

Stephen Berg papers

Ms. Coll.1353

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University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Berg, Stephen, 1934-2014
Title	Stephen Berg papers
Call number	Ms. Coll.1353
Date [inclusive]	1971-2014
Extent	3.5 linear feet (4 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	Stephen Berg was a Philadelphia born poet, professor, and editor who made that city his home for the majority of his career. A prolific writer and publisher, he was awarded several prizes throughout his lifetime including a Guggenheim Fellowship, Rockefeller Fellowship, Pew Fellowship, PEN Translation Fellowship, and the Frank O'Hara Prize. This collection includes poetry manuscripts and published poetry collections by Berg, many of them in annotated typescript, proof, and published versions.

Biography/History

Stephen Berg was a Philadelphia born poet, professor, and editor who made that city his home for the

majority of his career. Born on August 2, 1934, he briefly attended the University of Pennsylvania in addition to other colleges before graduating from the University of Iowa in 1959.

He went on to co-found the *American Poetry Review* in 1972, based in Philadelphia, and continued on as editor until his death. He also taught at several area institutions including Temple University, Princeton University, Haverford College, and the University of the Arts.

A prolific writer and publisher, he was awarded several prizes throughout his lifetime including a Guggenheim Fellowship, Rockefeller Fellowship, Pew Fellowship, PEN Translation Fellowship, and the Frank O'Hara Prize.

Berg was married to Millie Lane and had three daughters: Margot, Clair, and Emily. He died on June 12, 2014, after struggling with declining health due to a cancer diagnosis.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes poetry manuscripts and published poetry and nonfiction books by Stephen Berg. In some cases, such as the poetry collections *Halo* (1999), *In It* (1986), *Oblivion* (1995), *Porno Diva Numero Uno* (2000), *With Akhmatova at the Black Gates* (1981), and *X=* (2002), the collection includes early typescript versions and proofs, often with the author's annotations, as well as the final published version of each work. In others, such as *Crow with No Mouth* (1989), *Cuckoo's Blood* (2007), *The Daughters* (1971), and *Here* (2013), there is no published version included. In others, such as *The Elegy on Hats* (2005), *New and Selected Poems* (1992), and *The Poetry Does Not Matter* (2010), only the published version is included.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by title of published work, with the drafts of a given work arranged chronologically. In some cases, such as various typescript versions of a given manuscript, the chronology can be difficult to pinpoint; in such cases, similar typescript versions have been placed together.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

Access Restrictions

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and Manuscripts.

Source of Acquisition

Gift of Clair Berg-Meyerowitz, 2016

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Translations (documents)

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

SUBJECT(S)

- American poetry--20th century
- Poetry--20th century
- Poets, American--20th century.

Collection Inventory

CRAZY CLOUD IKKYU, 2014.

	Box	Folder
Proofs, 2014.	1	1
Published version, 2014.	1	2

CROW WITH NO MOUTH, 1989.

	Box	Folder
<i>Ikkyu Sojun: a Zen monk and his poetry</i> , by Sonja Arntzen (research for <i>Crow with No Mouth</i>), 1974.	1	3
Proofs, 1989.	1	4
Master typescript.	1	5
Various typescript versions, 1989.	1	6-8

CUCKOO'S BLOOD, 2007.

	Box	Folder
Proofs, 2007.	1	9-10

THE DAUGHTERS, 1971.

	Box	Folder
Typescript, 1971.	1	11-12
Photocopied pages from published version, 1971.	1	13

THE ELEGY ON HATS, 2005.

	Box	Folder
Published version, 2005.	1	14

FOOTNOTES TO AN UNFINISHED POEM.

	Box	Folder
Various typescripts, 2001.	1	15
Published version, 2001.	1	16

HALO, 1998-2000.

	Box	Folder
<i>Sovegnanos</i> (early version of <i>Halo</i>), 1998.	1	17
Typescript, 1998-1999.	1	18-20
Proofs, 1999.	1	21
Final proof, 2000.	1	22
Published version, 1999.	1	23

HERE, 2013.

	Box	Folder
Various typescripts, 2013.	1	24
Proofs, 2013.	1	25

HOMAGE TO THE AFTERLIFE, 1991.

	Box	Folder
Proofs, 1991.	1	26

IN IT, 1986.

	Box	Folder
Various typescripts, 1986.	2	1
Proofs, 1986.	2	2-4
Photocopied pages from published version, 1986.	2	5
Published work, 1986.	2	6

LOVESONG & FOOTNOTES FOR AN UNFINISHED POEM, 1995.

	Box	Folder
Various typescripts, 1995.	2	7

NEW AND SELECTED POEMS, 1992.

	Box	Folder
Published UK version, 1992.	2	8
Published US version, 1992.	2	9

NOTHING IN THE WORD: VERSIONS OF AZTEC POETRY, 1972.

	Box	Folder
Typescript, 1972.	2	10

OBLIVION, 1995.

	Box	Folder
Various typescripts, 1995.	2	11-12
Various typescripts and proof pages, 1995.	2	13
Various typescripts with jacket copy, 1995.	2	14
Author's proof, 1995.	2	15
Master proof set, 1995.	2	16
Page proof with jacket, 1995.	2	17
Published version, 1995.	2	18
	Box	Folder
Dust jacket and cover mock-up, 1995.	99	

OTHER TONGUES: POEMS IN TRANSLATION, CIRCA 1969.

	Box	Folder
Proofs, circa 1969.	2	19

OTHER TONGUES: VERSIONS.

	Box	Folder
Typescript, 1995, July.	2	20

THE POETRY DOES NOT MATTER, 2010.

	Box	Folder
Published version, 2010.	3	1

PORNO DIVA NUMERO UNO, 2000.

	Box	Folder
Typescript.	3	2-3
Proofs, 2000.	3	4
Published version.	3	5

RIMBAUD: VERSIONS & INVENTIONS, 1993-2005.

	Box	Folder
<i>Rimbaud</i> , typescript, 1993 May.	3	6
Published version, 2005.	3	7

SHAVING, 1998.

	Box	Folder
Typescript, 1998.	3	8
Published version, 1998.	3	9

STEAM RISING FROM A FULL BOWL OF RICE: ZEN MASTER DOGEN VERSIONS, 2013.

	Box	Folder
Published version, 2013.	3	10

THE STEEL CRICKET, 1997.

	Box	Folder
Published version, 1997.	3	11

WITH AKHMATOVA AT THE BLACK GATES, 1980-1981.

	Box	Folder
photocopies of Akhmatova poems used as a basis for <i>With Akhmatova at the Black Gates</i> , 1980.	3	12
Poems by Akhmatova and variations by Berg, circa 1980.	3	13
Various poems by Berg later collected in the book, circa 1980.	3	14
Various typescripts, circa 1980.	3	15-17
Typescript with cover, 1980.	3	18
Proofs, 1980.	3	19
Corrected proofs, 1980.	3	20
Proofs, 1980.	4	1
Photocopied pages from published version, 1980.	4	2
Published version, 1981.	4	3

X=, 2000-2002.

	Box	Folder
<i>Treatise on the Rainbow</i> (early version of X=), circa 2001.	4	4
Typescript, 2001.	4	5-7
Proofs, 2002 April 30.	4	8

Published version, 2002 .

4

9

58 POEMS, 2013.

Box

Folder

Published version, 2013.

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