Silvina Ocampo Papers, 1949-1986: Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number: C0973
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections
Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 0.4 linear feet
1 archival box
Language(s) of Material: Spanish or Castilian
Abstract: The Silvina Ocampo consists of writings, correspondence, and drawings of the Argentine novelist, storywriter, and poet Silvina Ocampo (1903-1993).
Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
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Silvina Ocampo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1903. She was the youngest of the six daughters of Manuel Silvino Ocampo and Ramona Aguirre. One of her older sisters was Victoria Ocampo, the editor of Sur magazine. As a young woman Ocampo lived in Paris and studied painting under Fernand Leger and Giorgio de Chirico. Throughout her life, she combined art and writing, often illustrating the verse of others as well as her own.

Ocampo met fellow Argentine writer Adolfo Bioy Casares in 1933, and seven years later the couple married. That same year, 1940, Ocampo exhibited her paintings in Buenos Aires for the first time.

Ocampo maintained a close friendship with Jorge Luis Borges. Both Ocampo and Bioy Casares engaged in creative collaboration with Borges. Antología de la literatura fantástica (Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 1940) and Antología poética argentina (Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 1941) were co-authored by the trio. Ocampo produced a sizeable body of work, both poetry and prose, and received several awards for her writing:

• second prize at the National Poetry Competition (Argentina) of 1953 for Los nombres

• first prize at the National Poetry Competition (Argentina) of 1962 for Lo amargo por dulce

• Premio Club de los XIII (Argentina) of 1988 for Cornelia frente al espejo

• PEN Club Gold Pen

Ocampo died 1993.

Consists primarily of assorted prose and poetry manuscripts, mostly in autograph form, with some accompanied by typed transcripts and/or drawings. A sample of represented titles includes "Algo inolvidable" from Y así sucesivamente, "La cara" and "El plátano de Jerjes" from Amarillo celeste, "Los que aman odian," "La nave" from Cornelia frente al espejo, "La oscuridad de la noche," "La torre sin fin," and "Veinte días" from Los días de la noche. There are also 38 letters by Ocampo to Elena Ivulich, the secretary of Adolfo Bioy Casares (Ocampo's husband).

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

The collection has been organized into three subseries (Writings, Correspondence, Drawings) of materials collected by Elena Ivulich, the secretary of Adolfo Bioy Casares (Ocampo's husband).

Series 1: Elena Ivulich Collection, 1949-1986
  Subseries 1A: Writings, dates not examined
  Subseries 1B: Correspondence, 1949-1986
Subseries 1C: Drawings, 1985

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.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

These materials were originally collected by Elena Ivulich, the secretary of Adolfo Bioy Casares (Ocampo's husband).

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

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

Encoding


Descriptive Rules Used

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

Subject Headings

· Argentine literature -- 20th century.
· Argentine poetry -- 20th century.
· Latin American literature -- 20th century.
· Poets, Argentine -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Poets, Argentine -- 20th century -- Manuscripts.
· Poets, Argentine -- 20th century -- Notebooks, sketchbooks, etc.
· Women authors, Argentine -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Correspondence.
· Drawings.
· Manuscripts.
· Notebooks.
· Latin American literature
Series 1: Elena Ivulich Collection, 1949-1986

Description: This series consists of materials collected by Elena Ivulich, the secretary of Adolfo Bioy Casares (Ocampo's husband).

Arrangement: This series is arranged into three subseries: Writings, Correspondence, and Drawings.

Subseries 1A: Writings, dates not examined

Description: This sub-series consists of poetry and prose manuscripts, primarily in autograph form. Some of the manuscripts include typed transcripts and or drawings. This sub-series is organized alphabetically by title or first line, with miscellaneous manuscripts located at the end. All materials in this sub-series are undated.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

"La alegría que siente cuando se parece...," poetry AMs, 3 pp., dates not examined
  Description: includes a drawing
  Box: 1 Folder: 1

"Algo inolvidable," prose AMs, 8 pp., dates not examined
  Description: from Y así sucesivamente
  Box: 1 Folder: 2

"Árbol del Porfirio...," AMs, 2 pp., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 3

"Cálculos de probabilidad," poetry AMs, 1 p., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 4

