



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Ken Dewey Collection

1943-1987 [bulk 1959-1972]

*T-Mss 1991-010

Compiled by Susan Malsbury, 2013

Summary

Creator: Dewey, Ken

Title: Ken Dewey Collection

Date: 1943-1987 [bulk 1959-1972]

Size: 32 linear feet (69 boxes, 2 tubes)

Source: Donated by Ariane Dewey Dannasch; Christopher Dewey; and Suzette Dewey, 1991.

Abstract: Ken Dewey (1934-1972) was a performance artist, playwright, director, and arts administrator who was active in the Happenings movement of the 1960s. The Ken Dewey Collection contains project files, photographs and slides, and writings that represent Dewey's creative work; files that represent Dewey's work as an arts administrator at the American Cooperative Theatre, Action Theatre, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York State Commission on Cultural Resources, and the Planning Corporation of the Arts; material pertaining the exhibition Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey, a posthumous retrospective curated by Barbara Moore at Franklin Furnace in 1987; and a small amount of personal files and art by other artists.

Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and video materials in the series may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

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Preferred citation: Ken Dewey Collection, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Susan Malsbury, 2013 Material was reboxed and refoldered. Select slides were removed from carousels and put in archival sleeves. Original arrangement and folder titles were retained when apparent.

Related Materials:

Dewey, Kenneth/Selma Last Year Collection. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library.

Creator History

Ken Dewey (1934-1972) was a performance artist, playwright, director, and an arts administrator who was active in the Happenings movement of the 1960s. He was born on August 30, 1934 in Chicago, Illinois and attended Columbia University in the City of New York where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1959. While at Columbia University, he studied sculpture with Oronzio Mandarelli and playwriting with Theodore Apstein. After college, Dewey moved to San Francisco where he studied mime with R. G. Davis and dance with Anna Halprin. He became a member of the Actor's Workshop of San Francisco where he was an assistant director.

Dewey became interested in Happenings when he saw Robert Whitman's piece *American Moon* performed in 1962. Performative art like Happenings appealed to Dewey as he had always desired to take theater off of the stage and into the streets. Dewey used geography, social science, architecture, and technology in his work. His projects were often designed for a particular city and focused on that city's infrastructure, history, and culture. One of his first pieces was *City Scale*, a series of musical and theatrical events that took participants to various locations around San Francisco.

The majority of his early work focused on European cities where he lived from 1963 to 1964. He founded two companies to support his art, the American Cooperative Theatre (ACT) in 1961, and Action Theatre in 1965. ACT was a theater collective co-founded with Lee Breuer, R. G. Davis, and Anna Halprin. Action Theatre was a corporation formed solely by Dewey for the purpose of acting as a business entity through which to initiate and produce his projects. In addition to his Happenings, he wrote short stories, poems, and plays.

Notable works of Dewey included *Summer Scene* (1964) in Jyväskylä, Finland, where 1200 people played capture-the-flag in groups led by composers, and *Street Piece* (1963) in Helsinki, where he scored eighteen events that would happen in one hour in the center of the city. Dewey achieved notoriety through his piece at the 1963 Edinburgh Festival Drama Conference which challenged Britain's nudity laws by having a nude model pulled across the stage. In Dewey's first New York City production, *Without & Within* (1965) at the Palm Garden Ballroom, he divided audience members into two teams who played a giant game of tug-of-war. Though he traveled extensively, he remained in New York for the rest of his life.

In 1966, Dewey became a staff member at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). While at NYSCA he held the positions director of program development and director of research. In 1970, he was appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller to serve on the New York State Commission on Cultural Resources, a temporary state commission started by Rockefeller to study the current and long-range fiscal needs of cultural institutions. That same year he was also director of Planning Corporation of the Arts, a one-year research project, partially funded by the NYSCA, into the role of arts in a democracy.

Dewey died in 1972 in a plane crash. A posthumous retrospective of his work *Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey* was curated by Barbara Moore at the Franklin Furnace Archive in 1987.

