

Guide to the Kathleen Van Der Aue Collection on Robert Frost, 1909-2005, bulk 1945-1974

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Kathleen Van Der Aue Collection on Robert Frost, 1909-2005, bulk 1945-1974

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2022.041

Author of Finding Aid:

Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Van Der Aue, Kathleen

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box and 1 oversized folder ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection, compiled by Kathleen Van Der Aue, consists of a range of archival materials by or related to the poet, Robert Frost. Such materials include newspaper clippings, brochures, pamphlets, correspondence, stamps, cassettes, and film. This collection is part of a larger library collection and dates from 1909 to 2005, with the bulk of materials dating from 1945 to 1974.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Kathleen Van Der Aue Collection on Robert Frost was a gift of Kathleen Van Der Aue in memory of her brother Harrison “Dinty” Moore on February 24, 2022.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Korrena Cowing in June 2023. The finding aid was written by Korrena Cowing in July 2023. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The bulk of materials in this collection are paper-based and have no special technical requirements for use. The A/V materials require permission from the library to use as they require the following equipment:

- The two cassettes require a cassette player
- The 7 inch 33- $\frac{1}{3}$ record requires a record player
- The DVD requires a DVD player or a computer with a CD/DVD drive and DVD software
- The 16mm film requires a film projector and projection screen.

Please contact the library for more information.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Kathleen Van Der Aue Collection on Robert Frost, 2022.041. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Kathleen Van Der Aue of Southport, CT, assembled and donated the collection to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Robert Lee Frost was born on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco, CA, to William Prescott, Jr., a journalist, and Isabelle (Moodie) Frost, an immigrant from Scotland. Robert’s father died in 1885, when Robert was eleven, leaving the family penniless. The family then moved to

Lawrence, MA, where his grandfather was an overseer at a mill. He graduated in 1892 as co-valedictorian with Elinor White from Lawrence High School.

Frost married Elinor White on December 19, 1895, and together they had six children: Eliot (1896-1904), Lesley (1899-1983), Carol (1902-1940), Irma (1903-1967), Marjorie (1905-1934), and Elinor Bettina (1907-1907).

Frost attended Dartmouth College in 1896, but left shortly thereafter. He then attended Harvard University from 1897 to 1899, but did not graduate. In 1900, Frost's grandfather purchased a farm in Derry, NH, for him and his family. They resided here from 1900 to 1909, before selling the farm in 1911. While in Derry, Frost farmed, wrote poems, and taught school at Pinkerton Academy. After the sale of the farm, Frost moved the family to England in 1912, where he published his first poems within a year.

Upon his return to the United States during World War I, he bought a farm in Franconia, NH. He began teaching at Amherst College in 1916, at the Bread Loaf School in 1921, at the University of Michigan from 1921 to 1927, and at Dartmouth College from 1943 to 1949. Frost also traveled extensively, to England, Ireland, Greece, Israel, and a state-sponsored trip to Russia in 1962.

Frost purchased a farm in South Shaftsbury, VT, in 1920 and in 1934, began spending time in Florida. His wife, Elinor, died on March 20, 1938 in Gainesville, FL. In 1940, Frost purchased *Pencil Pines* in South Miami, FL, where he would spend his winters for the rest of his life. He also maintained an apartment in Cambridge, MA.

After the initial success in Europe, his poetry was widely published. He won four Pulitzer Prizes, a Congressional Gold Medal, and read a poem at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in 1961. He died in Boston, MA, on January 29, 1963 and is buried with his family in Bennington, VT.

Published biographies on Robert Frost are available through the Society's reference library.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Kathleen Van Der Aue Collection on Robert Frost is a small archival portion of a larger library collection of materials on the poet Robert Frost. Compiled by Kathleen Van Der Aue, this portion of the collection consists of newspaper clippings, brochures, programs, correspondence, commemorative stamps, photographs, and audio-visual materials on, by, or about Robert Frost. The materials in this collection date from 1909 to 2005, with the bulk of materials dating from 1945 to 1974.

The majority of this collection consists of newspaper clippings from a variety of sources, not all of which are identified. These clippings include Frost poems, information on his life, events such as his address at Dartmouth College, his death, and a 1981 article on a Japanese professor translating Frost.

The correspondence in this collection is a mixture of letters to and from Frost family members and Kathleen Van Der Aue. Of note is a Christmas Card from Lesley Frost to Marie and Hugh dated 1969 and a postcard from Effie T. Chase to Mrs. E. B. Frost dated March 3, 1909.

