Kathleen Tankersley Young
Correspondence, 1928-1932: Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number: C1273
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections
Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 0.2 linear feet
1 half-size archival box
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Consists chiefly of correspondence of American author and editor Kathleen Tankersley Young with the New York book designer and printer Lew Ney and his wife, Ruth Widen.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
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Charles Henri Ford was an American artist, poet, editor, and filmmaker. In 1929 Ford dropped out of high school in order to publish with Parker Tyler and Kathleen Tankersley the magazine Blues.

Harrison Parker Tyler, better known as Parker Tyler, was an American author, poet, and film critic. Tyler lived with the underground filmmaker Charles Boultenhouse (1926-1994) from 1945 until his death. Tyler was one of the few film critics to write extensively on experimental and underground film.

Lew Ney (Luther Emanuel Widen) was known as the "Mayor of Greenwich Village." He was a writer, printer, and book designer for the Parnassus Press and later for the Alcestis Press. Ney created the exquisite typesetting font (L 283) which was well suited for poetical works. In 1928 Ney married the poet Ruth Willis Thompson.

The collection consists chiefly of correspondence between Kathleen Tankersley Young and the New York book designer and printer Lew Ney and his wife, Ruth Widen -- original letters (holograph and typewritten) by Young, carbon copies of answers to Young's letters by Ney and Widen. The letters provide an intimate portrait of Young's private life and her marriage to David Jerome Ellinger, and of some of the literary and artistic figures of the Harlem Renaissance. They also shed light on the social mores of the United States during that time period. Young frequently refers to her friends and business partners Charles Henri Ford and Harrison Parker Tyler, as well as to her circle of literary friends, which included Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein. There are some letters discussing business matters, including a book project which Young initially intended Ney to publish for her, and money she owed Ney and Widen.

Also included is a typescript of a "Diary. Edward Lennon" (six leaves) which was written for Kathleen Young and Charles Henri Ford by an unidentified author. In addition, there are pencil drawings of different women with captions in French, in an unknown hand; a printed invitation to Young's wedding to David Jerome Ellinger; and a prospectus of the Modern Edition Press announcing the publishing of new pamphlets.

The collection is arranged by author.

Access and Use
Access
The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information
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Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition
Gift of Lew Ney in October 1947.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Kathleen Tankersley Young Correspondence, Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2012-06-22T15:42-0400

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

Subject Headings

· Lennon, Edward -- Diaries.
· Ney, Lew.
· Widen, Ruth.
· Book designers -- New York (State) -- New York -- United States -- 20th century.
· Editors -- New York (State) -- New York -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Harlem Renaissance -- History -- Sources.
· Printers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Correspondence.
· Women authors, Black -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Women editors, Black -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Women poets, Black -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Correspondence -- 20th century.
· Drawings -- 20th century.
· American literature
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