Scope and Content Note

The Ken Dewey Collection contains project files, photographs and slides, and writings that represent Dewey's work as a director, film maker, performance artist, and writer; files that represent Dewey's work as an arts administrator at the American Cooperative Theatre, Action Theatre, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York State Commission on Cultural Resources, and the Planning Corporation of the Arts; material pertaining the exhibition *Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey*, a posthumous retrospective curated by Barbara Moore at Franklin Furnace in 1987; and a small amount of personal files and art by other artists.

The project files and arts administration files make up the bulk of the collection. Project files consist of contracts, correspondence, diagrams, news clippings, photographs, posters, and scripts that represent Dewey's appearances, Happenings, and plays. His work is further documented by slides and photographs. Dewey's writing is represented in an extensive run of notebooks that contain diary entries, college writings, short stories, plot logs, and scripts and typescript drafts of short stories, scripts, and poems. There is a small amount of correspondence that is both personal and professional. Additional personal material includes resumes, subject files, and printed material. Files for the *Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey* exhibit include diagrams used in Dewey's works, photographs, posters, and Barbara Moore's curatorial comments. The collection contains a small amount of art by other artists.

Inquiries regarding audio and video materials may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Key Terms

Subjects

Arts, Modern -- 20th century
Conceptual art
Happening (Art)
Performance art
Theater

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Diaries
Drawings
Engravings
Photographs
Posters
Prompt books
Scripts
Sheet music
Slides
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names

Donner, Henrik Otto, 1939-
Kaprow, Allan
Moore, Barbara, 1936-
Rabe, Folke, 1935-
Riley, Terry, 1935-

Action Theatre
Actor's Workshop (San Francisco)
American Cooperative Theatre
Avant Garde Festival of New York
New York (State). Commission on Cultural Resources
New York State Council on the Arts
Planning Corporation of the Arts

Container List

Series I: Personal and Performance Files 1943-1972 (47 boxes)

This series is divided into five subseries: I. A. Actor's Workshop, I. B. Correspondence, I. C. Photographs, I. D. Project Files, I. E. Personal Files, and I. F. Writings.

I. A. Actor's Workshop 1959-1961 (1 box)

The Actor's Workshop files represent Dewey's role as an assistant director from 1959 to 1961. The files include administrative files, correspondence, and production files. The Cue 13 Revue was a benefit held for the Actor's Workshop where Dewey performed.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Administrative Files 1960**
- b. 1 f. 2 **Cue 13 Review** undated
- b. 1 f. 3 **Light Class** undated
- b. 1 f. 4 **Printed Material 1959-1960**
- Productions**
- b. 1 f. 5 *Jack and Chairs* 1959
Opened December 18, 1959.
- b. 1 f. 6 *Devil's Disciple* 1960
Opened January 15, 1960.
- b. 1 f. 7 *Birthday Party* 1960
Opened July 14, 1960.
- b. 1 f. 8-9 *Twinkling of an Eye* 1961
Opened January 11, 1961.
- b. 1 f. 10 *The Maids* 1961
Opened March 1, 1961.
- b. 1 f. 11-12 *No Exit* undated
Unproduced.

I. B. Correspondence 1959-1972 (3 boxes)

The correspondence came previously arranged in two groupings, a chronological run and an alphabetical run. The correspondence is both personal and professional; correspondents included friends and family members, collaborators, and other artists. Correspondence from 1962 details his work at and departure from the Actor's Workshop and the beginnings of the American Cooperative Theatre, while correspondence from 1963 to 1965 details his life and artistic pursuits abroad in Finland, Italy, and Sweden.

