

An Overview and Summaries of the Hugh Dalziel Duncan/
Kenneth Burke Correspondence, 1938–70

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Index of Items Relating to Kenneth Burke in the Hugh Dalziel Duncan Papers, Southern Illinois
University at Carbondale, Special Collections, File #17–25-F1

- Box 1 Burke/Duncan Correspondence 1938 to 1970. Also contains Goffman, Hyman,
 and McLuhan letters.
- Box 2 Rueckert Correspondence
- Box 8 Draft and final copy of Duncan’s “Introduction” to *Permanence and Change*
- Box 13 Duncan’s comments on E. L. Fraise’s review of *A Grammar of Motives*
- Box 15 Proposal for a conference on methodological criticism with Kenneth Burke
- Box 18 “Study of Society”—Duncan’s book uses Burke’s ideas
- Box 20 Notes on Duncan’s Debt to Burke.
 Class notes of a Kenneth Burke lecture on Ethan Brand
- Box 21 “Faust,” by Kenneth Burke
 “Fact, Inference, and Proof in the Analysis of Literary Symbolism,” by Kenneth
 Burke (1954)
 “The First Three Chapters of Genesis,” by Kenneth Burke (chapter *from Rhetoric
 of Religion*)
 “Freedom and Authority,” by Kenneth Burke
 “On Human Behavior Considered Dramatistically” — chapter from *Permanence
 and Change*
 “The Language of Poetry Dramatistically Considered” by Kenneth Burke (1953)
 “Myth Poetry and Philosophy” by Kenneth Burke
 “On Stress, Is Seeking” by Kenneth Burke (1966)
 “Poetics Dramatistically Considered” by Kenneth Burke Vol. I and Vol. II
 “The Seven Offices” by Kenneth Burke
 “Verbal Action in St. Augustine’s Confessions” by Kenneth Burke

Free Standing Volumes include #7, *Philosophy of Literary Form* (1957) and #8, *A Rhetoric of
Motives* (1953)

An Overview and Summary of the Hugh Duncan/Kenneth Burke Correspondence, 1938–70

Kenneth Burke and Hugh Duncan met in the summer of 1938, when Duncan enrolled in “The Psychology of Poetic Form,” a course Burke taught at the University of Chicago. The relationship continued to develop for over 32 years, until Duncan’s death in 1970. During this time, the two scholars continued to develop their shared interest in the sociology of literature and the literature of sociology.

Morris Library at Southern Illinois University Carbondale makes the correspondence between Duncan and Burke, which consists of over 150 letters, available on-site to scholars interested in any of the several topics addressed in these informal but often intense communications. The earliest letter from Burke to Duncan is dated 15 November 1938; the last is from 1970.

The Burke/Duncan correspondence can be of value to Burke scholars for many reasons. First, it aids in contextualizing the development of Burke’s ideas and documents his professional activities over a thirty-year period. Second, it can provide examples of Burke’s informal writing, and an idea of the genesis of some of his concepts and terms. Third, it offers the feelings of a philosopher and literary critic in tandem with a sociologist regarding the trends in literary criticism and sociology, and shows how many of these ideas (or methodologies) worked their ways into supposedly discrete fields of the humanities.

The Correspondence

Letters from 1938 to 1949. Most of the Burke/Duncan letters from this decade were exchanged between 1946 and 1949. While there is sporadic discussion of Burke’s developing concept of dramatism (most notably a comparison of positivism to dramatism regarding the issue of substance, and positivism’s fitness to deal with the poetic, in a letter from Burke to Duncan dated 8 October 1946), most of the letters focus on Burke’s work on what he and Duncan refer to as the *Rhetoric*.

In a letter dated 27 March 1948, Burke writes that he has completed the first half of “Rhetoric and Dialectic” in three parts: 1) the range of rhetoric, 2) traditional principles of rhetoric, and 3) order. Burke adds that he plans for the second half of the book to include sections on a catalogue of devices, scientific rhetoric, the rhetoric of bureaucracy, and the

rhetorical situation. In another letter (12 March 1949), Burke reports that he is completing the final chapter, “now resonantly entitled no less than ‘Rhetorical Radiance of the Divine,’” noting that it addresses the divine as a social category.

Duncan urges Burke on two occasions (21 October 1946 and 14 April 1947) to develop his ideas on humor and the comedic, noting in the October letter that “the whole device of perspective by incongruity is, after all, a well-established comic device.”

Letters from 1950 to 1963. The bulk of letters from this period discuss works in progress, comment on Duncan’s work and assorted domestic concerns, and voice frustrations with other scholars and departmental politics. In the letter dated 1 November 1950, Burke writes about his concept of man as symbol-using animal. He is concerned with the teachings of Christianity and behaviorists: “Point is to show that the social or communicative motives are not a mere projection of such ‘natural’ motives, but prevail in their own right, and affect ‘natural’ appetites at every point.”

The period from 1950 to 1963 was one of intense literary productivity for both men. In 1953, eight years after Burke published *A Grammar of Motives*, Duncan followed with *Language and Literature in Society*, which was reprinted in 1961 by Bedminster in New York. During this time, both men discuss interdisciplinary theory relating to concepts of such writers as Veblen, Malinowski, Parsons, Weber, Durkheim, Freud, Mead, and Frazer.

Of particular interest to Burke scholars is his 25-page review of Duncan’s manuscript, *Communication and Social Order*, which was enclosed in the letter dated 27 August 1955. In “Son of Burke,” Charles Elkins discusses this review’s significance:

In *Communication and Social Order*, (1962), considered by many to be his most important book, Duncan attempts to place his theory of symbols within the framework of mainstream American sociological theory and to set forth a series of propositions conceptualizing the social function of art and its relationship to social order. In contrast to Burke, who emphasizes the social function of ritual and tragedy, Duncan concentrates on comedy and the role of comedic art. In reading this manuscript, Burke offers Duncan the most extended piece of criticism that he was to write for Duncan; the letter runs more than 20 typed, single-spaced pages and covers everything—from mechanical and factual

corrections to suggestions for stylistic improvement to elaborations on and disagreements over substantive issues in Duncan's exposition. (*ICarbs* V.1, Spring-Summer 1985; 45)

Letters from 1964 to 1970. Unlike the earlier years of exchange in which both men explored theoretical and philosophical frameworks, most of the correspondence during the years from 1964 to 1970 are rather personal in nature and punctuated by references to professional activities. There are a few letters of interest, however, regarding Burke's references to his dramatism. Of these, two (3 January 1966 and 6 August 1966) contain critiques of Marshall McLuhan's theories. In his earlier letter to Duncan, Burke analyzes McLuhan's view of communication by applying his pentad. Burke concludes that McLuhan overworks "agency" at the expense of the other terms in Burke's dramatisitic system. And in the 25 August 1968 letter, Burke refers to Duncan's tendency to treat communication "too much in its own terms, whereas I feel it should be treated formally and systematically in connection with underlying cooperative and competitive situations."

Burke offers a four-page response to Duncan's draft of the "Introduction" to Burke's *Permanence and Change* in the letter dated 25 July 1964. (See box #8 of the Hugh Duncan Collection for copies of this edited manuscript at various stages of its development.) Burke provides his friend with a detailed response to his draft. Notable also are the three poems that Burke enclosed with letters dated 2 August 1965, 22 October 1965, and 13 June 1965.

**Hugh Dalziel Duncan Papers (File #17-25-F1, Folder #1/5)
Correspondence with Kenneth Burke, 1938 to 1949**

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 15 November 1938, Andover, NJ

One-page, typed letter. Burke fills left margin with a note in ink.

Letter includes a five-page article entitled "Reflection and the Reflexive."

Burke thanks Duncan for his previous letter and compliments regarding *Attitudes Toward History*. Burke mentions that *The Southern Review* is publishing his article "Poetic and Semantic Meaning." Encloses a review of Mead to appear in the *New Republic*. Regarding Mead's work, Burke writes that he is "delighted" to discover that Mead uses the notion of "unending conversation." However, Burke notes that Mead does not use this "notion as providing the ground of a philosopher's assertions." (He implies that this was something Duncan may have noticed from his courses at Chicago.) He discusses the "dialectic of the unending conversation" using a Nazi, Anti-Nazi example, to show that roles are shaped via their reference to other roles.

Note: mentions books he has been reading in response to Duncan's last letter. Burke mentions Trigunt (?) Burrow's *Human Conflict* (Macmillan) and Paul Weiss's *Reality* (Princeton UP) which he is reviewing for *The New Republic*. Burke complains that Burrow's approach in *Human Conflict* is "too exclusively biological."

Kenneth Burke to David Cox, 14 August 1946, Andover, NJ

One page typed letter, included with 8 October 1946 letter.

Burke attributed the phrase "trained incapacity" to Veblen; however, no one (including him) could locate the phrase in a Veblen text. Burke reasserts his belief that "trained incapacity" is a phrase from Veblen, but concedes that it could come from Randolph Bourne, whom Burke had also been reading and whom Burke feels "was [also] capable of such a turn."

Burke mentions Duncan in relation to the Coleridge course in Chicago.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 8 October 1946, Andover, NJ

Three full pages, typed.

Burke responds to a previous Duncan letter regarding the latter's letter to *The Nation* in defense of Burke's *Grammar of Motives*. *The New Republic* killed a shorter letter from Burke answering Ransom's review.

Burke reduces "the issue" between the Positivist and Dramatist camps to a difference over the term "substance." Burke claims that Dramatists are better prepared to take on issues regarding the "social realm," ("since every principle of social cohesion is by the same token a principle of consubstantiality"), whereas "Krbiskites" are "made consubstantial by their common participation" in dethroning the "key term 'substance' (element)."

Regarding works of art, Burke states that one cannot discuss "form" without some equivalent for "substance" as a key term. He uses the term "identity" for poetic considerations (the work "in itself") and "identification" for rhetorical—as a way of inducing the audience to feel consubstantial with some cause or other"). All details of a well-formed work of art participate to create the whole; the parts are consubstantial with the whole. The study of equations ("identities") and their transformations (trans-substantiations) reveals the overall principle in which these details participate.

Burke claims he can safely "prophesy" that Positivism will not be able to deal with poetry if it continues to deny "substance" or a similar term to function as an antithesis to "form". Only Hayakawa may escape this trap, because he has artistic interests and "is simply engrafting Dramatistic elements onto his Krbiskism." Burke believes that "substance-thinking simply cannot be eliminated." The Positivists cannot avoid dialectical terms. Positivistic terminology is as unsuited to social relations as it is to poetic forms. He is critical of Morris' positivism and wonders how he can claim to be a student of Mead. Burke is grateful to Duncan for defending his methodology.

