



The New York Public Library
Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and
American Literature

Guide to the

Abbie Hoffman papers

1977-1981

Berg Coll m.b. Hoffman A23 1977

Compiled by Berg Collection staff, 2016

Summary

Creator: Hoffman, Abbie

Title: Abbie Hoffman papers

Date: 1977-1981

Size: .5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Michael Laird, July 2015

Abstract: Abbot Howard "Abbie" Hoffman (November 30, 1936 – April 12, 1989) was a political and social activist who came into prominence in the 1960s when he co-founded the Youth International Party ("Yippies") and was a member of the "Chicago Eight," the group that was tried for conspiracy and inciting to riot during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The collection includes typed and photocopied drafts for the publications *Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture* (Putnam, 1980) and *Square Dancing In the Ice Age* (South End Press, 1982) (some under the working title "Free: a Radical American Romance"), with manuscript notes by Hoffman and his editors; published articles considered for books, correspondence with editors and publishing companies, and manuscript notes for speeches (1970s-early 1980s).

Preferred citation: Abbie Hoffman papers, Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Berg Collection staff, 2016

Creator History

Abbot Howard "Abbie" Hoffman (November 30, 1936 – April 12, 1989) was a political and social activist who came into prominence in the 1960s when he co-founded the Youth International Party ("Yippies") and was a member of the "Chicago Eight," the group that was tried for conspiracy and inciting to riot during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The verdicts were overturned, but Hoffman was arrested in August of 1973 on charges for intent to sell and distribute cocaine. In the spring of 1974, he skipped bail, underwent plastic surgery to alter his appearance, and hid from authorities until turning himself in and serving four months in 1980. Six years later, he was arrested with Amy Carter (daughter of former President Jimmy Carter) for trespassing and protesting on the University of Massachusetts

Amherst campus. They were acquitted of all charges, but Hoffman was found dead just three years later at age 52, having ingested liquor and 150 phenobarbital tablets. Though he went “underground” for several years and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1980, he has remained a symbol of the youth rebellion of the counterculture era.

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes typed and photocopied drafts for the publications *Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture* (Putnam, 1980) and *Square Dancing In the Ice Age* (South End Press, 1982) (some under the working title “Free: a Radical American Romance”), with manuscript notes by Hoffman and his editors; published articles considered for books, correspondence with editors and publishing companies, and manuscript notes for speeches (1970s-early 1980s).

Key Terms

Subjects

Capitalism -- United States -- 20th century -- Polemical Literature
Chicago Seven Trial, Chicago, Ill -- 1969-1970
Counterculture -- United States -- Sources
Fugitives from justice -- United States -- Biography
Popular culture -- United States
Radicalism -- United States

Geographic Names

United States -- Civilization -- 1970-

Names

Grosset & Dunlap
South End Press
Youth International Party

Container List

Soon to be a Major Motion Picture 1980, undated (118 pages)

Records created while compiling materials for the publication *Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture* are included in this series. The records are largely articles that had been arranged and edited from their original publications in magazines to better suit the final publication, but it also includes some correspondence with Fred (no last name marked) regarding the photos to be included in final publication and other final details. 37 pages are full manuscript and the majority of typed drafts have manuscript edits, most of which are in Hoffman's hand. Original folders included for manuscript notes.

- b. 1 f. 1 *Drafts and Correspondence for Soon To Be A Major Motion Picture*
- b. 1 f. 2 Articles Edited for STBAMMP
- b. 1 f. 3 Drafts for STBAMMP
- b. 1 f. 4 Drafts and Articles of STBAMMP Edited for Publication

Notes for Speeches 1981, undated

A collection of various manuscript notes for speeches Hoffman has given, collected for use in publications (many used in "*Soon to Be...*"). This series includes the most manuscript notes, including emotional revelations on the back of handouts from his time in the rehabilitation, center, Veritas. Also included are stray quarter-sheets with bold quotes such as "Question, question, question, and you will defy authority" (folder 3). 32 pages are full manuscript (some on the back of typed pages), and the majority of typed drafts have manuscript edits, likely in Hoffman's hand.

- b. 1 f. 5 Veritas Notes
- b. 1 f. 6 Speech Notes and Drafts
- b. 1 f. 7 Manuscript Notes for Publication
- b. 1 f. 8 Edited Drafts for Publication
- b. 1 f. 9 *Draft and Proof of New Age Interview*

Free: a Radical American Romance undated

Complete draft of *Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture* under the original title, "Free: a Radical American Romance." Though the drafts are typed, there are many manuscript edits in several different handwritings.

- b. 1 f. 10 *Early Drafts of Introduction for "Free: A Radical American Romance" (published as Soon To Be A Major Motion Picture)*
- b. 1 f. 11 Draft of Introduction for "Free: A Radical American Romance"; chapters 1-13
- b. 1 f. 12 Draft of "Free: A Radical American Romance"; chapters 14-23
- b. 1 f. 13 Draft of "Free: A Radical American Romance"; chapters 24-33

Square Dancing in the Ice Age 1981, undated

Two complete drafts of the book *Square Dancing in the Ice Age*. The two drafts are comprised of the same materials, but re-ordered and often re-titled. The final publication represents the chapter title changes, but they appear in a different order than either of these drafts. All chapters included in the final publication are represented in this draft, including "Disneyland for the Dead," which was omitted from final publication. Correspondence regarding these drafts is included in Folder 1. Many manuscript edits on typed drafts, but they do not appear to be in Hoffman's handwriting. Folders 1-3 are typed drafts, folders 4-5 are largely photocopies, only two pages are full manuscript, brief notes for edits and inserts.

- b. 2 f. 1 *Late draft of Square Dancing; chapters 1-10*
- b. 2 f. 2 *Late draft of Square Dancing; chapters 11-22*
- b. 2 f. 3 *Late draft of Square Dancing; chapters 23-36*
- b. 2 f. 4 *Proof copy of Square Dancing; p. 1-176*
- b. 2 f. 5 *Proof copy of Square Dancing; [6] p., p. 1-4, p. 187-355*