- b. 2 f. 1-5 **1961-1969**
- b. 3 f. 1-3 **1970-1972, undated**
- b. 3 f. 4 **Bark, Jan 1963-1965**
- b. 3 f. 5 **Bedford, David 1964**
- b. 3 f. 6 **Boyle, Mark and Joan Hills 1965**
- b. 3 f. 7 **Brockman, John 1966, undated**
- b. 3 f. 8 **Burger, Anne and Bernard 1963-1966**
- b. 3 f. 9 **Calder, John and Bettina Jonic 1963-1967**
- b. 3 f. 10 **Cameron, Elaine undated**
- b. 3 f. 11 **Cardew, Cornelius 1964**
- b. 3 f. 12 **Chen, Kitty 1965**
- b. 3 f. 13 **Donner, Jorn 1964**
- b. 3 f. 14 **Donner, Otto 1963**

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. B. Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 15 Faisen, Helene Ellen undated
Includes photographs.
- b. 3 f. 16 Freudenberg, Michael 1964
- b. 3 f. 17 Gimberg, Birgitta 1964
- b. 3 f. 18 Harper, Don 1966-1967
- b. 3 f. 19 Hellner, Ingegerd 1964
- b. 3 f. 20 Holmgrist, Bengt 1963-1964
- b. 3 f. 21 Clotilde, Joano undated
- b. 3 f. 22 Jones, Brooks 1966
- b. 3 f. 23 Kaprow, Allan 1964
- b. 3 f. 24 Konigsberg, Frank 1965
- b. 3 f. 25 Laings, Wendy 1965
- b. 3 f. 26 Leo, Mona 1964
- b. 3 f. 27 Leth, Jorgen 1964
- b. 3 f. 28 Lind, Pi 1964-1967
- b. 3 f. 29 Lindegard, Lena 1964
- b. 4 f. 1 Marowitz, Charles 1964
- b. 4 f. 2 Nordwall, Trygve 1964
- b. 4 f. 3 Nosei, Annina 1964-1965
- b. 4 f. 4 Ono, Yoko 1964
- b. 4 f. 5 Pallemberg, Rospo 1964
- b. 4 f. 6 Phillips, James 1965
- b. 4 f. 7 Pieterse, Richard A 1965
- b. 4 f. 8 Rabe, Folke 1964-1967
- b. 4 f. 9 Reich, John 1962
- b. 4 f. 10 Rooke, Bengt 1964
- b. 4 f. 11 Russell, Collette 1965
- b. 4 f. 12 Schnall, Solange 1963
- b. 4 f. 13 Schwarzberg, Leonard 1964
- b. 4 f. 14 Sjoberg, Aklf 1964
- b. 4 f. 15 Slattne, Carl 1964
- b. 4 f. 16 Smyth, Mandy 1965
- b. 4 f. 17 Spahn, Dick 1959
- b. 4 f. 18 Stenius, Christina 1964
- b. 4 f. 19 Valdean, L 1960
- b. 4 f. 20 van der Post, Laurens 1964
- b. 4 f. 21 White, Michael 1964
- b. 4 f. 22 Not Sent 1964

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. C. Photographs circa 1960-1972 (9 boxes)

The photographs are arranged by format. The majority of photographs and slides are by Dewey. The prints were unsorted, but the majority of the slides were boxed and numbered by Dewey according to the Dennis Kitz system, an alphanumeric system. Both the prints and slides contain document rehearsals and productions of Dewey's various projects. Also documented is Allan Kaprow's *Happening*, *Gas*, and trips to upstate New York, Martinique, St. Croix, and Africa. Subjects include Ellen Faison, John Hightower, Leil Lowndes, Don McLean, Yvette Nachmias, Clarence Schmidt, Allan Schoener, Enrique Vargas, members of the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Floating Lotus Opera Company. Some slides are composed of paper or transparencies that have been augmented with holes or slashes and appear to have been used in performances as background graphics. The chronology of Dewey's work contains slides that depict both his artistic and his arts administration work in chronological order. Additional photographs can be found in Subseries I. D. Project Files.