Burke regrets having sounded “anti-scientific” when he was in fact only critical of science. He feels it is scientific to be critical of science. He mentions the dangers of science as a religion or faith, and claims that the “scientific community” doesn’t want to “admit that the criticism of science is also an aspect of science. Liberals of this sort were happiest when science meant simply the criticism of religion.” Burke regards science as a God principle, implicitly treated as absolutely good.

Burke mentions teaching at Bennington and trying out the *Rhetoric* on his students, since much of this work was completed by this time. He mentions Machiavelli’s *The Prince* and offers in brief his take on it.

A postscript mentions a bad review in the *Virginia Quarterly*. Burke thanks Duncan for attempting a letter to *The Nation* on his behalf. Burke mentions that the reviewer in question admits to being unfaithful to Burke’s text. He seems interested in this rhetorical “ploy” and hints that he may try to work it into his *Rhetoric*.

Hugh Duncan to Kenneth Burke, 21 October 1946

Duncan’s response to Burke’s 8 October 1946, letter. 2 pages typed. No signature.

Duncan believes that Burke should be discussed in the context of Mead, Parsons, and Weber. Burke’s work has moved beyond the confines of literary criticism to include philosophy, politics, economics, and theology. Duncan notes, “And since, as you have pointed out, we huddle together in bins, there are not too many who can review your work.”

Duncan is critical of Morris, who looked like a safe choice as a reviewer of Burke. Given his knowledge of philosophy and theology, and that he is a student of Mead, Morris should know better. He seems more interested in “*classifying* observations on communication than discussing how communication *functions*.” Duncan is disgusted with academic taxonomists who neglect considering the problems of communication, and deplores the lack of appreciation for Burke’s sense of humor. He sees “perspective by incongruity” as essentially a comic device.

Duncan includes a quotation from Parsons, *The Structure of Social Action* (pages. 732–733), whom he sees as kindred with Burke. Both are concerned with the nature of the act and with social process. Duncan’s main concern now is with method. He wants to test in concrete ways a volunteeristic theory of action in dramatic terms.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 8 January 1947, Andover, NJ

Two page typed letter, with note in pencil on page two.

Burke discusses Duncan’s recommendation for reading Talcott Parson’s *The Structure of Social Actions*. Duncan had mentioned in particular the section called “The Action Frame of Reference,” which he thought shared some similarities with Burke’s concerns. Burke’s test for a theory of literature is its ability to account for structure, and he questions whether or not Parsons’ “specifically sociological material can present one with a sufficiently representative form” in which the theorist can “perfect his terminology.”

Burke mentions his article, “Standard de vie plus élevé,” which appeared in the French gazette *Espirit* (November 1946). He mentions there may have been some difficulty translating this piece, and wants Duncan’s opinion as to whether or not this article would be appropriate for *The American Journal of Sociology*. He fears the article may be too “litry;” it is primarily concerned with rhetoric, but moves into sociological concerns for the “*scene* behind the expressive or hortatory *act*.”

Burke asks Duncan if he knows Hardy Wright, who is interested in writing about Burke from a “litry” angle and who seems to want to “translate some of my bleats into the realm of human relations.” He mentions work to do before getting back to the Rhetoric: “I find that a rival operator (Robert Penn Warren) has muscled in on my Coleridge racket—and I am to consider this deplorable fact judiciously for *Poetry*.”

Hugh Duncan to Kenneth Burke, 14 April 1947

Two page typed letter.

Duncan asks about Burke’s progress on *A Rhetoric of Motives*. Likes *Espirit* article and recommended it to Louis Worth, who didn’t want to publish it because it was already in print. Annoyed with Faris’s review of *Grammar of Motives* and “raised a little academic hell” with the editors. Mentions “5 bright students” who wrote Kenneth Burke papers for him. Accuses Burke’s detractors of not reading his work. Wants Burke to write more about humor and comedy. Mentions a conversation with Josephine Miles concerning Burke. Asks how Empson is doing, whom Duncan finds more difficult to read than Burke.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 1 May 1947, Andover, NJ

One page typed letter.

Burke refers to the worldwide May Day demonstrations synchronized with those in Red Square as “a stylistic delicacy.” He appreciates Duncan’s defenses of his work: “On the whole, however, the reviews of the Grammar were much better than I had hoped for.” He mentions favorable articles from a literary perspective by Howard Nemerov in the Spring *Furioso* and Stanley Hyman’s forthcoming book, as well as a favorable review in *Commonweal*. Mentions an enclosure: draft of introduction for his *Rhetoric* (not included in SIUC’s Special Collections).

Kenneth Burke to David Cox, 24 December 1947, Melbourne Beach, FL

One-page letter included in letter to Duncan, 14 January 1948

Regrets being unable to meet Cox in New York. Sends regards to Duncan. Refers to this as the “rhetoric year for me.” Describes the cottage in which he is vacationing: “We are about two hundred yards from the sea; and so, when I awake in the night, I can hear the Monster Insomniac thrashing and tossing. And nothing makes one feel more alive than to walk on the shore picking up dead things (often with dirty surrealist shapes).” Mentions work he is finishing on a long chapter of *Rhetoric of Motives*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 14 January 1948, Melbourne Beach, FL

Two-page letter to Duncan (includes one-page letter to Cox, 24 December 1947)

Mentions spending a “devil of a long time” working on a chapter of *A Rhetoric of Motives* that was supposed to be 6000 words but became 50,000.

Burke contemplates the purpose of sociology through its motives, whether scientific and pragmatic “in search of facts *for use*” or “*philosophic* (facts not primarily for use, but simply for people who like to contemplate reality in sociological terms).”

Burke comments on Duncan’s manuscript dealing with a “sociology of literature.” He critiques parts of Duncan’s manuscript for being too choppy, but recognizes the need for these parts as a survey of the literature. Reports a similar problem in a just completed section of *A Rhetoric of Motives*, “Traditional Principles of Rhetoric.”

Burke mentions reading Rosemund Tuve’s *Elizabethan and Metaphysical Imagery*, and compares her methods with Josphine Miles. Referring to these as “scrupulous positivistic studies,” he says “But gradually a theory of this sort is beginning to take form with me, as regards the course which American criticism is taking: I see no reason why its practitioners should not be able to go on developing it in peace and plenty, though we became the most imperialist nation ever known to man. I mean: in criticism old style, if things got rotten, and the critic wanted to make peace with them, he’d have to turn himself inside out, upside down, and backwards, in the anguish of his sell-out. But in the new style, so long as the nation is not in actual physical ruin, its proponents can go sweetly on their way, scrupulously professional in their morality of production. Particularly at present, this being Rhetoric Year, that bothers me. For it seems. to be a kind of scientific liberalism that could make a perfect fit with the least liberal of political doctrines. So there seems. to be something wrong somewhere. Incidentally, I think I’ll swipe this paragraph for development in the Rhetoric; this is the nearest I’ve come to saying it as I wanted to say it.”

Hugh Duncan to Kenneth Burke, 4 February 1948

Three page typed letter.

Duncan tells Burke of his importance as a critic of Duncan’s work, and states that “there are few men in America whose critical verdict interests me very deeply.” Discusses how a sociology of literature and literary criticism might be achieved. Asks to see part of the Rhetoric and wants to review *A Rhetoric of Motives* in “some honest journal.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 27 March 1948, Melbourne Beach, FL

Two-page letter with note in pencil on page two.

Burke says that poor health can be a goad to work. He complains of his “Migratory Symptom” which takes a different form for each section of his project.

He discusses Duncan’s offer to pre-read *The Rhetoric* (before publication). He says he’s completed a section on Rhetoric and Dialectic, which includes: 1) the Range of Rhetoric 2) Traditional Principles of Rhetoric and 3) Order. Has sent one copy to a friend and 1 copy to the editors of a gazette. Wants Duncan’s input on three orders of vocabulary, where he shows how

Mannhelm's book might be altered to fit the form of a Platonic dialogue. Hopes to complete Part II on the World of Publicity, with four sections: 1) Catalogue of Devices, 2) Scientific Rhetoric, 3) Rhetoric of Bureaucracy, and 4) the Rhetorical Situation.

Burke repeats Duncan's pun: "every man a critic, and every critic a king." He offers another "solution" which he claims is "more 'Goethean': both critic and poet. Wouldn't that be the 'ideal limit' ...?" He adds that this is the "best thing about Plato" and "the thing that Aristotle forgot."

He also mentions reading Shirley Jackson's *The Road through the Wall* as he worked on "mystery" and "magic" in the Rhetoric. He was struck by the ways that "sexual magic and the magic of social class become interwoven in the experiences of a child."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 12 March 1949, Princeton, Institute for Advanced Study letterhead.

One page typed letter.

Working on final revisions of Rhetoric before returning to Bennington.

Burke mentions that he has put in a good word to Kimball Young for Duncan regarding a new job prospect. Burke also tells of offering a four-session seminar at Princeton. Apparently, this seminar generated considerable interest and enrollment had to be limited.

Burke claims a former editor and publisher of *A Grammar* is discussing another printing, but he's not sure what the current editor thinks. Expresses guilt over his current manuscript being past due. Burke claims that what Duncan calls "sociology of literature" would have been called rhetoric in the 19th century. He expresses positive expectations regarding the reception of *A Rhetoric*, for which he is finishing a final chapter tentatively titled "Rhetorical Radiance of the 'Divine.'" And finally, Burke tells Duncan that he enjoyed meeting Duffey at a party.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 6 July 1949, Andover, NJ

One-page letter.

Burke tells Duncan that *A Rhetoric*, while finished, will not be coming out until the following year (1950). According to those who know (the publisher), this is best for sales.

This letter is full of joycings and punning (e.g. referring to recent works as "deposits, I mean depositions.")

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 27 August 1949, Andover, NJ

One-page letter.

Burke writes of moving, and of the need to move again shortly thereafter (15 December 1949). He leaves this address with Duncan: 6092 Kenwood Avenue, and speculates his arrival there will be "about September 26th." More joycing—closes with "Abyssinia soon..."

Hugh Duncan to Kenneth Burke (no date)

These are Duncan's comments on a draft of *A Grammar of Motives*, most regarding what was then page 174 of the manuscript. Suggests using Veblen's ideas, particularly "conspicuous consumption." Mentions just returning home from the Wars, so possible date circa 1945??

Kenneth Burke to David Cox 24 April 1950 Andover, NJ

3x5 Postcard

Thanks for Cox's note. Burke is back in Andover, "still raking leaves." Will spend 6 weeks at Kenyon in summer.

**Hugh Dalziel Duncan Papers (File #17-25-F1, Folder #1/6)
Correspondence with Kenneth Burke, 1950 to 1959**

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 May 1950 Andover, NJ

2 pages typed

Lining up opening for the "Sin-ballix" (the proposed *Symbolic of Motives*) to be used as "pyess de rayzeestongs" (piece de resistance) for "my asservations this summer at Kenyon Canyons."