Other materials in this collection consist of a cassette of Robert Frost reading his poetry in 1956, and a documentary, *A Lover's Quarrel with the World*. This 1963 documentary is in this collection as both a 16mm film and a DVD and features Frost reminiscing on his life and career. It also includes footage of him giving lectures at Amherst and Sarah Lawrence colleges, daily life at his Vermont home, and receiving the Congressional Gold Medal from President John F. Kennedy.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized alphabetically by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Bread Loaf Little Theatre: An Evening of Robert Frost playbill, 1946 August 2
- Folder 2 "Christmas Trees" by Robert Frost, newspaper clipping facsimile, 1962, 2005
- Folder 3 Commemorative stamp, first day of issue ceremony program, 1974 March 26
- Folder 4 Commemorative stamp, first day of issue envelopes, 1974 March 26
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1909, 1969, 1993-1994
 - Postcard from Effie T. Chase to Mrs. E. B. Frost, 1909 March 3
 - Christmas card from Lesley Frost to Marie and Hugh, 1969
 - Card from Jeff and Mary Anne, The Robert Frost Book Shop, 1993
 - Postcard from Marion to Kathleen Van Der Aue, 1994 June 2
- Folder 6 The Frost Place brochure and postcard, undated
- Folder 7 Honoring the distinguished American poet Robert Frost, El Al Israel Airlines, 1961 March 9
- Folder 8 Newspaper clippings, 1917-1981
 - "The Sea-Weed" by Elizabeth Pullen and "Not to Keep" by Robert Frost, *Indianapolis News*, 1917 January 12
 - "Covered Roads," *The New Republic*, 1920 June 23
 - "Spring Pools" and "The Draft Horse," *Literary Cavalcade*, 1962 October
 - "Poet Robert Frost Dead at Age of 88," 1963
 - "Frost's 'Defect' His Magic," *New York Sunday News*, 1963 February 17
 - "Japanese professor brings Frost to her people," *Bennington Banner*, 1981 November 17
 - Portrait of Robert Frost, undated
 - Robert Frost, Dean of American Poetry, undated
 - "Tenderness and Passive Sadness," undated
- Folder 9 Robert Frost gravestone photograph, undated
- Folder 10 Robert Frost luncheon at The Players in New York card, 1945 March 26
- Folder 11 Robert Frost portrait by Yousuf Karsh, photogravure, 1958

Separated Materials:

The following newspaper clippings were moved to Oversized Manuscript Box 'V' due to their size:

- "Snow the Predominant Note In Robert Frost's Poetry," *New York Tribune*, 1920 June 27
- "Why Robert Frost Is Ageless at Seventy," 1945 March 25
- "He Was a One-Man Task Force," *New York Herald Tribune Weekly Book Review*, 1945 March 25
- "Our Great Poet, Whom We Read and Love," *New York Herald Tribune Weekly Book Review*, 1949 May 29
- The Dartmouth* Volume CXIV, Number 172, 1955 June 12
 - "Robert Frost Delivers Address As 566 Seniors Gain Diplomas"
 - "Robert Frost and Brown President Honored"
- "Rugged New Hampshire, where Frost's poetry found its heart and soul," *The Hartford Courant*, 1994 July 24
- "Questioning Faces," undated

The following items were moved to the A/V Room:

- Cassette: An Evening with Robert Frost, 55 min., 1956
- Cassette: Robert Frost Reads His Poetry, 1956
- 16mm film: Robert Frost: A Lover's Quarrel with the World, 1963
- 7 inch 33-1/3 record: Frost Has A Say, 1967
 - [Removed from *Frost: The Poet and His Poetry*. Call number: 811 FV174]
- DVD: Robert Frost: A Lover's Quarrel with the World, 2004

Subject Terms**People:**

- Frost, Robert, 1874-1963
- Karsh, Yousuf, 1908-2002
- Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
- Van Der Aue, Kathleen

Organizations:

- Robert Frost Place (Franconia, N.H.)
- Dartmouth College

Subjects:

- Audio-visual materials
- Christmas cards
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Commemorative postage stamps
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Poetry
- Postcards

Locations:

- Derry, NH
- Franconia, NH

Occupations:

Poets, American

Related Materials

The New Hampshire Historical Society has numerous items by or related to Robert Frost. A sampling of these items is below. See our online catalog for more information.

Archives

Letter from Robert Frost to the New Hampshire Historical Society, 1930 June 24, American Literary Collection, 1989.113

Robert Frost's New Hampshire, videocassette, 2017.123

Robert Frost Contemporary American Award, Frank R. Kenison Papers, 1987.042

Library

Bieganowski, Ronald. "Robert Frost's Spiritual Realm." *Historical New Hampshire* 30, no. 1 (Spring 1980): 59-65. Call number: 977.8 N5321h

Frost, Robert. *A Boy's Will*. New York: Holt, 1915. Call number: 811 F9393b

Frost, Robert. *Family Letters of Robert Frost and Elinor Frost*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1972. Call number: 811.52 F9393gr

Frost, Robert. *New Hampshire: A Poem*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1923. Call number: 811 F9393NH

Thompson, Lawrence Roger. *Fire and Ice: The Art and Thought of Robert Frost*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., circa 1942. Call number: 920 F9393tho

Museum

Medal, The Robert Frost Contemporary American Award, 1998.034.02

Relic, piece of wood from a maple tree from Robert Frost Farm, 2008.022