- b. 4 f. 23-27 Prints circa 1960-1972
- b. 5 f. 1 Negatives undated
 - Slides
 - b. 5 f. 2-6 AA1-BQ18 circa 1960-1972
 - b. 6 f. 1-5 BQ19-CR24 circa 1960-1972
 - b. 7 f. 1-3 CR25-FA21 circa 1960-1972
 - b. 54 CS98S-FI41S circa 1960-1972
 - b. 55 FJ22S-FZ2S circa 1960-1972
 - b. 56 GA37S-GQ17S circa 1960-1972
 - b. 57 GR53S-HG8S circa 1960-1972
 - b. 58 HH40S-Hx17S circa 1960-1972
 - b. 59 IJ45-IP43S circa 1960-1972
- b. 53 f. 1-5 Chronology of Dewey's Work 1962-1971
 - Poster 1971 August
 - Contains a slide of Dewey mounted on foamboard. C12 THE Drawers 19
- b. 59 Unnumbered circa 1960-1972
- b. 7 f. 4-5 Unnumbered circa 1960-1972

I. D. Project Files 1969-1972 (20 boxes)

The project files are arranged in chronological order and represent plays, Happenings, and lectures. The files also represent creative promotions and events that Dewey produced for corporate clients. The files contain contracts, correspondence, diagrams, news clippings, photographs, posters, and scripts. The diagrams provide a visual mapping of a Happening including performers, sound and visuals, and the chronology of these elements. Files for *Breathing Piece Lund* and *Summer Scene* contain police reports demonstrating the often riotous reactions to Dewey's work. The Family of Man Awards Dinner includes lithography blocks and *Close Up Shot* includes a linocut block. Select diagrams, instructions, and photographs were removed for the *Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey* exhibit (Series V.). Unidentified material, such as instructions, notes, props, and scripts, could not be identified with a particular project including a scroll titled "Declaration of Life and Bill of Cultural rights."

- b. 7 f. 6 Reductions of Diagrams 1962-1967
- 1959
- b. 8 f. 1-3 *One Tongue, Game of Chess, and Close Up Shot* 1959 March-April (San Francisco. One act plays at the International House Drama Group that Dewey directed. Includes a signed sketch by Robert LaVigne, 1959.)
 - b. 8 f. 4-6 *One Tongue, Game of Chess, and Close Up Shot* 1959 March-April
 - Includes photographs.

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. D. Project Files (cont.)

1959 (cont.)

b. 9 f. 1-2 *One Tongue, Game of Chess, and Close Up Shot* 1959 March-April
Includes photographs.

b. 53 f. 7-9 *One Tongue, Game of Chess, and Close Up Shot* 1959 March-April
Framed announcement and printing plate.

1962

b. 9 f. 3-10 *The Gift* 1961 March
San Francisco. Environmental theater piece adapted to five indoor and outdoor street locations. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition

b. 10 f. 1-6 *The Gift* 1961 March

b. 10 f. 7-10 *The Apple* 1962 July
Los Angeles. Jack Gelber play at the Actor's Theater directed by Dewey.

b. 11 f. 1-14 *The Apple* 1962 July
Includes photographs.

b. 62 *The Apple* undated (Negative)

1963

b. 12 f. 1 *City Scale* undated
San Francisco. Citywide tour and Happening produced by the San Francisco Tape Music Center. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition

b. 12 f. 2-5 *Mo/ot Roach* 1963 May
Zagreb. Musical environment event produced with the Student Film Society. Dewey wrote the score and directed.

b. 12 f. 6-7 *5 Legged Stool* 1963 March-June
North American and European tour of dance choreographed and produced by the Dancers' Workshop Company.

5 Legged Stool undated (Lighting Diagram)
C12 THE Drawers 18

b. 12 f. 10-12 *After the Candies*
Rome. One act play written and directed by Dewey.

b. 13 f. 1-8 *The Gift* 1963 July
Paris. Theater event utilizing jazz, mobile structures, and dance for the Theatre des Nationals Festival. Includes photographs. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition.

The Gift 1963 July (Poster. C12 THE Drawers 18)

b. 13 f. 9-16 *Street Piece* 1963 August
Helsinki. Collaboration with Terry Riley and Henrik Otto Donner. Happening utilizing jazz, ballet, and visual events produced with the Finnish Student Theatre. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition

b. 14 f. 1 *Trim(?)ers* 1963 August
Score for a piano. Unproduced.

b. 14 f. 2-3 *Event for Johanna* 1963 August
Helsinki. Instructions for Happenings printed in the Nya Pressen newspaper.

b. 14 f. 4-8 *In Memory of Big Ed* 1963 September
Edinbergh. Happening performed at the International Drama Conference involving absurdist dialogue, visual and musical events, and a nude model. Collaboration with Allan Kaprow. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition

t. 70 *In Memory of Big Ed* 1963 September (Poster)

b. 14 f. 9 *Happenings and Such* undated
Stockholm. Lecture at the Music Conervatory.

