
John Clellon Holmes letter to Shirley Allen
1953 June 23

Abstract: American author John Clellon Holmes typed this four-page letter to his future wife, Shirley Allen.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F864
Title: John Clellon Holmes letter to Shirley Allen
Inclusive Dates: 1953 June 23
Extent: 1 item (4 p.)
Language: Materials in English.

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Biographical Notes

American writer and educator John Clellon Holmes, author of novels, short stories, essays, and poems, was best known as a chronicler of the ideology and lifestyle of the "Beat generation writers."

Holmes's semi-autobiographical novel Go, published by Scribner in 1952 and later in England as The Beat Boys, is considered to be the first published novel depicting the Beat generation.

Born March 12, 1926, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Holmes died on March 30, 1988, in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Shirley Allen married Holmes on September 9, 1953. She was his second wife.

Sources:

Contemporary Authors Online (reproduced in Biography Resource Center).
American author John Clellon Holmes typed this four-page letter to his future wife, Shirley Allen.

Holmes's letter was written from St. Louis, Missouri, where he was visiting Jay and Fred Landesman. Holmes, who had previously contributed to Jay Landesman's periodical, Neurotica, and knew the brothers from New York City, offered his current observations on the Landesmans. Holmes also described at length the town of St. Louis, with which he was less than impressed. His letter continued with comments on the short stories of Fitzgerald which he had recently read and ended with words of endearment for his future wife.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**

Holmes, John Clellon, 1926-1988--Correspondence.

Allen, Shirley--Correspondence.

**Topical Terms**

Novelists, American--20th century--Correspondence.

Beat generation--20th century--Correspondence.

Authors, American—Correspondence.

**Geographic Names**

Saint Louis (Mo.)--History--20th century.

**Form/Genre Terms**

Correspondence.

**Personal Contributors**

Allen, Shirley, correspondent.

**Related Materials in this Repository**

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 099 F902, John Clellon Holmes letters to Richard Douglass
Detailed Description of the Collection

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