Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Frederick R. Karl Archive, 1961-1995

**Collection Number:** Mss. 2000:1

**Creator:** Frederick R. Karl

**Extent:** 64 boxes

Administrative Information

**Provenance:** Purchase, 1999.

**Processed by:** Elizabeth Sudduth

**Access Restrictions:** Collection open to research.

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Chronology

1927  Born April 10 in Brooklyn, NY

1944 – 1946  U.S. Navy

1948  B.A. Columbia College

1949  M.A. Stanford University

1957  Ph.D. Columbia University

1957 – 1982  English Department, City College of the City University of New York
1959   *A Reader’s Guide to Great Twentieth Century English Novels*

1960   *A Reader’s Guide to Joseph Conrad*

1961   *The Quest*

1962   *The Contemporary English Novel*

1963   *C.P. Snow: The Politics of Conscience*

1963   Co-editor, *The Existential Imagination*

1963   Co-editor, *Short Fiction of the Masters*

1965   *A Reader’s Guide to the Nineteenth Century British Novel*

1966   Fulbright Grant in American Literature; Guggenheim Fellowship

1967   Co-author, *The Shape of Fiction: British and American Short Stories*


1974   *The Adversary Literature; the English Novel in the Eighteenth Century*

1978, 1988   National Endowment for the Humanities senior research grant

1978   Co-author, *Everything You Need to Know About Grammar*

1979   *Joseph Conrad: Three Lives*

1982   Professor of English, New York University


1984   New York University research fellow

1985   *Modern and Modernism: The Sovereignty of the Artist 1885 – 1925*

1986 Afterword, *The Story of King Arthur and His Knights* written and illustrated by Howard Pyle

1989 *William Faulkner American Writer: A Biography*

1991 *Franz Kafka: Representative Man*

1994 Editor, *Biography and Source Studies*, v. 1

1995 *George Eliot: Voice of a Century*

**Scope and Contents Note**

The distinguished literary biographer and critic Frederick R. Karl was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1927. After service in the US Navy, 1944-46, he attended Columbia University and Stanford. He taught at City College of CUNY from 1957-1982, and since 1982 has been Professor of English at New York University.

Mr. Karl's literary archive covers his biographies of four major writers - Joseph Conrad (1979), William Faulkner (1989), Franz Kafka (1991), and George Eliot (1995) - with a very full (and well organized) record of the stages through which he researched, drafted, developed, and edited each project. In addition, the archive includes similarly detailed material both for Mr. Karl's other books - his novel of world War II Italy, *The Quest* (1961) and two major critical works on modern American fiction - and also for a major long-term editorial project, the Joseph Conrad letters (1983-), for which he corresponded with over 2000 Conrad collectors, scholars and librarians. The archive includes letters from other leading bibliographers (Leon Edel, Joseph Blotner, Lionel Trilling), as well as from other significant correspondents (for instance, Bertrand Russell, John Barth).

The Frederick R. Karl Archive supports Thomas Cooper Library's project of building research collections (book and manuscript materials) to document the achievements of literary biography.
Series I: Literary Biographies and Letters 1-31
Series II: Novels 32
Series III: Literary History Criticism 33-45
Series IV: Unpublished Manuscript 46
Series V: General Correspondence 47
Series VI: Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad 48-64

Container List

**Series I: Literary Biographies and Letters**


**Box 1**
Typewritten “Ur-manuscript” with extensive handwritten revisions, cancelled passages and pages, showing the original numbering of sections or chapters, Parts I-III

**Box 2**
Typewritten “Ur-manuscript” with extensive handwritten revisions, cancelled passages and pages, showing the original numbering of sections or chapters, Parts IV-VI

**Box 3**
Typewritten “Ur-manuscript” with extensive handwritten revisions, cancelled passages and pages, showing the original numbering of sections or chapters, Part VII

**Box 4**
Typewritten “Ur-manuscript” with extensive handwritten revisions, cancelled passages and pages, showing the original numbering of sections or chapters, Part VIII-IX

**Box 5**
Copy-edited typescript, with additional handwritten revisions, p. 1-629

**Box 6**
Copy-edited typescript, with additional handwritten revisions p. 630-1075

**Box 7**
Copy-edited typescript, with additional handwritten revisions, p. 1076-Afterword p.2


**Box 8**
Typewritten Ur-manuscript, which includes extensive handwritten material, as well as alternate pages and passages, p.1-558D