"La cara," poetry AMs, 7 pp., dates not examined
  Description: [edited as "La cara apócrifa" in Amarillo celeste, and as "La cara" in Retratos y autorretratos: Escritores de América Latina by Alicia d'Amico and Sara Facio]
  Box: 1 Folder: 5

"La casa de las botellas," prose AMs, 4 pp., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 6

"Como si no quisiera quererme como ahora...," poetry AMs, 1 p., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 7

"Cuando estoy cocinando el arroz de la noche...," prose AMs, 1 p., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 8

"Dos poemas de Emily Dickinson," poetry T/AMs, 1 p., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 9

"During some days I was your servant...," poetry AMs of alternating lines in English and Spanish, 2 pp., dates not examined
  Box: 1 Folder: 9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box: 1 Folder:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes typed transcript entirely in English. See drafts: &quot;Fui tu sierva durante un tiempo...&quot; in Folder 16. (This poem was written by Ocampo, not Dickinson.)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Él [era?] una servilleta alrededor,&quot; prose AMs, 7 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes a drawing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;En el jardín donde vivía Conrado...,&quot; prose T/AMs, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;En una casa de campo...,&quot; prose AMs, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Esa rosada rosa,&quot; poetry TMsS with holograph revisions, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes a drawing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Esquiar, nadar, volar es lo único...,&quot; poetry AMsS, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes a drawing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Fui tu sierva durante un tiempo...,&quot; poetry AMs of alternating lines in Spanish and English, 2 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes partial typed transcript entirely in Spanish poetry AMs in Spanish and English by unknown, 1 p. See also &quot;During some days I was your servant...&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Gustó a muchos chicos pero, Joanna es más evolucionada...,&quot; prose AMsS, 2 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;He perdido la noción del tiempo...,&quot; prose AMs, 2 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;In fairy tales...,&quot; prose AMs, 2 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes incomplete ALs to [Rebequeba?] on verso</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;El león impreciso,&quot; poetry TMs, 2 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Letanía del mar,&quot; poetry AMs, 3 pp., dates not examined</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Lo llamaban Chingolo,...,&quot; prose TMs, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Los que aman odian,&quot; prose AMs, 16 pp. [pp. 1-16 in notebook], dates not examined</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes AMs by Adolfo Bioy Casares on pp. 11-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Me enseñara un modo de no tener miedo...,&quot; poetry AMs</td>
<td>1 p., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Me ha regalado Dios un cuento...,&quot; poetry AMs</td>
<td>1 p., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Me llamo Nadia, pero mi nombre cambio...,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>4 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Mi problema,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>2 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMs by unknown,</td>
<td>2 pp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;La nave,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>4 pp. [from Cornelia frente al espejo], dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes two typed transcripts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;La nave,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>27 pp. [pp.1-27 in notebook], dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: [from Cornelia frente al espejo]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Oh víctima que pasa por asesino...,&quot; poetry AMs</td>
<td>2 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;El [op?] de la cerradura,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>2 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;La oscuridad de la noche,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>9 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes three drawings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Pero amaría a alguien...,&quot; poetry AMs in Spanish and English</td>
<td>2 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: includes typed transcript in Spanish and English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;El plátano de Jerjes,&quot; poetry TMsS</td>
<td>1 p., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: from Amarillo celeste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;:Quien sabrá, quien se preguntará, de qué rama del árbol salieron el amor filial...,&quot; prose TMs with holograph revisions, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>Box: 1 Folder: 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;La red,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>2 pp. [pp. 21-22 in notebook], dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: from Autobiografía de Irene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Resuelta a huir de la naturaleza...,&quot; prose AMs</td>
<td>2 pp., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Reuniones,&quot; poetry AMs</td>
<td>1 p., dates not examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: See: &quot;Cálculos de probabilidad&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Si tuviera la gloria...,'&quot; prose TMsS with holograph revisions, 1 p., dates not examined</td>
<td>Box: 1 Folder: 38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"El sombrero de seda," prose AMs, 2 pp. [pp. 1-2 in notebook], dates not examined  
Description: See: "La red"