"Today is Der Tag on which our mongrel is officially born" (publication of *Rhetoric of Motives*). Hopes Duncan has a copy. The day is marked by demonstrations worldwide for May Day, but Burke facetiously attributes them to his book. Critical of "fantastically criminal stupidity of US 'global' policies as now conducted by the press, radio, and spokesmen for local business interests who would dump surpluses abroad at govt. expense."

Burke seems happy to be puttering around on his farm, planting grass, etc. and writing. Plans for new book: start with a discussion of tragedy, built around notes on Othello; "general picture of ramifications of catharsis and wonder." Mentions Aristotle's cursory discussions of wonder; also working with Nietzsche's *Birth of Tragedy*. Postscript discusses an article by Weaver in current *Journal of General Education* objecting to departmentalization, specifically within sociology.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 July 1950, Kenyon College stationary

1 typed page w/ editing corrections in pencil

"Oof! Working my bloomen head off." Preparing lectures which he hopes will provide material for the opening section of *Symbolic of Motives*: "Mainly as tragedy — extending beyond old Ipse Dixit [Burke's euphemism for Aristotle] by following his leads anent Catharsis and Wonder." Grateful for Duncan's praise of *Rhetoric of Motives*. Began teaching his class with rules of thumb for making an index—may try assembling a chapter of this sort for *Symbolic of Motives*. Team teaching with Empson for lectures on Othello. Enjoys Empson's company.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 November 1950 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages

Pleased with Duncan's review (of *Rhetoric of Motives*); expresses interest in collaborating on a project with Duncan after finishing "sin-ballix." Burke argues that "The stress upon communication (man as symbol-using animal) really is the recovery, in our terms, of the 'man a rational animal' scheme (plus the fact that the rectification must be made, since the priests did so much towards getting us to forget just what the basic meaning of Logos was)." He believes that behaviorism was a step in the right direction, with its "stress upon 'verbalization' as a substitute for 'rational,' " but behaviorism didn't extend this emphasis far enough. Discussions of language use need to be extended to the social realm. "Point is to show that the social or communicative motives are not a mere projection of such 'natural' motives, but prevail in their own right, and affect 'natural' appetites at every point. [these lines underlined in red pencil.] For 'naturalism' reduplicated social motives quite as 'supernaturalism' does, except that the concealment is better, since naturalism has been so enterprising in showing how the heavenly hierarchy restates the social one, it has kept people from discovering how the natural hierarchy does likewise. The terms. ought to be supernaturalism, naturalism, social-ism, but the third brings up other connotations."

Burke has turned down offers to teach at U of Wash and to visit California as a guest of a former student. Wants to stay in Andover, writing the Poetics section of *Symbolic of Motives*. Has accumulated enough material on Catharsis to "put a Chain Drug Store to shame." "Verbalizing makes me gasp-gag-gulp; but I seem to have got used to my ailments, and so I contrive to keep the old jalopy going whereas I suppose that, if anyone else had to drive it, he'd stall it immediately."

Has acquired a tape recorder and mentions the possibility of corresponding via tape. "Also, I have some semi-litry projects I want to try out (a kind of declamatory criticism, somewhat given to attitudinizing, as with my observations in *Turds a Beddy Love*, but sans the plot, and sans the over-all Byronic gloom there cultivated)."

Teaching at Bennington again every other week. Problems. with papers in disorder from moves between Kenyon, Chicago, and Bennington. "For such disorder among one's notes has exactly the same moral effects of a secret sin (which I suppose it is)."

The postscript reiterates praise for Duncan's review of "Olde Red Ear Ache" (the Rhetoric). LSU reissuing 750 copies of *Philosophy of Literary Form*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 14 December 1950 Andover, NJ

3 X 5 Postcard

"Vide in *Scholastico Americano* mouissimo, inter alios, Ignatium Burpium qui loquitur.

πες προπατορικό αμαρτματα

Et vale,

Kenneth Burke

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 18 February 1951 Andover, NJ

3 typed pages

Revision suggestions for one of Duncan's articles. Each critique is checked in blue ink, as if Duncan checked them off as he made revisions. Often difficult to read—lots of typos and garbled sentences. Footnote—"(Glancing over above, some hours later. It *is* typed alky-wise. But the sentiments are Kerect.)" Near the end of the letter, expresses great admiration for Duncan and appreciation of his friendship. Mentions an incident when Duncan was his student at Chicago. As they walked home together, Duncan spoke of "Academic stupidity" and Burke was humbled by his own sense of self-importance. "That stinkeroo, Burke, Ink."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 25 May 1951 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Burke busy with trips to Bennington, writing, and a trip to NY ("for festivities anent the crowning (membership in Natl. Inst. for Free Dinners"). Mentions seeing Hayden and Sarah Carruth in Chicago.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 10 June 1951 Andover NJ

1 partial page typed (bottom clipped w/ scissors and missing)

Apologizes for not getting commentary back to Duncan on his manuscript. Clarifies his ideas on "imagistic bridging." Burke now prefers using the term (act) over 'image'. Refers Duncan to an essay dealing with *dramatis personae*, to appear in next *Hudson*, and promises more on the idea in his "Theory of the Index" chapter which he hopes to finish soon. Includes "a fair sample of another part of the total project" (not included in this folder of SIUC's collection). Burke reports having written 200 pages or so along this vein.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 June 1951 Andover, NJ

1 partial page typed (clipped as previous letter)

Again apologizes for being late with his comments. Refers Duncan to a recent piece in the *Journal of General Education* on "Strategies." Burke's recent piece in *Kenyon* too concerned with Poetics for Duncan's purposes, but Othello piece in *Hudson* may be useful. Hopes to work on the "Theory of the Index" after school is over (currently reading final papers of students). Includes copy of an analysis of *Ethan Brand* to illustrate his method. Letter is cut off in mid sentence.

No date — enclosure with 17 June 1951 letter?

5 typed pages, cut into strips and stapled in order

Responses to Duncan's manuscript:

- page 1 explains thoughts on symbolic action and "make believe" and discusses the principle of perfection.
- page 2 stylistic writing advice (e.g. "Rule: use no more grammar than the sense requires.") and editing suggestions.
- page 3 ideas on autonomy.
- page 4 and 5 more responses/discussion of Duncan's ms.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 20 July 1951 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages

Burke is pleased with Duncan's review of *Rhetoric of Motives* in the *American Journal of Sociology*; expresses disgust for reviews by "litry farts."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 19 September 1951 Andover, NJ

1 typed page

Burke received Duncan's ms; will teach as part of a seven-man seminar at Princeton in March; doing a chapter on "Dramatism" for a Yale publication on education theory; another Princeton "litry" seminar on how his work coincides and differs from that of "the Beauty Boys."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 November 1951 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Thinks Duncan's ideas for "shecawguh" (Chicago) book looks ok. Small things getting in Burke's way—not working as much on book as he'd like; worried about his parents' health. To give after-dinner talk at the National Institute of Art and Literature—"Starts out jocular, winds up to a "thesaurus of Death"...it indicates the tenor of the present moods. Itshay."

Also working on Bill Williams' later poems.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 2 January 1952 Andover, NJ

3 typed pages

Feedback on Duncan's book. PS in pencil—asks Duncan to look at forthcoming Burke items. in *Hopkins* and *Sewanee*; wants to get out a volume of poetry but too immersed in prose commentary.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 24 January 1952 Andover, NJ

1 typed page

Asks how Duncan's book is coming along. Discusses "local habits of displaying one's financial claims, as vs. the Old World tradition of concealment" and speculates that the difference arises from developments in banking. General principle: "Motives that would equal decay in one structure can equal health in another."

PS mentions article by Marie Hochmuth "Kenneth Burke and the New Rhetoric" in *Quarterly Journal of Speech*: ". . . a pretty good summary of my works generally (with main stress upon the Rhetorical angle)."

Also mentions his Ethan Brand article in *Hopkins Review*; wants Duncan to read it over and check for pagination errors. Note in pencil: ". . . the article is tough going even without this extra mechanical contribution to the cryptic!"

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 29 February 1952 Andover, NJ

1 typed page

Hasn't heard from Duncan in a while and wonders what's going on. Preparing for seminar on "Organizational Behavior" to be held at Princeton March 15–16 and has been reading "some of your boys." (sociology?)

Mentions J. Donald Adams's bad review of Burke in last Sunday's *New York Times*. *Grammar and Rhetoric of Motives* to be alternative choices of Book Find Club for April.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 April 1952 Andover, NJ

Sending two recent items. under separate cover: one on "Organizational Behavior" in connection with the seminar at Princeton, and the other an article on his work in general from a rhetorical perspective due to appear in the April issue of *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. Wishes Duncan luck with revisions; plans to be at Indiana in summer "peddling the same old product, "Language as Symbolic Action." Hopes Duncan liked his after-dinner speech which was "designed for symbolic yaktion."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 24 November 1952 Andover, NJ

1 typed page

Complains of heat in Indiana during the past summer. Asks about Duncan's book. Recommends Matty Josephson's son (a young sociologist), who is coming to Chicago. Burke will be going to California for the winter months on Dec 1. Hermes Press reissuing *Counter-Statement* and possibly other out of print volumes. Education conference Sat.—Columbus OH. Not going to University of Washington because the administration wouldn't approve the recommendation of the English faculty and the Walker-Ames Committee.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 20 August 1953 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages

Burke read a draft of a positive review, to appear in the *American Journal of Sociology*, of Duncan's book. Busy preparing to teach in September. Working on introduction for Bentham's *Table of the Springs of Action*, to be published by Hermes; currently 14–15,000 words "and I still haven't begun to see the light." Will need to drastically cut this for final draft.

Praise for essay on Chicago architecture that Duncan is working on. Mentions Kenneth D. Benne of Chicago, Adult Education Association, with whom Burke is working on a chapter for the NSSE Yearbook, entitled "The Linguistic Approach to the Problems. of Education." Benne wrote a positive review of *Grammar of Motives* for *Educational Forum* (Jan 1947) and he is co-editor, with R.B. Raup, G.E. Axtelle, and Bothanel Smith, of *The Improvement of Practical Intelligence*, which includes a chapter from Burke on dramatism. *Permanence and Change* to be reissued; mentions favorable review of it by Louis Wirth, which he'll use for the jacket blurbs.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 July 1954 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages w/ pencil notations on side margin and back of page 2

Plans to finish *Symbolic* this summer and then to finish a little volume to be called “On Human Relations,” with “the Negative essay...central to it.” Book scheme: logic, rhetoric, poetics, ethics. Paradoxes of “substance” is the basis for logic; “identification” is the “New Dispensation for Persuasion.” Identity/modes of “purification” are the foundations of poetics, and ethics is the lore of character based on codes of thou-shalt-nots. “Thus, ironically, the keystone of our structure is El Grand Nihil. *Symbolic* (the in-and-for-itself) thus splits into catharsis on the poetics side and the negative on the ethics side.”