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. D. Project Files (cont.)

1963 (cont.)

- b. 14 f. 10-12 *Serata in Famiglia, Lezione di Fisica, Pover a Juliet, and Lo Scivolo* 1963
October
Palermo. Three one act plays and one mime directed and produced by Dewey for the 4th International Festival of Palermo.
- b. 68 *Serata in Famiglia, Lezione di Fisica, Pover a Juliet, and Lo Scivolo* 1963
October (Poster)
- t. 69 *Serata in Famiglia, Lezione di Fisica, Pover a Juliet, and Lo Scivolo* 1963
October (Posters)
- b. 15 f. 1-4 *Misurando Roma: Groto Rosa, Pressless Conference, and Sente* 1963
November
Rome. A series of related theater events and happenings involving a quarry, opera singers, teletype machines, street messages, and jazz produced by Dewey.
- b. 15 f. 5-9 *Bone and Stone* 1963 November
Rome. One act mime play directed and produced by Dewey.
- t. 69 *Cargo* undated (Diagram)
Unproduced.
- 1964
- b. 15 f. 10-12 *Scorpionen* 1964 February
Helsinki. Play by Markku Lahtela, produced by Lilla Teatera, and directed by Dewey.
- b. 15 f. 13 *Studio Theatre Piece* 1964 February
Helsinki. Workshop and direction at the Finnish Student Theatre. Includes negatives.
- b. 15 f. 14 *Program Note* 1964 February
Helsinki. Comments on new theater accompanying productions of the Finnish Student Theatre.
- b. 15 f. 15-17 *Museum Piece* 1964 April
Stockholm. Environmental happening for Moderna Museet involving rituals, music, and dance events. Includes photographs. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- t. 69 *Museum Piece* 1964 April (Poster)
- b. 15 f. 18 *Professor's Canteen Piece* 1964 May
Oslo. Lecture and happening for Norsk Musikkstudenes.
- b. 15 f. 19 *Small Hunt* undated
Stockholm. Lecture at the Music High School.
- b. 15 f. 20 *Smiles* 1964 July
Stockholm. Performance piece performed by Pistol Theatre.
- b. 16 f. 1-3 *Breathing Piece Lund* 1964 July
Happening involving theater, music events, and sculpture at the University of Lund. Collaboration with Norman Tolbert and Bengt Rooke.
- b. 16 f. 4-8 *Through Some Changes* undated
Copenhagen. Environmental happening involving divergent architectural phenomena, theater, and music commissioned by Den Dansk Studentenscene. Includes photographs.
- b. 16 f. 9-13 *Summer Scene* 1964 July
Jyväskylä. Lecture series and large scale happening involving musical and event abstractions surrounding a game of capture the flag. Commissioned for the Jyväskylä Musical Festival. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- b. 61 *Summer Scene* undated (Diagram)
- b. 68 *Summer Scene* undated (Diagram)
- b. 16 f. 14 *The Man Who Abandoned Cars* undated
Stockholm. Television program commissioned by Sveriges Radio AB, Stockholm. Includes photographs.

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. D. Project Files (cont.)

1964 (cont.)

- b. 17 f. 1-3 *The Man Who Abandoned Cars* undated
- b. 17 f. 4 *Coin Piece* 1964 October
Stockholm. Musical performance for Music Academy students as benefit for Peru University involving sculpture, music and coins thrown by audience.
- b. 17 f. 5-7 *Vaxlingar* 1964 November
Stockholm. Theater piece at the Pistol Theater. Includes photographs and slides.
- b. 17 f. 8-9 *Pulses 4* 1964 December
Stockholm. Music dialogue with city sounds, organized by Music Academy.
- b. 18 f. 1-2 *Non Stops* undated
Stockholm. Theater events for marathon performances at Pistol Theater.
- b. 18 f. 3 *Exit Music* 1964 December
London. Environmental happening including city tour. Commissioned as benefit for proposed Camden Playhouse. Collaboration with Mark Boyle and Jerry Walter.

