via MarcEdit and XSL stylesheets in 2007.

### Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Wills, Elizabeth Mann.
- American poetry -- 20th century.
- Love-letters -- United States -- 20th century.
- Poets, American -- 20th century.
- Correspondence.
- Photographs.
- Poems.
- American literature

<b>Contents List</b>
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**Series 1: Writings**


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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
“The Dream of King David in Heaven while His Son Christ was in the Grave,” AMsS, 1 p., 1903	1	1
“The Flower of Love,” AMsS, 1 p, undated	1	2
“Poem All About Elizabeth!” AMsS, 2 pp, 1924	1	3
“Poem-Poem-Poem!” AMs, 1 p., undated	1	4
“Proudest pearl of the wide world...,” AMs, 1 p., undated	1	5
“Remembering the Golden Treasury,” AMsS, 1 p., 1924	1	6
“The Trail of the Dead Cleopatra in Her Beautiful and Wonderful Tomb,” TMs(carbon) with holograph corrections, 30 pp., undated	1	7

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**Series 2: Drawings**


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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
“Adam in the Forest of Arden,” signed pen-and-ink drawing, undated	1	8
Charcoal portrait of Lindsay, signed by Edward Steisse, inscribed “Unfinished and unretouched(?) sketch of Vachel Lindsay before his lecture at Princeton Spring of 1924 -- Presented to Princeton Library - June 1944” [See Graphic Arts GC059]	1	8

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**Series 3: Correspondence**


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**Series Description**

All the correspondence is by Lindsay, unless otherwise indicated.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Broadus, Mrs. Edmund Kemper		

## Series 3: Correspondence ... (Continued)

ALS, 19 November 1921	1	9
Hughes, Howard L.		
ALS, 30 October 1916	1	10
ALS by Elizabeth Connor Lindsay, 19 November 1925	1	11
ACS, 25 December 1925	1	12
ALS by Elizabeth Connor Lindsay, 18 March 1930	1	13
Kalmbah, Jessie		
ALS, 19 June 1903	1	14
ALS, 1 September 1903	1	15
MacDonald, Francis Charles		
ALS, 25 February 1921	1	16
TLS, 9 March 1921	1	17
ALS, 28 March 1921	1	18
ALS, 2 May 1921	1	19
ALS, 15 April 1923	1	20
ALS, 2 February 1924	1	21
ALS, 28 March 1924	1	22
ANs by Lindsay on newspaper clippings, 30 March 1924	1	23
ALS, 7 April 1924	1	24
ALS, 12 April 1924	1	25
ALS, 19 April 1924	1	26
ALS, 11 May 1924	1	27
ALS, 5 October 1925	1	28
Wills, Elizabeth Mann		
ALS, 19 June 1923	1	29

## Series 3: Correspondence ... (Continued)

ALS, 18 September 1923	1	30
ALS, 5 October 1923	1	31
ALS, 2 June 1924	1	32
ALS, 18 June 1924	1	33
ALS, 7 July 1924	1	34
ALS, 15 August 1924	1	35
AL, 18 August 1924	1	36
AL, 26 August 1924	1	37
ALS, 8 September 1924	1	38
ALS, 23 September 1924	1	39
ALS, 28 September 1924	1	40
AL, 19 October 1924	1	41
ALS, 9 January 1925	1	42
ALS, 22 February 1925	1	43
ALS, 28 February 1925	1	44
ALS, 13 March 1925	1	45
AL, 4 April 1925	1	46
ALS, 10 April 1925	1	47
ALS, 15 April 1925	1	48
ALS, 19 April 1925	1	49
ALS, undated	1	50
ALS, undated	1	51
Wills, Mrs. [Elizabeth Mann Wills' mother]		
ALS, 5 October 1924	1	52

**Series 4: Photographs ... (Continued)**

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**Series 4: Photographs**

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Portrait of Lindsay, Elizabeth, Nicky, and Susan seated on a couch, undated	1	53
3 profile portraits of Lindsay, undated	1	53

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**Series 5: Printed Material**

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
3 poems by Lindsay printed in The New Republic, 25 March 1925		
“These are the Young”	1	54
“The Rhinoceros and the Butterfly”	1	54
“Nancy Hanks, Mother of Abraham Lincoln”	1	54