Includes a poem he made up for his Bennington class:

Preparatory Design for Creation

In the beginning, there was Universal Nothing.
Then Nothing said No to itself and thereby begat Something,
Which called itself Yes.

Then No and Yes, cohabitating, begat Maybe.
Next all three, in a menage a trois, begat Guilt.

And Guilt was of many names:

Mine, Thine, Yours, Ours, His, Hers, Its, Theirs — and Order.

In time things so came to pass
That two of its names, Guilt and Order,
Honoring their great progenitors, Yes, No, and Maybe,
Begot History.

Finally, History fell a-dreaming
And dreamed about Language —

(and that brings us to our present course in Language as Symbolic Action)

Students wanted to put it in school paper, so Burke changed the last line to: “(and that brings us to critics — who-write-critiques-of-critical-criticism).” Burke remarks: “In either case, need I say, the last line is supposed to be hastily mumbled, in a lowered voice, in contrast with the deliberate pace of the preceding.”

Working on an essay on Whitman and finishing the introduction to Bentham’s *Table of the Springs of Action*. Needs to write up notes on “Indexing” for *Symbolic*. Has learned much from his students in using this technique, and often most from those “who weren’t by any means at the top of the class, and maybe didn’t even see the value of their discovery.”

Sends news of his children — Butch going to Harvard, Unk has a girlfriend, etc. Pencil note re: the student's speeches at Butch's graduation and the school superintendent's reaction to them.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 February 1955 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages

Apologizes for delays in writing; thanks Duncan for his "kind offer to help out here manumawise." Duncan has sent money to help with Butch's education.

Burke will be happy to read Duncan's ms, but warns that it may take a while. He's very busy. Hermes probably won't be able to publish it. They're releasing the Bentham Table with Burke's intro, a book of Burke's verse, and possibly a reissue of "Burpian" *Attitudes Toward History*. Burke is amazed that Hermes stays in business, and thinks their survival "sheer wizardry" and "magic."

Because of smaller projects, Burke hasn't finished *Symbolic*; he is doing more speaking engagements and is less interested in writing: "Having got sick of hearing people say that I'm difficult, I find myself goaded by the perverse and cantankerous notion of proving that even the stupidest guy can understand me. And, since speaking seems to do me less damage physically than writing (where I get folded into a tight huddle with myself until I nearly stifle), I've been trying to put forward some talks..."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 March 1955 No return address

1 typed page

Includes a silly poem for St. Patrick's Day:

O deaths, they must be births
And births, they must be wakes
When a sober Scotsman gives
And a drunken Irishman takes.

Thanks Duncan and his wife for their "generous notion." Has started Duncan's ms, but not in earnest.

Libbie Burke to Hugh Duncan 31 March 1955 No return address

1 typed page

Response to Duncan's letter. KB is out of town giving talks and then picking Butch up from college. Would be happy to host the Friedmans if they want to come, but warns that the Burkes live primitively, with no running water, and that there will be much family around for the holidays. Thanks the Duncans for helping with Butch's education.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 4 April 1955 Andover, NJ

1 typed page (with a typed postscript on the back)

Reiterates what Libbie said in the previous letter re: Friedman visit; to give talks at Goucher (“The Power of Negative Thinking”); George Washington (“On words — and Onwards?” concerning post-Machiavellian material on Virtues and Devices); and St. Johns (“Action in Language” a reversal of Hayakawa’s title marking Burke’s “different slant.”) Wants to collect these talks in a book. Mentions talk just given at Brandeis on Whitman, which he’d also like to write up. *Heights of California* (Burke’s poetry) was released Friday on the West Coast.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 12 August 1955 Andover, NJ

1 typed page

Burke calls himself “a bum” for all the work he’s behind on doing. Has given up finishing *Symbolic* before school starts. Just finished reviews of Blackmur and Marianne Moore. Finished revising and writing a “Preface” for *Attitudes Toward History* for the Hermes edition. Burke comments, “Many things in ATH which I am slicing out of the new edition would be as good as ever if, instead of representing Me, they represented one of my me’s.” Needs to read Duncan’s ms. and prepare for class. Comments on writing monologue vs. dialogue.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 27 August 1955 Andover, NJ

25 typed pages

Burke’s promised response to Duncan’s manuscript. Several places are underlined in blue ink and notes say “Use this.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 30 August 1955 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages

Cover letter to inform Duncan that Burke has returned his manuscript w/ comments via registered mail. Postponing finishing *Symbolic* until winter; finished everything else on his “to do” list. Describes a party at the Burke house: Bill Williams, Floss, the Thirlwalls, Mack Rosenthal and wife, plus “some of the local gentry” attended. Thanks Friedmans for the gift of the McCarthy record. Further commentary on Duncan’s ms.

Art and Social Hierarchy by Hugh Duncan 30 August 1955

1 page. mimeographed sheet

Burke’s report to the University of California Press recommending Duncan’s book for publication; Burke is positive about the book, but thinks it needs further revision.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 16 January 1956 Andover, NJ

1 page typed.

News of Butchie: getting A’s in everything but social science; has a large German vocabulary but he didn’t understand the concepts ‘Werden’ and ‘Gewordesein’ in a passage from Spengler that Burke had him translate. Burke sympathizes with Butchie’s lack of understanding, adding that “I must shamefacedly admit that maybe he’s right.” Unk is getting good grades and may also go to Harvard, possibly to study “littrachure.” Burke encloses a copy of something he has written,

but doesn't know where to send it. "Obviously, it is written for an ideal gazette to be called *The Motivational Review*. But since there haint sech, at what door should I knock?" No indication what the article is or about. Enjoyed *Field's-voice* which Duncan had recently sent to Burke.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 8 February 1956 Andover, NJ

1/2 page typed

Would appreciate it if Duncan would recommend Burke's "latest problem child" to *American Journal of Sociology*. Sends further additions to the article, including a footnote to page. 7 suggested in answer to a question by Butch. Burke thinks he can recommend a good translator to Duncan.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 24 February 1956 Andover, NJ

2 pages typed

Recommends Sophie Meyer of New York City as a German translator. "Yesterday I sent you a postcard, somewhat suicidal in tenor, indicating as to how I had been bowled over by discovering that ole Ipse Dixit, on learning of my *De Officiis*, had got out a quickie that undercut me."

Goes on to discuss Aristotle's offices, and how Burke's ideas relate to and differ from Aristotle. In closing, mentions the need to find "the Aristotelian word for 'striving' that became the Spinozistic *conatus*, and compare and contrast with the Germans on *streben*."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 February 1956 Andover, NJ

3x5 typed postcard

"Heck, Aristotle got wind of my plan, and rushed out a book, a quickie, before I could get my article published." Refers Duncan to *Politics* IV, iii, 11-14; VII, vii, 4-5. Closes: "That guy makes me tired."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 26 February 1956 Andover, NJ

Encloses a further footnote to his article, and complains again that Aristotle tried to sneak a “quickie” past him. Main difference: “ ‘civic’ as a Greek city-state thinker would conceive of it and the ‘civic’ as *sociologically* conceived.”

Copy/unfinished draft? of letter to Kenneth Burke from Hugh Duncan 11 April 1956

unsigned, one page typed

Discusses “Seven Offices” (probably the article that occasioned the previous discussions of Aristotle). Offers the Socratic method as a means of opening up the mystifications and linkages of hierarchy through comedy, sports, and play. Discusses salesmanship/consumption as a “heroic” act necessary to capitalism. “Opulence becomes a duty, luxury a must.” Encloses ms.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 9 May 1956 Bennington

two pages, handwritten blue ink on yellow paper

Thanks for sending money to the “Butchie Fund.” Thinks Duncan’s revised line-up for the book looks good. University of California Press is reissuing *Counter-Statement* and *Permanence and Change* for Phoenix series; Knopf is releasing *Philosophy of Literary Form* for Vintage series.

Burke includes his most recent definition of the human: “Man is the symbol-using animal,/Inventor of the negative,/separated from his natural condition by/instruments of his own making, And goaded by the spirit of hierarchy.”

He also includes the following poem:

The Build that Jack Housed

(A Fundamental Fable)
((An Exercise in Elimination))
(((Down to the Bare Essentials)))

His urge to merge
 Begot
An urge to splurge
 And that,
An urge to purge —
 Whereat
 He shat.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 11 August 1956 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Expecting Duncan to visit on the 17th. Declines participation in indexing Huck Finn; no time to do it right, and doesn’t want to do it if he can’t do it right. Offers alternatives: V. Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*, Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*, Conrad’s *Victory*, Djuna Barnes’ *Nightwood*, Forster’s *A*

Passage to India. Mentions an article he wrote on indexing Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist*. Discusses sleeping arrangements for Duncan's visit; offers him "the Lil House, In the Woods, On the Hill."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 September 1956 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Thanks for money sent to the Harvard fund. Working on Symbolic — Catharsis section. Mentions Duncan's prospectus and a letter to Burkhardt.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 October 1956 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Burke recently hospitalized for a hernia operation. Not able to work on his own book; reading proofs of *Attitudes Toward History* for Hermes. Not able to get to Duncan's ms.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 November 1956

3x5 postcard

Sends Tom Cochran's address. "Trying to write up definitively my pages on 'catharsis!' So think of me, groping in the Temple of Cloacina (oh, wondrous love!)."

Libbie to Minna 22 February 1957 Englewood, FL

Nice weather; KB is writing a lot.

Butchie to Hugh and Minna 3 February 1957

1 page typed front and back

News concerning courses in Economics and Physics; asks permission to use Hugh as a reference. Story of a bet between Butchie and his roommates concerning cursing. News of Michael.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 26 March 1957 CASBS/Stanford stationary

1 1/4 pages typed with pen notations on back

Has written to Dean of Bennington re: funds, and to Hartung saying he doubts Bennington can afford to offer anything. Discusses seminars at Stanford: Burke is usually quiet, soaking up what others say. Enjoying himself, but kind of shocked by realizing "more fully than ever the communicative problem of our multitudinously compartmentalized world. Also, there is the fact that, the more I think of cultural problems. as a whole, the more I begin to think of unadulterated blankness. But I can't even get much fun out of bellyaching along these lines, as I quickly get sick of hearing myself bellyache."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 13 April 1957 Andover, NJ

2 pages typed w/ typed footnote on back of p2 and handwritten pencil notes.

Mentions article to appear in *Kenyon Review* next fall: “The ‘Anaesthetic Revelation’ of Herone Liddell.” Burke describes it as a “mixture of narrative, philosophizing, versifying, criticastering, and epistolating—60 some pages.”

Discusses finances re: Butch and Unk’s education.