"El superficie lisa de la luna," poetry AMs, 1 p., dates not examined

"El tejido azul," poetry AMs, 1 p., dates not examined

"Toda la gente de la casa llamada madrina a la madrina de Victoria...,"  
prose T/AMs, 10 pp. [some duplications], dates not examined  
Description: includes TL by Ocampo to "Victoria"

"Todas las noches aprendo...," poetry AMs, 1 p., dates not examined

"Todo es muy clara y nítida...," poetry AMs, 1 p., dates not examined

"La torre infinita," prose AMs, 11 pp., dates not examined

"La torre sin fin," prose A/TMs, 28 pp., dates not examined  
Description: includes autograph revisions by Adolfo Bioy Casares on 4 typed pages

"Un jugador fútbol...," prose AMs, 3 pp., dates not examined

"Un poema que me ha impresionado profundamente...," prose AMs, 1 p.,  
dates not examined  
Description: includes typed transcript

"Veinte días," prose TMs with holograph revisions, 1 p., dates not examined  
Description: [edited as "Hombres, animales, enredaderas" in Los días de la noche]  
includes typed transcript

"Veinte días," prose AMs, 22 pp. [pp. in notebook], dates not examined  
Description: [edited as "Hombres, animales, enredaderas" in Los días de la noche]  
See: "Los que aman odian"

"Las voces," poetry, AMs, 1 p., dates not examined

Miscellaneous writings, dates not examined  
Description: See also the miscellaneous writings contained in the notebooks in folders 23 and 36.
All letters are by Ocampo, unless otherwise indicated. Some autograph letters by Ocampo include typed transcriptions.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

[Unknown], 1950-1984
- 8 ALSs, 1971, 1975
- 2 ALS fragments, undated
- 3 TLSs, 1978
- 2 ALSs to Ocampo, undated

A-Z General, 1971-1986
- [Bencyts?], Antonio: ALS, undated
- [Calvino?], Italo: ALS, 1971
- Cushing Schultz, Barbara: TLS, 1985
- Polledo, Paz: ALS, 1986
- Singer, Esther Judith "Chichita" [wife of Italo Calvino]: ALS, undated
- Zavalia de Novillo, Maria Elvira: TLS, 1985

Baron Supervielle, Silvia, 1982-1983
- 2 ALSs, 1983
- AL (fragment), 1982

Bioy Cásares, Adolfo: 8 ALSs, undated

Bioy Domecq, Adolfo: 1 ALS, undated

Borges, Norah, dates not examined
- ALS, undated
- AL, undated

Eandi, Héctor, 1971-1973
- ALS, 1973
- AL, undated
- AL fragment, 1971

Ivulich, Elena, undated
- 9 ALSs, undated

Ivulich, Elena, 1949
- 6 ALSs, dates not examined
Ivulich, Elena, 1950
- 14 ALsS, dates not examined  
  Box: 1 Folder: 59

Ivulich, Elena, 1951
- 6 ALsS, dates not examined  
  Box: 1 Folder: 60
- 5 TLs to Ocampo, dates not examined  
  Box: 1 Folder: 60

Ivulich, Elena, 1952
- 3 ALsS, dates not examined  
  Box: 1 Folder: 61
- 2 TLs (one fragment) to Ocampo, dates not examined  
  Box: 1 Folder: 61

Mujica Láinez, Manuel, 1978-1979
- AN, undated  
  Box: 1 Folder: 62
- 3 ALsS to Ocampo, 1978-1979  
  Box: 1 Folder: 62

Ocampo, Victoria: 2 ALsS, 1978  
  Box: 1 Folder: 63

Wilcock, John: 2 ALsS to Ocampo, 1954, 1972  
  Box: 1 Folder: 64

Subseries 1C: Drawings, 1985

Description: This sub-series consists of assorted drawings by Ocampo, most of which are undated, although many include holograph descriptions and or signatures. See also the drawings included with some of the manuscripts in series I (Elena Ivulich Collection), sub-series A (Writings).

Arrangement: Not arranged according to any arrangement scheme.

- Notebook with 11 drawings, undated  
  Box: 1 Folder: 65
- 17 drawings, 1985  
  Box: 1 Folder: 65
- Photocopy of a drawing, undated  
  Box: 1 Folder: 65