

John Johnston, English Professor, Collection of David Jones Letters and Other Material A&M 4325

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1962-2017



Title Statement

John Johnston, English Professor, Collection of David Jones Letters and Other Material A&M 4325

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4325

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/6406

Unit Date

1962-2017

Unit Date

1962-1967

Language

English

Creator

Johnston, John H.

Extent

0.4 Linear Feet 5 in. (1 document case)

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

No special access restriction applies.

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], John Johnston, English Professor, Collection of David Jones Letters and Other Material, A&M 4325, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

This collection includes mostly letters written to Dr. Johnston by David Jones (1895-1974), a British modernist painter and poet. Born in Wales in 1895, Jones enlisted with the Royal Welch Fusiliers during the First World War and served on the Western Front from 1915 to 1918 with the 38th (Welsh) Division. This experience in the trenches profoundly influenced his later poetry and grouped him with other poets of the First World War studied by Johnston. A Roman Catholic convert, his work was also influenced strongly by his faith. In addition to his poetry, Jones produced visual art in the form of watercolors, wood carvings, and painted inscriptions. Though he never achieved great popular reknown, Jones was considered to be one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century by many of his contemporaries, including T.S. Eliot, Igor Stravinsky, and Graham Greene.

The collection also includes one letter written by Herbert Read and two by Siegfried Sassoon. Sir Herbert Read (1893-1968) was an English art historian, poet, and literary critic, best known for numerous books on art.

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) was an English writer, poet, and a decorated soldier who served on the western front during the First World War. Sassoon is best know for his realistic depictions of the horrors of war and satirical portrayals of war-loving patriots.

Each of these writers was included in Johnston's anthology "English Poetry of the First World War" (1964).

Scope and Contents

Correspondence between WVU professor John H. Johnston and British World War I poets, including David Jones, Herbert Read, and Siegfried Sassoon. There are fourteen letters authored by David Jones, a British World War I poet widely regarded as one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century by his contemporaries. The letters include a "discussion" between Johnston and Jones, mostly regarding Johnston's critique and analysis of the World War I poets, and also the thoughts and philosophies that influenced Jones's work (especially "In Parenthesis"). There are also two letters authored by Siegfried Sassoon and one authored by Sassoon's son, George, upon his father's death. Siegfried Sassoon was a British World War I poet best known for his critical view of the war following his service. Also includes publications by and about David Jones, and one piece of published greeting card artwork by David Jones with signature and note.

Keywords

British Literature

World War, 1914-1918

Jones, David, 1895-1974

Read, Herbert, 1893-1968

Sassoon, Siegfried, 1886-1967

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Publications

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78856

Unit Date 1962-2017

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 01-02 (Folder)

Publications by and about David Jones

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78859

Unit Date 1962-1980

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 01 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"David Jones - the 20th century's great neglected genius" by A.N. Wilson for The Spectator

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78860

Unit Date 2017/04/01

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 02 (Folder)

Series 2. Artwork

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78857

Unit Date 1962

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 03 (Folder)

Christmas Card by David Jones

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78861

Unit Date 1962

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 03 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Published greeting card artwork by David Jones with signature and note.

Series 3. Correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78858

Unit Date 1962-1975

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 04-10 (Folder)

David Jones Letters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78862

Unit Date 1962/03/23-1962/04/17

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 04 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes letters numbered 1-2.

David Jones Letters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78863

Unit Date 1963/02/20-1963/08/24

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 05 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes letters numbered 3-8.

David Jones Letters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78864

Unit Date 1963/03/03-1964/12/30

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 06 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes letters numbered 9-14.

David Jones Letters Transcriptions

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78865

Unit Date 1962/03/23-1964/12/30

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 07 (Folder)

David Jones Letters Transcriptions (copies)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78866

Unit Date 1962/03/23-1964/12/30

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 08 (Folder)

Letters from Herbert Read, Siegfried Sassoon, and George Sassoon

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78867

Unit Date 1963/04/03-1967/09/15

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 09 (Folder)

David Jones Letter Inventory

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/78868

Unit Date 1975/06/10

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)