Critical reaction to Goffman’s book: spots an error in one of the footnotes, referring to Burke; takes issue w/ Goffman “equating the ‘dramaturgical’ perspective with ‘impression management! . . . Dramatism should not be grounded in the equating of it with ‘impression management.’ It should be grounded in the equating of it with *the terminology of ‘action.’* (‘Action’ as vs. ‘motion’; ‘action’ as vs. ‘knowledge’ — and above all, ‘action’ as equaling ‘form.’)”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 May 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Mentions commitment to give talks at a nearby school. Before the first, suffered insomnia, and worked from 3:30 am to 8:30. “Point seems. to have been that I was somehow scraping around the bottom of the old ashcan of the ucs. [unconscious?], since I was working on Augustine’s *Confessions*, a book which I had tinkered with, ever since my sexually suicidal days at college, and which I had at some points consciously attempted to imitate in my *Towards a Better Life* (thought my early entrancement with him was rather under the sign of the ‘perversity’ he bemoans, in his fantastically scrupulous chapter on the stealing of the pears).” Burke thinks it will make a pretty good article. Another talk was on “The First Three Chapters of Genesis,” which mentions “the term ‘order’ and other terms. ‘tautologically’ implicit. I want to show how the account of the Creation and Fall in Genesis is a translation of such a tautology into narrative terms. (what Coleridge would have called ‘Hebrew archeology’).”

Looking forward to reading new version of Duncan’s work. Duncan’s friend McLaughlin will visit Burke soon. Has asked Stanley Hyman to forward his copy of the Liddell ms. to Duncan. Pencil note in margin—”and please hand on my thanks to Hal, for offering to share the burdens of my sudden pyrophobia.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 18 May 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Reading of Duncan’s ms. delayed by proofing of *Attitudes Toward History* for “Mrs. Hermes.” Preliminary comments—suggests Glenway Wescott’s *Grandmother* and Jules Romain’s *Death of a Nobody* to help Duncan develop ideas.

Kenneth Burke to Mr. Chatterji no date, no return address

1 page typed

Response to letter of Mar 14 asking Burke’s “general impression” of Rabindranath Tagore. Burke answers in terms. of Masfield’s poem “Cargoes.” Includes lists of dominant images, a “loose index.” Refers to dialectic of “realisation” and “personality.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 21 May 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Burke reading proofs of Viking edition of *Philosophy of Literary Form* and Hermes edition of *Attitudes Toward History*. Going to NYC for “Annual Festivities of Academy and Institute” tomorrow and World Brotherhood on Sunday; further delays reading Duncan’s ms.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 2 June 1957 Andover, NJ

3 pages typed

Comments on Duncan’s ms; advises editing parts that “belabor the obvious” from the “standpoint of a book in the lithrature division” but sees reason for keeping them from a sociological perspective. Tries to read these sections as a “sociologue” but can’t do it—“I speak sociologese with too damned much of an accent.” Burke expresses frustration over his inability to offer good advice: “I began to think I wished I was dead—and then of a sudden my heart started flopping and I couldn’t get my breath, and I discovered that I didn’t wish I was dead, either. In fact, I rushed downstairs and belted down two slugs of gin, and started doing dirty things to the piano.”

“Sliceroo. You can afford it. Sliceroo, and make it a condensed book. ...The trouble is now that you’re in an amplificatory groove; you expand like a capitalist model of the universe. (God damn it, Burke, dost thou do uddawise? Choke, choke..)” Suggests “gravitating toward the Wittgenstein style.” Three paragraphs of additional advice, marked out in pencil, w/ pencil notation: “To illustrate what I mean by revision! *Kill!!!*”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 19 June 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Further advice on Duncan’s ms.—“Bejeez, Hugh, there’s a lot of good stuff in this book. And if you can but bring yourself to do a major cutting job, you’ll end up with a very vigorous volume indeed.” Enclosures: Duncan’s ms. and copies of Burke’s recent work. “Today’s assignment is to write up the “Tautological Chart” of the words clustered about the idea of “order” as indicated in the pages.” Asks Duncan to forward Liddell ms. to George Knox. PS—mentions 3 talks at Drew University that Burke wants to write up before returning to “catharsis proper.” Asks what Duncan thinks of the “new slogan, ‘logology.’”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan; dated “Saturday, AD” no return address

1 page typed

“Last night, during heap big insomnia, I decided I would simply be forlorn if you took those notes at this time.”—mentions frustration at inability to find his notes on *Passage to India*; “wild to get going” on new book. Pencil note—hopes Duncan has sent Knox the Liddell ms; Knox’s book now at printers.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 26 June 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Apologizes: “What the hell? I gave you good advice about cutting your ms, and now here this damned thing goes on and on. I can only say in my defense that it’s but the first writing-up of my notes. . . . I must be caught in some kind of perpetuum mobile business — presumably chasing some unresolvable problem that’s at the same time chasing me. I guess Beginnings are logically the same thing as Endings — so I must keep on going because I was through before I began. Ennihow, as regards the idea of a *calculus*: I still feel fairly sure that the relation between narrative firsts and philosophic firsts is high among the major problems. (i.e., in Coleridge’s terms, the relation between ‘Hebrew archeology’ and ‘Greek philosopheme.’).”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 July 1957 Andover, NJ

1/2 page typed

“In answer to your frantic calls, I am striving to keep the continued story moving (in its circular course).” Burke includes a mostly finished ms, but no indication what it is.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 2 July 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Burke sends the first draft of an article—no indication which one. “I guess I’m trying to patch up my guilt envers your ms. by trying to make you feel guilty envers mine.” Includes a pun: “Long live Lawn Order.” Another reminder to send Liddell ms. to Knox. Pencil note: Burke has finished a chart of the Tautological Cycle, “only trouble is: I have the Disorder family on the right, the Fall at the top, and the Kingdom of God at the bottom.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 July 1957 Andover, NJ

1/2 page typed

3 inserts: conclusions to match introductions of 3 essays. Burke comments: “An ending to end all endings—but alas! this time it ends on the word “false.” Heck. Maybe I’ll cheat, and say “false or true.””

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 8 July 1957 Andover, NJ

1/2 page typed

Sends duplicates of final additions to Genesis article. Now working on Augustine’s *Confessions*. Preparing for lecture at NYU Wednesday. “The drought here continues. (Internally as well. For several days I have been on serpasil, allowing myself but one bottle of beer per diem).”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 July 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Re: Duncan’s ms. “Holla! If you have cut that down to 190 pages, then ‘Dazzle’ [pun on Dalziel] will be its middle name. . . . Meanwhile, me, shamefully, in revising the Genesis item, went and ADDED to it. Dontdoasidodoasisay.”

John Crowe Ransom also working on Genesis in connection with Milton and interested in Burke's project. [Correspondence between John Crowe Ransom and Kenneth Burke is available through Vanderbilt University's Special Collections.] Burke tells Duncan to keep the article on "lil Hero."

Asks for Duncan's recommendation of the Reik book. Burke has agreed to a review for *Hudson* on *Battle for the Mind*, *Organizational Man*, and *Hidden Persuaders*. Burke wants to do another review for *Poetry* on literary critics, but first wants to finish "Logology Three."

Enclosure: "Terministic Conditions for "Original Sin" and "Redemption" (intrinsic to the Idea of "Order")"; appears to be either handwritten in pencil or ditto-copied; nearly identical to the chart on page. 184, *Rhetoric of Religion*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 5 August 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Re: the Reik book Duncan loaned Burke. Discusses psychology, mythology, father -killing, children eating turds, and Eucharist. Promises a full explanation later.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 15 August 1957 Andover, NJ

1 page typed.

Burke article to appear in January edition of *Diogenes*. Discusses St. Augustine section of *Rhetoric of Religion*, and the indexing of "-vert" words. Thanks Duncan for the Watts book on the Mass. Burke complains about Ransom borrowing a copy of his "Genesis" essay and then returning it with pages missing. Ransom's article on Genesis and Milton is to appear in *Partisan*. Another copy of the essay is with McWilliams. of *The Nation*.

Discusses Augustine's analysis of the Pelagian heresy. Sends new address; in September, Burke will be at Stanford's Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Discusses "community" and "communication," which seem to have the "proper 'tautological' relation to each other!"

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 29 December 1957 CASBS/Stanford letterhead

1 page typed

Will send "multilithed" copy of Genesis article; nearly finished with Augustine piece. Burke complains of health problems—Bell's palsy—which began to afflict him soon after arriving at Stanford. To be at Indiana School of Letters for 6 weeks in the summer. Recommends Princeton or Indiana UP as publishers for Duncan's book on "Higher Arky;" offers to put in a good word at Princeton. Enjoying work at Stanford: "Am particularly buzzing with things along the meta-language line;" wants to finish work on St. Augustine then return to "Sin-Ballix" after New Year.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 12 May 1958 Palo Alto CA

3x5 typed postcard

Burke berates himself for unfinished work: "And my pile of unanswered mail is an acute disease. And ditto w/ mss., including thine!" "Seven Offices" appearing in current issue of *Diogenes*; appeared in French edition in Jan; trying to get Poetics in shape.

Butchie to Hugh and Minna 22 May 1958

3 pages, handwritten blue ink

Asks Hugh to co-sign a \$500 bond needed for Harvard Grad School. Butchie has decided to transfer to the Physics department from Engineering and Applied Physics; will probably study atomic and quantum physics. Also considering astro-physics. Received National Science Foundation Fellowship for the year, with a pretty good chance for renewal. Summer job in Bremen, Germany. Currently, in the middle of final exams.

Hugh Duncan to Kenneth Burke 28 May 1958

Asks Burke to do a seminar at the University of Chicago and has asked Prof. Strodbeck to write a formal invitation. Mentions Burke's popularity with younger sociologists and wants Burke to help defend against the rugged empiricist tradition of the University of California; needs the "hand of the master" to make a "systematic statement of the 'social' and how it can be thought of, in symbolic analysis."

Butchie to Hugh, 9 June 1958 onboard Grote Beer

6 pages handwritten

Grateful to Hugh for signing bond and for \$100 check for his Europe trip. Complains of lectures/examinations/teaching methods at Harvard. Enjoys the freedom at Harvard, the wide range of courses, and the free auditing of courses. Complains of the small tendency to discuss political matters.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 10 June 1958 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Agrees to speaking engagement. Sharing a place in Bloomington, IN with Ransom and Blackmur; complains of the slovenliness of the "younger gents." Promises to send a copy of "Sin-Ballix" being "multi-lithed" at the Center (Stanford). Burke's contact at Princeton doesn't work there anymore, so he was unable to recommend Duncan's ms. Concludes with the provocative remark: "What says the Bible? Who lives by pragmatics dies by pragmatics. It should be engraved on the tombstone of our civilization, a tombstone made of plastics."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 22 June 1958 Bloomington, IN

1 page typed

Questions re: travel arrangements and per diem for the talk Burke agreed to give. Some confusion about the dates Burke is obliged to speak. Complains of students giving him unsolicited essays to read. Last lecture scheduled for 7/26.

