I contain multitudes
Do I contradict myself?
Very well then .... I contradict myself;
I am large .... I contain multitudes.

Walt Whitman, from *Leaves of Grass*, 1855
WALT WHITMAN 1819–1892
Poet

Hometowns: Brooklyn, New York; Camden, New Jersey


Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 202

Front image: Photograph of Walt Whitman, undated.
EDITH WHARTON (1862–1937)
Novelist, Socialite, Yale Honorary Doctor of Letters

Hometowns: Newport, Rhode Island; New York; Paris

Key works: The House of Mirth (1905), Ethan Frome (1911), The Custom of the Country (1913), The Age of Innocence (1920)

Beinecke call number: ycal mss 42

Front image: Photograph of Edith Wharton, ca. 1889–1890.

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Yale Collection of American Literature
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON 1871–1938
Poet, Lyricist, Novelist, Lawyer, Diplomat, Civil Rights Activist

Hometowns: Jacksonville, Florida; Puerto Cabello, Venezuela; Fisk University, Tennessee; Harlem, USA

Key works: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (1900), The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man (1912), God’s Trombones (1927), Black Manhattan (1930), Along This Way (1933)

Beinecke call number: JWJ mss 49

GERTRUDE STEIN (1874–1946)
Poet, Novelist, Art Collector

ALICE B. TOKLAS (1877–1967)
Writer, Publisher, Muse

Hometown: Expatriate Paris


Key works by Toklas: *The Alice B. Toklas Cookbook* (1954), *Staying on Alone* (1973), publisher of *The Plain Edition*

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 76

Front image: Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas at Aix les Bains, 1925.

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS 1883–1963
Poet, Physician

Home office: 9 Ridge Road, Rutherford, New Jersey

Key works: Poems (1909), Kora in Hell: Improvisations (1920), Spring and All (1923), In the American Grain (1925), Collected Poems, 1921–1931 (1934), Paterson, Books i–v (1946–1958), Pictures From Brueghel and Other Poems (1962)

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 116

Front image: Photograph of William Carlos Williams, ca. 1950s.
SINCLAIR LEWIS (1885–1951)
Novelist, Nobel Laureate, y1908
Hometown: Sauk Centre, Minnesota
Key works: Main Street (1920), Babbitt (1922), Arrowsmith (1925), Ann Vickers (1933), It Can’t Happen Here (1935)
Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 268
Front image: Photograph of Sinclair Lewis, ca. 1938.

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
EZRA POUND 1885–1972
Poet, Editor

Hometowns: Hailey, Idaho; London; Italy

Key works: A Lume Spento (1908), Lustra and Other Poems (1917), Hugh Selwyn Mauberley (1920), Umbra: Collected Poems (1920), Homage to Sextus Propertius (1934), Guide to Kulchur (1938), the Cantos (1925–1969)

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 43

H.D. (HILDA DOOLITTLE) 1886–1961
Poet, Novelist

Hometowns: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; London; Switzerland

Key works: Sea Garden (1916), Hymen (1921), Palimpsest (1926), Red Roses for Bronze (1931), The Walls Do Not Fall (1944), Tribute to the Angels (1945), The Flowering of the Rod (1946), By Avon River (1949), Helen in Egypt (1961)

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 24

Front image: Photograph of H.D., undated.

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
EUGENE O’NEILL (1888–1953)
Playwright, Nobel Laureate

Hometown: Provincetown

Key works: The Emperor Jones (1920), The Hairy Ape (1922), Mourning Becomes Electra (1931), The Iceman Cometh (1940), Long Day’s Journey Into Night (1956)

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 123

ZORA NEALE HURSTON (1891–1960)
Novelist, Playwright, Anthropologist

Hometowns: Eatonville, Florida; Harlem, USA

Key works: Mules and Men (1935), Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937), Tell My Horse (1938), Dust Tracks on the Road (1942), Seraph on the Swannee (1948)

Beinecke call number: JWJ MSS 9

Front image: Carl Van Vechten, photograph of Zora Neale Hurston, 1934. Used with the permission of the Van Vechten Trust.
THORNTON WILDER (1897–1975)
Novelist, Playwright, Essayist, 1920

Hometown: Hamden, Connecticut

Key works: The Bridge of San Luis Rey (1927), Our Town (1938), The Skin of Our Teeth (1942), The Matchmaker (1957)

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 108

Front image: Photograph of Thornton Wilder, ca. 1924.

________________________________________________________________________

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
LANGSTON HUGHES (1902–1967)
Poet, Playwright, Journalist

Hometown: Harlem, USA


Beinecke call number: JWJ MSS 26

Front image: Carl Van Vechten, photograph of Langston Hughes, undated. Used with the permission of the Van Vechten Trust.

________________________________________________________

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
**ROBERT PENN WARREN** 1905–1989
Poet, Novelist, Editor, Critic, Professor, Fugitive

Hometowns: Tennessee; Louisiana; New Haven, Connecticut

Key works: *Thirty-Six Poems* (1935), with Cleanth Brooks *Understanding Poetry* (1938) and *Understanding Fiction* (1943), *All the King’s Men* (1946), *World Enough and Time* (1950), *Brother to Dragons* (1953), *Now and Then* (1978)

Beinecke call number: YCAL MSS 202

Richard Wright (1908–1960)
Novelist, Essayist, Writer of Haiku

Hometowns: Chicago; New York; Expatriate Paris

Key works: Uncle Tom’s Children (1938), Native Son (1940), Black Boy (1945), The Outsider (1953), White Man, Listen! (1957)

Beinecke call number: JWJ mss 3

Front image: Carl Van Vechten, photograph of Richard Wright, 1939. Used with the permission of the Van Vechten Trust.
YALE AMERICAN ALL-STARS
Selected Authors

Printed in a limited edition on the occasion of Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011. For more information about the Yale Collection of American Literature, contact Louise Bernard, Curator of Prose and Drama (louise.bernard@yale.edu), or Nancy Kuhl, Curator of Poetry (nancy.kuhl@yale.edu). The exhibition was organized with the assistance of Charlotte Parker, 2013. Design by Rebecca Martz.

Copyright 2011 Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
An exhibition on view July 8–October 1, 2011
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
Yale University