**Box 9**
Typewritten Ur-manuscript, which includes extensive handwritten material, as well as alternate pages and passages, p. 673-1185

**Box 10**
Copy-edited typescript, including the editor’s suggestions for changes and handwritten revisions, Half-title page – p. 499

Box 11
Copy-edited typescript, including the editor’s suggestions for changes and handwritten revisions, p. 500-1028

Box 12
Copy-edited typescript, including the editor’s suggestions for changes and handwritten revisions, p. 1029-Notes

Box 13
Supplementary material: including photographs (both used and Rejected), individual folders on works by Faulkner, newspaper clippings, correspondence with Faulkner scholars and publishers, and a calendar of dates for the writing of the biography. Frederick Karl considers these of supplementary materials on Faulkner to be the most complete set of files related to any of his biographical works.

Box 14
Supplementary material: including photographs (both used and Rejected), individual folders on works by Faulkner, newspaper clippings, correspondence with Faulkner scholars and publishers, and a calendar of dates for the writing of the biography. Frederick Karl considers these of supplementary materials on Faulkner to be the most complete set of files related to any of his biographical works.

Franz Kafka: Representative Man (1991)

Box 15
Typed worksheets with handwritten revisions, Presentation-Chapter 7

Box 16
Typed worksheets with handwritten revisions, Chapters 8-11

Box 17
Typed worksheets with handwritten revisions, Chapters 12-13

Box 18
Typed script with the editor’s comments and revisions, early segments are heavily revised, Chapters 1-8

Box 19
Typed script with the editor’s comments and revisions, early segments are heavily revised, Chapter 9-Notes

Box 20
Page proofs, Chapters 1-9

Box 21
Page proofs, Chapter 10-Index

Box 22
Supplementary material including correspondence with Ticknor and Fields, permissions, requests for materials (including a letter in turn from Kafka’s niece), manuscript notes on additions, changes, and a folder of related Prague and Czech news articles, mainly in English, some in German.
Box 23
Supplementary material including correspondence with Ticknor and Fields, permissions, requests for materials (including a letter in turn from Kafka’s niece), manuscript notes on additions, changes, and a folder of related Prague and Czech news articles, mainly in English, some in German.


Box 24
Typewritten Ur-manuscript, includes extensive handwritten revisions, Foreword-Chapter 2

Box 25
Typewritten Ur-manuscript, includes extensive handwritten revisions, Chapters 13-23

Box 26
Rewritten Ur-manuscript, with further additions and cancellations, Foreword-Chapter 9

Box 27
Rewritten Ur-manuscript, with further additions and cancellations, Chapters 10-16

Box 28
Rewritten Ur-manuscript, with further additions and cancellations, Chapter 17-Epilogue

Box 29
Complete typescript, including notes and index, ready for production, Title page –Chapter 13

Box 30
Complete typescript, including notes and index, ready for production, Chapter 14-Index

Box 31
Supplementary material, including newsletter of the George Eliot Fellowship, notes, photographs and permissions, writing calendar, samples of dust-jackets, etc.

Series II: Novel

*The Quest* (Heinemann, 1961)

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Background information, notes, and chiefly handwritten Ur-manuscript

Series III: Literary History, Criticism


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**Box 44**  
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**Box 45**  
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**Series IV: Unpublished manuscript**  
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“Literary Enclosures,” Unpublished, complete manuscript

**Series V: General Correspondence**  
**Box 47**  
Correspondence

**Series VI: Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad** (five of eight volumes published by Cambridge University Press, 1983-)
 Correspondence files divided by collector, library, and archive, chronicle Frederick Karl’s research over thirty years.  
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Correspondence Folders 31-44  
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Ur-manuscripts, Vol. 1&2 [1861-May 30, 1895]

Box 53
Ur-manuscripts, Vol. 3 [June 7, 1895-Dec. 31, 1897]

Box 54
Ur-manuscripts, Vol. 3 [1903-1905]

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Ur-manuscripts, Vol. 3 [1906-1907]

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Ur-manuscripts, Vol. 4 [1908]

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Ur-manuscripts, Vol. 5 [1912-1913]

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Marked set, Vol. 3 [1903-1907]

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Marked set, Vol. 3 [1908-1911]