**FL Stodtbeck to Kenneth Burke, cc to Hugh Duncan, R Dentler, R Gordon
27 June 1958 no return address**

1 page typed

Invitation to speak in Seattle 7/28–29 Includes proposed schedule and offer \$150 honorarium to cover Burke's expenses.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 30 June 1958 Bloomington, IN

1 page typed

Further questions re: speaking engagement. Burke thinks the "Institoosh" should pick up travel expenses. Asks if Duncan received a copy of the Poetics material. Preparing for public talk Wednesday. Burke's recent activities: first 2 weeks cleaned up Genesis stuff, next two shall do St. Augustine and Passage to India (for "socio-anagogic"), last two Poetics (featuring Oresteia).

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 11 July 1958 Bloomington IN

1 page typed

Back side—ditto/stencil copy of letter to FL Stodtbeck 7/11/58 1 page

Stodtbeck letter:

Burke backs out of the speaking engagement because of his busy schedule, the hot weather, and the need to respond to student essays. The letter is full of self deprecating language such as "Confound me for a Guilt-laden Timidity," and Burke speaks of his decision making process as an "internal-debate." He closes the letter "Shame-facedly, Kenneth Burke."

Duncan Letter:

"Goll-ding it, Hugh, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa..." Reiterates that his busy schedule and the hot weather have forced him to cancel the talk.

Personal news: Shorty is visiting Burke in Bloomington. Burke getting along well with Ransom and Blackmur. Butchie enjoying trip to Germany. Burke's classes going well.

Butchie Burke to Hugh and Minna Duncan 22 July 1958

3 pages handwritten, blue ink

Discusses his travels to Germany and his stay w/ a German family. The mother is fond of ironing everything, including Butchie's "drawers." "I am probably the only member of the Burke family who has ever worn pressed underwear."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 2 September 1958 Andover, NJ

Leaving the next day to teach full time at Bennington.

Butchie to Hugh and Minna 8 September 1958

3 pages handwritten blue ink

Written on ship (“Groote Beer”) home from Europe; took a tour of Switzerland and France after the summer job was completed . Traveled with a man from Bremen, Dr. Kempke, who needed someone to share expenses. News of his travels.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 20 December 1958 Bennington Stationary

1 page typed

“Noel, know-well!” Happy school is over “First the work nearly slew me, then my celebrating my release just about finished the job.” House-sitting in Bedford, Mass.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 April 1959 North Bennington

Burke is planning a trip to speak in Chicago. “I have started the procedures processing, and I dare promise that soon Chicago will be lousy with Impermanencies and Changlessness.” Humorous complaint of a rooster crowing at night outside his window.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan, 24 April 1959 Bennington College

1 page typed poem

An Educator, Anent a Troubled Fighting Cock

I teach poetics in a girl’s school
And I don’t want a fight.
But just outside my bedroom there’s
A rooster crows all night.

At any part of any hour
He’ll trumpet forth full-swing;
He crowed in darkest winter-time,
And now bejeez its spring.

He’s in a solitary coop
From which his protests spout.
The wires that keep him from the hens
Don’t keep the season out.

He’s pent-up with his hungers,
Frustrate in his career.
That’s how to deal with people,
Not a chanticleer.

His virtues are not given rent,
His talents not employed.
He either ought to have his wives.

Or else a course in Freud.

Note in pencil at bottom “Incidentally, the guy has about six of them out there now. Just my luck— he breeds ’em for the illicit traffic.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 9 July 1959 Andover, NJ

1 page, typed pencil note

New *Attitudes Toward History* now in print; just finished a review of Harold Rosenberg’s *The Tradition of the New* for *Hudson*. Scheduled to do Rieff’s book on Freud for *Kenyon*; hopes “to get the Poetics, etc. cleared away definitively.” “Catharsis” item (43 pages) should appear in summer issue of *Kenyon*, pencil note—item of Burke’s due in *The Nation* soon.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 4 September 1959 Andover, NJ

2 typed pages with sections dated later, as if letter composed over several days.

Sending Duncan copies of *Attitudes Toward History* and the Wellisch book with Burke’s notes. Pleased with Duncan’s course outline in which he teaches Burke’s *Permanence and Change*; but disappointed that Duncan neglects “the perspective-by-incongruity bizz (which I think is the very essence of the book...)” Mentions that the section on “An Incongruous Assortment of Incongruities” is to appear in a sociologic text issued under Parsons.

Burke reports, “Presently, I am puttering around with some logological speculations.” Plans to participate in a group at Columbia re: these matters “What I’m asking is: Just what is it to be a symbol-using animal? Just what is the slip twixt the cup of body and the lip of soul? And what was meant to be a brief article distinguishing between the psychoanalytic and Dramatistic concepts of “symbolic action” has begun to suffer from elephantiasis.”

Later Day

Mentions Kurt W. Back, sociologist at Duke, who has sent Burke a long monograph “Slums, Projects and People: Social Psychological Problems. of Relocation in Puerto Rico,” which is a marriage of the pentad and a questionnaire.

Sept 8

Critiques Back’s study as “miscegenation” rather than “marriage.” Back neglects the “mystery” angle which Burke developed in *A Rhetoric of Motives*. Re: Duncan’s reference to Freud (“Resistance and Repression”), Burke mentions a new “stunt I am trying experimentally at the moment. In order to bring out the *terministic* aspect of all science, at one point I methodically ask: Just how would we have to locate these same developments, if the nomenclature-game we were playing decreed that we weren’t allowed to use the concepts of “resistance” or “repression?” Burke is tired of old projects and wants to move on. “So why not be a kind of Academic Beatnik for the rest of my dodgings-about? (An elderly Academic Beatnik shaves, takes notes, pays his taxes though under protest, plans to go south for the winter, and still studies Aristotle.)” Burke asks, “Why finish books which are, in a sense, finished already, if one feels moved to move on?”

Books that are done “in principle” include:

Poetics: “Three Talks on Logology” (*Rhetoric of Religion*) includes essay on “Words and the Word”—intro to Genesis and “Augie” essays.

Ethics: “(I refer to the intrusion or protrusion that transformed the prospective Motivorum trilogy into a tetralogy. Its basic text is my stuff on the Negative that appeared in the Quarterly Journal of Speech and I’d also like to include, avec modifications, my stuff on “strategies,” the project that got me into the Motivorum books in the first place. Goffman’s stuff along these lines has outmoded me sociologically, but not logologically)”

Asks if Duncan has seen his “report on the Poetics in the recent *Kenyon*.” Thinks he’s published enough of this kind of stuff “to help any worthwhile reader get the point.” Seems excited about this new “angle”—“Particularly since it involves two fundamental distinctions: (1) between psychoanalytic and Dramatistic ideas of symbolic action; (2) . . . between Dramatistic (action) and Cybernetics’ (or ‘information theory’) reduction to motion.”

Mentions finding something he wrote a while back—he doesn’t remember when—on a part of his desk that is still messy. Burke had written, “ ‘This has been a Der Tag kind of day. This has been a day of decision, though it looks like any other.’ Wonderful! I turn the page, expectantly, and read on: ‘Heretofore I had been saying good-bye apologetically; from today on, I say good-bye aggressively.’ “

Unsigned to Kenneth Burke 1 December 1959

1 page, looks like a ditto

Apologizes for silence; encloses Table of Contents for Chicago book. Mentions growing influence of Sullivan, Wright, Dewey, Veblen, and Mead on his work, but also acknowledges foundational influence of Burke.

Christmas Card from Libbie and Kenneth to the Duncans, (Libby’s handwriting) No Date

News of family. Lots of Chicago people at the Center.

Hugh Dalziel Duncan Papers (File #17–25-F1, Folder #1/7)

Correspondence with Kenneth Burke, 1960 to 1970

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 7 January 1960 Englewood FL

1 page typed

Responds to Duncan’s article on Simmel; suggests looking at Norman Brown’s *Love Against Death* and Joseph Fontenrose’s *Python: A Study of Delphic Myth and its Origins*; pencil note recommends David and Sylvia Easton, whom Burke met at the Center; asks Duncan to send a copy of the Simmel piece to Burke daughter #2, Dr. Eleanor Leacock, in NYC.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 26 March 1960 “Florida, etc.”

1 page typed

Plans 9 day stint at Penn State in April; has recommended Duncan for “Behavioral Bizz” at Stanford.

“Theories of communication can never be well communicated, if they’re any good. For a good theory of communication talks about things that communicators aren’t interested in.”

Journal of American Folklore to publish “Myth, Folklore and Poetics,” which was developed from the Genesis item, in conjunction with Joseph Fontenrose’s *Python*, which he wrote a review of, and then went on to write 50 pages on related subjects.

Butchie studying astrophysics and working on his Ph.D.; hopes he’ll teach “since that seems. to be the only physicist activity not filthy with the Kill Business.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 21 February 1961 Bennington stationary

1 page typed

Congratulates Duncan on his teaching. Thanks for presenting Burke’s ideas in a “competent, sympathetic, cogent manner. Thanks for plugging revised editions of *Permanence and Change* and *Attitudes Toward History*. When referring to his “multilithed” Poetics ms, Duncan had mentioned a section “The Poetic Motive” published in *Hudson Review* Spring 1958. Burke asks him to send a copy of this ms. to Bennington College Library. Mentions forthcoming *Rhetoric of Religion* with epilogue “Prologue in Heaven.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 24 March 1961 Bennington College Stationery

1 page typed with pen note (blue ink)

Acknowledges receipt of Duncan’s ms. and table of contents; will be a while before he can read it. Teaching has its gratifications, but it can be “too much of a good thing.” Looks forward to uninterrupted writing time. Proofing galleys for new book. Working up a new course on “Poetics and Linguistics.” Seems. “quite promising” but it will require Burke to further revise his Poetics ms. A “representative bit”—an article on Poe’s “Principles of Composition”—to appear in *Poetry*. Notes: Meridian to publish paperback edition of *Grammar* and *Rhetoric of Motives*. Asks Duncan to “take a peep” at Burke’s essay on myth in Oct-Dec 1960 *Journal of American Folklore*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 14 July 1961 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Problems. with Hermes’ ownership of copyright to *Attitudes Toward History* and with Meridian and Prentice Hall over copyrights of *Grammar* and *Rhetoric of Motives*. Arrangements for trip/speaking engagement in Chicago. Revising Poetics with new material from Bennington course. Problems. with Beacon re: publishing new book; the publishers sent Burke a bill for “author’s corrections.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 18 July 1961

1 page handwritten blue ink

Thanks for info re: speaking engagement in Chicago. Also speaking at Mandell Hall on Mon. night.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 21 July 1961 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Arrangements for Chicago trip; declines a social dinner before speaking. "Before a talk, I hate all mankind with the fervor of Timon Athens." First talk ready to go, but still working on second one. "The problem haint what to put in, but what to leave out."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 15 August 1961 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

"Wadyuh mean? I've written the best arguments for theology since William of Occam." Mentions Daniel Fogarty's *Roots for a New Rhetoric* which discusses Burke and his "competitors." Not sure a letter from Duncan will get Beacon to change their position on republishing *Attitudes Toward History*, but thinks a review in the *Journal of Ethics* may help. Burke considering a tempting offer for a position at another school. Thanks for hospitality during Chicago trip.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 6 November 1961 Dover NJ

3x5 postcard handwritten

Burke to speak in Ohio Tuesday and Wednesday on "Definition of Man." Thanks Duncan for kind word to Beacon. Burke article forthcoming in Oct issue of *Poetry*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 15 November 1961 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Burke just finished 2 talks at Antioch, and preparing a talk for Long Island, entitled "Prologue in Heaven: A Theory of Language as Motive." Asks for address of Duncan's publisher; Burke has a ms. on behalf of Slochower to send out. Complains of *Chicago Review's* piece on his Chicago talk, to which Burke has responded. Will be at Kingston, near Princeton, Jan/Feb/March.

