



## The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

### **Frank Hogan papers**

1933-1997

MssCol 1413

Compiled by Mimi Bowling, 1992. Additional materials were integrated into the collection by Robyn Hjermstad, 2015.

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Hogan, Frank

**Title:** Frank Hogan papers

**Date:** 1933-1997

**Size:** 7.7 linear feet (5 boxes, 7 volumes, 1 oversized folder)

**Source:** Gift of Frank Hogan, 1992 and the Estate of Frank Hogan, 1998.

**Abstract:** The Frank Hogan papers date from 1933 to 1997 and document the playwright's professional writing and personal interests. The collection chiefly consists of correspondence and scripts.

**Preferred citation:** Frank Hogan papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

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### **Creator History**

Frank (Francis Thomas) Hogan was born on June 6, 1916 in Somerville Massachusetts, the son of William Michael and Elizabeth Veronica McLaughlin Hogan. After graduating from high school in 1933 he studied art and stage design at the Vesper George School of Art in Boston. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II, supervising day-to-day operations of harbor and offshore patrol. After the war, Hogan began a career in promotion, public relations and radio which included stints as a program promotion manager for the Mutual Broadcasting System (1947-1960), Director of Public Relations and Senior Editor for McCall's magazine (1950-1961), and Editor of the Program Guide and other positions for Radio Station WPAT, New York (1962-1968). In addition to numerous free-lance articles, radio scripts, corporate histories and other writings, Hogan has written plays and fiction throughout his life. Among his better-known works are *Finn MacKool*, *the Grand Distraction*, which was produced at the Theatre de Lys in New York in 1975, and, with collaborator Walter Porczak, *The Soft Core Kid*, a gay farce. The latter was the first play produced (in 1976) by John Glines, who

subsequently established The Glines as a producing company devoted primarily to plays on gay themes or by gay writers. Among Hogan's enduring interests are John Maynard Keynes, about whom he has a number of works, including a novel, plays, and songs; inter-spatial and spiritual communications; and sadomasochistic homosexual activities. More detailed biographical information is contained in Hogan's autobiographical Profile and in his "Creativity" interview, both of which form part of this collection.

## Scope and Content Note

The Frank Hogan papers date from 1933 to 1997 and document the playwright's professional writing and personal interests. The collection chiefly consists of correspondence and scripts.

The professional files contain writings, correspondence, sound recordings, and drafts of an interview (1986) of Hogan by Linda Melrose for her dissertation *The Creative Personality and the Creative Process: A Qualitative Perspective*. The interview provides a detailed personal history of Hogan, and closely examines the nature of a writer's creativity in relation to rebellion, sexual activity and other aspects of life. Writings consist of play scripts, poetry, and a typescript of Hogan's unpublished novel *The Joshua People*. Sound recordings consist of songs written by Hogan for his plays, including "A Face Worth Saving" for the play of the same name, "Nancy's Reply," and recordings the play *Fin MacKool, the Grand Distraction*. Sound recordings are currently unavailable pending digitization.

The personal papers consist of correspondence, notes, catalogs, and ephemera, dealing primarily with Hogan's sadomasochistic homosexual preferences and activities. A small amount of photographs, passports, and personal items are also present. The correspondence, notes, and catalogs document the distinctive rituals and practices of homosexual sadomasochistic relationships. The letters often contain references to the Everard Baths, leather bars and other gathering spots, and provide unusual documentation of one aspect of gay life, particularly before the AIDS epidemic took the lives of thousands of gay men (including some of the correspondents in this collection) and dramatically altered the lives of those who escaped infection.

Correspondence primarily consists of letters from men who made contact with Hogan through ads placed in *Drummer*, a sadomasochistic gay monthly magazine. In some cases the letters are from men Hogan would never meet or have a sexual relationship with. These letters are of particular significance because they are generally lengthy and introspective, and provide extraordinary insights into the psychohistory of masochistic gay men.

Catalogs and ephemera are primarily from vendors selling leather and other sadomasochistic devices and accouterments, and a partial copy of a spiral-bound publication entitled *The Care and Training of the Male Slave*.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into two broad categories: Professional Files and Personal Files.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Sadomasochism

Theater -- United States

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**  
Scripts

## Container List

### Professional Files

- b. 1 f. 1-4 Correspondence 1973-1997  
Also contains some personal correspondence with friend Ethel Bond Huffman.

### Writings

- v. 1 *The Joshua People*
- v. 2 *The Joshua People*
- v. 3 *The Joshua People*
- v. 4 *The Joshua People*
- v. 5 *The Joshua People*
- v. 6 *The Joshua People*

### Scripts

- b. 1 f. 5 *Fin MacKool, the Grand Distraction* 1975
- b. 1 f. 6 *Mia and Me* 1965
- b. 1 f. 7 *You May Well be the Man Who Lives Forever but Just in Case You Don't...* 1967  
Three one-act plays: *The Assassination of Martin Luther King*, *A Face Worth Saving*, and *You May Well be the Man Who Lives Forever but Just in Case You Don't...*
- b. 2 f. 1 *You May Well be the Man Who Lives Forever but Just in Case You Don't...* 1967-1968  
Includes scores and script excerpts.
- b. 2 f. 2 Poetry 1969-1971
- b. 2 f. 3 *Melrose, Linda and Hogan, Frank-- Interview for The Creative Personality and the Creative Process: A Qualitative Perspective* circa 1986
- v. 7 Scrapbook 1975

### Sound Recordings

- origsr.228425 "The Cry-Down" 1960s  
Unavailable pending digitization.  
*A Face Worth Saving*  
Unavailable pending digitization.
- origsr.228417 Cut 1- Short Version circa 1967
- origsr.228418 Cut 1- Short Version circa 1967
- origsr.228420 Piano Versions- Jimmie Hodges circa 1967
- origsr.228424 *A Face Worth Saving* circa 1967
- origsr.228429 *Fin MacKool, the Grand Distraction* circa 1975  
Unavailable pending digitization.
- origsr.228413 *Fin MacKool, the Grand Distraction* circa 1975  
Unavailable pending digitization.
- origsr.228416 "Nancy's Reply" 1982  
Unavailable pending digitization.
- origsr.228427 "Nancy's Reply" 1982  
Unavailable pending digitization.
- origsr.228414 Songs for the Seventies 1970s  
Unavailable pending digitization.

Professional Files (cont.)  
Sound Recordings (cont.)

origsr.228415      Songs for the Seventies 1970s  
                         Unavailable pending digitization.

Personal Files

b. 2 f. 4      Passports and Personal Items 1946-1997

b. 2 f. 5      Photographs 1933-1974

Correspondence and Notes

b. 3 f. 1-6      1969-1980

b. 4 f. 1-27      1973-1991

b. 5 f. 1-5      1981-1988

b. 5 f. 6-9      Catalogs and Ephemera 1969-1974

o. 1      Ephemera 1974

Sound Recordings

origsr.228387      Walter Hickens  
                         Unavailable pending digitization.

origsr.228412      Victor du Bois  
                         Unavailable pending digitization.