A postscript mentions Burke's piece in Oct. *Poetry* similar to his Mandell Hall talk, which was badly taped. Also mentions recent article in *Nation*, "warfare state" and Rene Wellek's "doity paragraph on my dear self" in recent *Yale Review*.

Kenneth Burke to Edward Norbeck 26 November 1961 Rice University

1 page typed.

Recommendation for Duncan.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 15 December 1961 Andover, NJ

1 page typed with Merry Xmas note in pencil from Libby

Change of address notification; asks again for publisher's address re: Slochower ms. Encloses "a song I sang in your behalf" — recommendation letter to Norbeck. Unable to meet self-imposed deadline for Poetics ms; high blood pressure—laying off alky. Burke has seen no reviews of *Rhetoric of Religion* yet; wrote a response to Wellek's *Yale Review* comments, to appear in Spring issue; also found correspondence columns of *Commentary* (July issue) contained interesting discussion of "Covenant Theology."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 9 January 1962 Kingston NJ

3x5 postcard

Talk at Ohio State "Rhetoric and Curriculum" 2/6. Mentions possibility of sharing a ride/expense back East. No word on talk at Harvard.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 19 January 1962 Kingston NJ

3x5 typed postcard

Confirmation of Duncan's plans to visit Burke.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 21 February 1962 Andover, NJ

1 page

Discusses Minna's recent illness, and offers his best wishes for her recovery. Advises Duncan on the subtitle for his upcoming book. Also mentions two favorable reviews of *The Rhetoric of Religion* by Rueckert and Hymes. Doing a seminar at Drew University, so unable to concentrate on *Poetics*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 July 1962 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Thanks Duncan for sending him a copy of *Communication and the Social Order*. Offers high praise for the work, in terms of both content and form. Burke especially liked the section on comedy, which saved him from writing a long-planned essay on Aristophanes. Burke plans to refer the reader to Duncan on comedy when and if he ever gets back to *Symbolic*. Burke's only criticism is that, "in principle", there should be no real difference between a comic victim and a tragic victim. Expresses envy at Duncan's upcoming position at Rice.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 18 December 1962 Englewood, FL

1 page typed

Describes the Burkes' apartment and activities in Florida. Mentions that he is to soon finish a review of Duncan's book, and states that he is "getting all steamed up to launch a terrific attack on you and me in particular and Dramatism in general."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 27 December 1962 Englewood, FL

1 page typed

Offers suggestions for combating the “lack of individualization” Duncan has encountered among his students at Rice. Mentions a device he has used, in which students each submitted specific questions of their own, which he then replied to. Also asks for Duncan’s advice regarding what sum he should ask for the publication of a *Burke Reader*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 7 January 1963 Englewood, FL

1 page typed

Thanks Duncan for his recent review in *Scientific American*. Describes a very favorable review he has written about Duncan’s latest book; wants to write a combined review of “Duncan on Communicaysh, Kaelin on Aesthetics, and Kaplan on Leisure.”

Offers a mild criticism regarding the differences between the rhetoric and poetics of comedy, which is an issue that Burke first explored in *Permanence and Change* and that he’d like to treat in some depth in *Symbolic*. Burke notes how Duncan’s work will allow Burke the luxury of not delving into the subject too deeply, since Duncan has already done an excellent job.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 24 January 1963 Englewood, FL

1 page typed

Comments on the size of the class he will be teaching at Penn State. Answers a concern of Duncan’s regarding the inclusion of poetics in a discussion of the sociology of laughter. Congratulates Duncan on a new teaching position. Since Duncan will be teaching at an African-American college, Burke relates two anecdotes about the particular situations such schools face. One friend told Burke “that the girls were snootier with regard to less educated Negroes than most white supremacists are with regard to Negroes in general.” In another conversation with an African-American friend, Burke suggested that white liberals should volunteer to teach at African-American schools. His friend replied, “Yes, whites teach in Negro schools, and do Negro teachers out of jobs!”

Burke discusses plans to give a public lecture at the University of Florida in February, which will focus on his “Definition of Man.” Mentions a recent article in *The Hudson Review* about *The Rhetoric of Religion*, which he has not yet read.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 June 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Congratulates Duncan on his new position, and discusses his recent lectureship at Penn State University. Asks Duncan to look for his Cummings article in the April edition of *Poetry*, as well as an essay in the debut issue of *Location*. Discusses a well-received review of William Carlos Williams, which he wrote for *The New York Review of Books*. Announces that “A Definition of Man” will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Hudson Review*.

In closing, Burke refers to himself as “Ignatius Burpius Tertius” and comments: “By what other route can one put togidda Freud, Marx, Aristotle, The Bible, The Ford Foundation, and the Nature of Things? (Though I must admit that the bomb boys have a more coercive way, saying in effect, ‘Down with Peitho, up with Anangke,’ or in other words, up with the kind of action that makes for the kind of motion that ends all action.)”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 July 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Discusses the upcoming publication of “A Definition of Man”, and some potential problems. in sending Duncan a copy to read. Mentions tentative plans to participate in a symposium in Iowa, and financial concerns related to that plan. Mentions that the University of Indiana Press will publish a paperback edition of “Burkables”, and the publication of Rueckert’s book, *Kenneth Burke and the Drama of Human Relations*. In closing, Burke describes his busy work schedule and concludes, “Otherwise, all is as mellow as slow rot.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 11 September 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page typed

Burke has written to Ferguson about the publication of his *Timon of Athens* piece. He discusses the “mystery of rules” and proposes that games and drama are “essentially the same.” Games are a “purer” instance of an idea in Aristotle’s *Poetics*, that “. . . action is more important than character.”

Discusses a recent visit with Rueckert and his family. Also mentions signing a contract with the University of Indiana Press, to publish two paperback “Burkables,” to be edited by Stanley Hyman. He concludes, “. . . the only thing that will keep me from going down the drain is the fact that we don’t have plumbing.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 3 October 1963 Andover, NJ

Postcard 3x5 typed

Burke’s review of Duncan et al to appear in *Arts in Society*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 7 November 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page, with attachment

Makes reference to an article by Dennis H. Wrong, “The Oversocialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology.” Attached his reply to Wrong with the letter to Duncan. Burke’s contention with Wrong is that a general definition of man can be attained only through philosophy, rather than through the languages of specialized sciences. Burke feels that each specialization can only define man from its own particular standpoint. Also discusses upcoming travel schedule, and comments favorably on recent sessions he attended at the University of Texas.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 25 November 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page

Thanks Duncan for the Hall book and Snow article. Discusses finishing an essay for a lecture at Grinnell in January, which grew from two articles on “Man” and “Satan” in the October 1961 *Journal of Social Issues*. A large portion of the letter concerns Burke’s thoughts on the Kennedy assassination, and what may be uncovered concerning Jack Ruby. He writes: “Events following the stupid murder have left me feeling like a countryside spread out supine after having been devastated by a hurricane. Or otherwise put: I feel like someone who has had his guts reamed out.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 29 November 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page

Burke announces his plans to cut back on his alcohol intake, and relates a bizarre, recent dream involving defecation, which he believes that he had “to make up for the loss of artificial chemical madness in my ‘normal’ psychic economy.” Discusses recent correspondence with Dennis Wrong and Kent Geiger, and mentions upcoming talks at Grinnell on “Drama,” “Dramatism,” and “Logology.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 December 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page

Discusses submitting an article to the *Antioch Review*, using Shakespeare’s *Antony and Cleopatra* as his example. Also mentions that he will be writing an article on “Dramatism” for the upcoming *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*. Mentions his recent article in *Psychoanalytic Review*, “The Thinking of the Body.” Has just learned that the Laurel (Dell) edition of *Timon of Athens* with Burke’s introduction has been out since April.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 28 December 1963 Andover, NJ

1 page

Proposes to write an essay on Dramatism, along with an article by Duncan on the sociology of literature, for an upcoming project. Describes a positive note from a reviewer regarding his “Shakespearean Persuasion” article. Discusses another upcoming article, which haggles with Isidor Chein’s “The Image of Man” (October, 1962, *Journal of Social Issues*), as well as his upcoming lecture schedule. Agrees to the Festschrift proposed by Hyman, and thinks it would be fun “to add some stinkers like Bewley, Sidney Hook, and Max Black.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 3 January 1964 Andover, NJ

postcard

Quotes Geiger’s response to Burke’s letter concerning Geiger’s review of Duncan’s book.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 March 1964 Andover, NJ

1 page

Discusses recent publications and works in progress, including a “prophesy” of Freud’s terminology, to be published in *Imago*, and a paperback edition of *Permanence and Change* with the Goffman introduction. Burke is happy to see *Permanence and Change* back in print, because “some things I plan to do next have their clearest beginnings in that book.” Also expresses his desire to argue his positions with Wrong and Chein.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 March 1964 Andover, NJ

1 page

Mentions texts in galleys (Bentham’s *Table* and the Hyman book) and a re-write of an article on Roethke. For their proposed book, Burke suggests that Duncan and Rueckert collect already published articles by people such as Hook, Bewley, Max Black, Fergusson, Austin Warren, and Munson. He also suggests that Paul Kuntz may be interested in contributing a new piece.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 25 July 1964 Andover, NJ

4 pages

Four pages of Burke’s detailed responses to and revision of Duncan’s draft for his introduction to *Permanence and Change*. Burke also discusses his upcoming Visiting Professorship at UC Santa Barbara.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 September 1964 Andover, NJ

1 page

Burke requests Duncan’s input on compiling a bibliography for “Dramatism” recently submitted to *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. Also mentions signing a contract with Suhrkamp for a German translation of *Philosophy of Literary Form*. Burke wonders about the possibility of writing a first draft of a close analysis of “Kubla Khan” while traveling west.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 1 October 1964 Goleta, CA

1 page

Tells Duncan about his trip out west, drafting his “Kubla Khan” notes, and the publisher’s silence about the paperback edition of *Permanence and Change*. Burke fears that the “Kubla Khan” article may be longer than desired by the publisher. He also reports that he has been invited to do a symposium at the University of Texas.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 14 October 1964 Goleta, CA

1 page

Thanks Duncan for his generous review and announces that the Hyman-edited *Terms. for Order and Perspectives by Incongruity* were published. Also discusses upcoming travel plans.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 23 November 1964 Goleta, CA

1 page

Mentions finalizing Poetics and requests a rescheduling of a joint project proposed by Duncan.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 20 December 1964 Goleta, CA

1 page

Gives an overview of his West Coast lecture itinerary, and apologizes to Duncan that his plans will not allow him to meet with Duncan in April.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 January 1965 “Inglese,” CA (University of California at Santa Barbara letterhead)

1 page

Discusses legal complications over a “partnership” with Mrs. Maecenas. Since Mrs. Maecenas is a character in one of Burke’s short stories, this letter is probably some sort of elaborate joke, although the precise nature of the joke is hard to determine.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 19 March 1965, North coast of Florida

1 page

Discusses correspondence with William Simon and sessions at Rice, UCLA, and the University of Texas, as well as the lack of communication with both the publisher and Duncan on *Permanence and Change*. Also expresses admiration for Dick Blackmur, who had recently passed away.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 14 April 1965 Andover, NJ

1 page

Burke remarks positively on Duncan’s position at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and jokingly talks about Hyman’s proposed course based on Burke and Richards. Hyman is frustrated because Burke hasn’t gathered his Poetics material into an easily accessible, single volume.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 2 August 1965 Andover, NJ

1 page, with enclosed poem

Burke remarks positively on recent writing that Duncan has sent him. Mentions preparing a collection of essays for U of California Press, and the possible release of a new hardcover edition of *Towards a Better Life*. Includes a “domestic non-poem,” which begins, “And here I am fighting dandelions . . .”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 2 October 1965 Andover, NJ

1 page

Discusses the re-publication of *Permanence and Change*, the reissue of *Towards a Better Life* by the University of California Press, and works in progress (“I, Eye, Aye” and “a semi-manifesto-

like thing . . . on drama”). Burke has turned down seven teaching offers this year, so that he can focus on his writing.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 22 October 1965 Andover, NJ

1 page

Thanks Duncan for introduction of *Permanence and Change*. Includes a “holier- than-thou-avowal” poem about a Spanish bullfighter. Also discusses selling an article on Djuna Barnes’s *Nightwood*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 9 December 1965 Andover, NJ

postcard

Wishes Duncan success on his book.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 25 December 1965 Bonita Springs, FL

1 page

Offers praise for one of Duncan’s books, and congratulates him on “having shaken free of that guy Burke.” Libby adds a note in the margin indicating that she is also enjoying the book.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 3 January 1966 Bonita Springs, FL

1 page

Asks Duncan to join him in critiquing Marshall McLuhan, specifically McLuhan’s ideas of “specialism” and “the electronic age.” Includes a brief analysis of McLuhan using the pentad: “Amurricans love know-how. So, above all, they feel at home in the Pragmatic Reduction (to terms. of instruments).”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 March 1966 Bonita Springs, FL

1 page

Mentions the new edition of *Towards a Better Life* and employment/travel plans.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 13 June 1966 Andover, NJ

1 page

Complains about insomnia and the CIA (“Corruption/Involving/America”) and proposes stopping to see Duncan on his way out west in the autumn. Burke refers to himself in third person as “OLE Negative” and discusses why he works so hard: “He knows that, though there’s no satisfaction in success, there’s much misery in failure.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 10 July 1966 Andover, NJ

1 page

Complains again about insomnia, and the bureaucratic processes of publishing. Discusses upcoming offers to teach and write; looking forward to teaching at Harvard because it will be in the social sciences department, not the English department. Mentions forwarding Duncan a copy of his Coriolanus essay, which Burke lauds as “the best thing I ever did or will do.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 6 August 1966 Andover, NJ

1 page

Determines his primary goal while teaching in Washington state as debunking the slogan “The medium is the message.” Mentions an article on Marshall mulch in *DAs Leben*. Again discusses plans to teach at Harvard, “under the aegis of the social sciences department.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 6 September 1966 Andover, NJ

postcard

Advises Duncan that he is editing and finalizing permissions for a book of essays.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 9 September 1966 No address

1 page

Voices concern that Duncan comes dangerously close to using “media” as a “singular noun.” Thinks that Duncan’s sociology is becoming “too neutral,” and doesn’t address current problems, such as Vietnam. Also thinks that following Mead’s past-present-future emphasis too closely “deflects attention from the role of ‘circumference’ in our notions of the present.”

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 17 October 1966 Ellensburg, WA

1 page

Discusses a talk on “The Responsibilities of National Greatness” and expresses amazement that a recent review of *Towards a Better Life* failed to acknowledge the importance of the Depression as a backdrop for the last part of the text. Burke’s piece on “Dramatism” for the *International Encyclopedia of Social Science* is forthcoming.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 24 November 1966 Ellensburg, WA

1 page

Expresses regret over the rejection of Duncan’s article for the *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences* and proposes a backlash argument. Also relates a meeting with a colleague of Duncan’s.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 30 May 1967 Andover, NJ

1 page

Tells Duncan of Libby’s illness and works in progress (a collection of poems, the re-release of some short stories, and a paperback edition of *Counter-Statement*). Also mentions Stanley Hyman’s rave review of *Language as Symbolic Action*.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 25 March 1968 Andover, NJ

postcard

States he is preparing papers for the Brockport philosophy conference, and that he would be happy to look at Duncan's galleys.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 25 August 1968 Andover, NJ

2 pages

Praises Duncan's book in general, but voices reservations regarding Duncan's rejection of Marxism and his failure to employ Spinoza's *Ethics* as a model for definition. Reports a lengthy philosophical discussion on communication which Burke had at a conference in Denver, specifically concerning the difference between a "failure of communication" and situational differences. Burke remains distressed about his wife's illness, and writes, "If there's a heaven and I somehow contrive to go there, all I ask is that it's a place where I could stay dead-drunk without a hangover, and without ever getting to the fighting or crying stage."

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 13 September 1968 Andover, NJ

1 page

Acknowledges receipt of Duncan's book and apologizes for the publisher's rejection of his review of the text, mentioning that *Book Find* editors seemed satisfied with it. Burke continues to vehemently disagree with Duncan's rejection of Marx and Spinoza, and expresses regret that he did not help Duncan more in improving the book.

Kenneth Burke to Hugh Duncan 22 April 1970 Andover, NJ

1 page, poem enclosed

Mentions the publication of *Rhetoric of Religion*, his lecture tour, and the use of ecology to "deflect attention from our filthy politics in Vietnam." Includes "Three Poems. of Abandonment," an epistolary poem which reflects his grief over Libby's death.

Hugh Duncan to Kenneth Burke 5 May 1970

1 page—from Duncan to Burke, handwritten in pencil

Duncan tells Burke about a recent trip to a Benedictine Abbey and hints that Burke may find solace in the monastic life. Mentions that Burke could act as a resident scholar, and that "They need Burke." Duncan also expresses fear about his wife Minna's upcoming surgery.

Kenneth Burke to Minna Duncan 3 September 1970 Andover, NJ

1 page

Poignant response to Minna's request that Burke officiate at Duncan's funeral service. Having recently lost Libby, he sympathizes with Minna's despair. However, Burke politely declines to officiate the ceremony, calling it a task "wholly beyond my competence."

Kenneth Burke to Minna Duncan 9 October 1970 Washington University, St. Louis, MO stationery

1 page

Finalizes arrangements for his part in a service for Duncan in Chicago. Burke says that he will not be able to attend the service personally, but makes plans to have his words read by someone else. He closes, "I wish I could cheer you up, Minna; but I feel too goddam gloomy for words."

**Hugh Dalziel Duncan Papers (File #17-25-F1, Folder #1/14 and 1/23)
Correspondence with Erving Goffman, Marshall McLuhan, and Stanley Edgar Hyman**

Box 1 folder 14

Erving Goffman to Hugh Duncan, 26 February 1957

Goffman writes that he hopes to be able to meet Burke at the conference in Chicago.

Erving Goffman to Hugh Duncan, 25 March 1957

Goffman encloses a manuscript, and mentions some of Burke's suggestions on how to proceed with his book. Goffman explains that he probably cannot take Burke's approach; implying that Burke's methodology is Burke-specific, he adds "...but Burke is Burke." Goffman claims that Burke is able to select a very "special area and play away at it."

Hugh Duncan to Erving Goffman, 1 May 1957

Duncan had sent a copy of a Goffman manuscript to Burke for comment. He now quotes in brief from a full-page of comments by Burke: "It's a highly intelligent book." Duncan only provides a few general comments, and suggests that Goffman write directly to Burke for a more detailed response.

Erving Goffman to Hugh Duncan, 6 May 1957, Bethesda, MD, National Institutes of Health letterhead

Goffman thanks Duncan for getting his book to Burke. He asks when he can see Burke's new book. Goffman expresses the value he places on Burke's opinion—in particular, Burke's previous comments on his book. He thinks Burke's comments were right on the money.

Erving Goffman to Hugh Duncan, 17 September 1957, Bethesda, MD, National Institutes of Health letterhead

Goffman writes, "It's nice to know Burke will be at the Institute. Can I write him and request a hearing? How does one do this?"

Box 1, folder 23

Marshall McLuhan to Hugh Duncan, 25 March 1964, University of Toronto's Center for Culture and Technology letterhead

McLuhan writes, "I have been acquainted with the work of Kenneth Burke for a long time and have found it very useful indeed. Having spent a good many years studying the history of the trivium and the quadrivium from ancient times to the 19th century, his use of that terminology always made sense to me."

Box 1 Folder 19

Stanley Edgar Hyman to Hugh Duncan, 27 November 1963, N. Bennington, VT, The New Yorker letterhead

This letter discusses a proposed *Festschrift* for Kenneth Burke. Hyman suggests that his choice for the editor would be Howard Nemerov, who was then attached to the Library of Congress. Hyman continues: "He and I talked years ago of a Burke issue of the *Hudson Review*." Hyman suggests not only a *Festschrift*, but a magazine issue dedicated to Burke as well. He adds later that he has "just published a book of essays dedicated to Kenneth, as has Nemerov."