1965

- b. 18 f. 4 *Happenings* 1965 February
Lake Forest College. Lecture and demonstration.
- b. 18 f. 5-8 *Without & Within* 1965 June
New York City. Happening that included music, games, ritual, and dance at the Palm Gardens Ballroom. See: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- b. 18 f. 9-16 *Cincinnati Journey* 1965
- b. 68 *Cincinnati Journey* undated (Maps)
Cincinnati. Alternately called That Happening. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- b. 19 f. 1-5 *Sames* 1965 November
New York City. Multimedia piece involving live and filmed brides and sound for the Expanded Cinema Festival. Collaboration with Terry Riley. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- b. 19 f. 6-7 *Decorator's Party* 1965 December
Atlantic City. Theater games and events oriented party for client's weekend.

1966

- b. 19 f. 8 *Entrance Environment* 1966 February
Chicago. An arrangement of objects, projections, light and original music conceived as a bridge between the 17th and 20th Centuries. Installed in the corridors of the Saarinen building of the University of Chicago.
- b. 19 f. 10 *Selma Last Year* 1966 March
Chicago. Exhibition involving audio recordings, photographs, and slides about the Selma march commemorating the first anniversary of the marches. Installed at the First Unitarian Church, the University of Chicago, the Neighborhood Center, and the Harper Court shopping center.
- b. 19 f. 11 *Nine Evenings: Art and Science* 1966 July
New York City. Proposed arts and science performances at the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair Hall of Science. Unproduced.
- b. 19 f. 12-13 *Scott Paper Company* 1966 November

1967

- b. 19 f. 14-15 *Mixed Media Helicopter* 1967 January
New York City. New Year's Eve event in Central Park. Includes photographs.
- b. 20 f. 1 *Orpheus* 1967 January
Chicago. A one act opera by John Austin, directed by Dewey, produced by the Chicago Opera Theater.

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. D. Project Files (cont.)

1967 (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 2 *July 4th: 3 Car* 1967 July
Woodstock. Outdoor theater event utilizing performers and ritualized auto demolition derby for Group 212. Alternately called Red, White, and Blue Car Collision. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- b. 20 f. 3 *Electric Circus* undated
New York City. Stage management for opening of Film and Light festival in Central Park.
- b. 20 f. 4-6 *Fireboat* undated
New York City. Installation of colored lights and manipulation of spray patterns on fireboat off of Battery Park for the Avant Garde Festival.
- b. 20 f. 7-8 *Portrait* undated
New York City. Exhibit of photographs about children using the Clinton Neighborhood Youth Center for a benefit sponsored by CBS.

1968

- b. 20 f. 9-12 *Elm City Garage Works* 1968 February-April
New York. Multimedia environmental installation that toured around the state of New York as part of Intermedia '68, sponsored by the State University, National Council on the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. Includes photographs. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
- b. 21 f. 1 *Elm City Garage Works* 1968 February-April
- b. 60 *Elm City Garage Works* undated (Stamp)
Elm City Garage Works undated (Poster)
C12 THE Drawers 18
- b. 21 f. 2 *The Gift* 1968 August
Upper Black Eddy. Presentation of play at the Sun Dance Festival.
- b. 21 f. 3-6 *Family of Man Awards Dinner* 1968 October
New York City. Multimedia presentation for annual event sponsored by the Family of Man Society. Includes photographs.
- b. 60 *Family of Man Awards Dinner* undated (Printing plates)

1969

- b. 22 f. 1-4 *Trade Mart* 1969 January
Chicago. Multimedia presentation for Monsanto introducing new product (Cadon) and spring campaign (Acrylan) to trade at Merchandise Mart.
- b. 22 f. 5 *Harlem on My Mind* 1969 January
New York. Dewey assisted with editing the record and educational film strip accompanying the Metropolitan Museum exhibit of the same name. Includes photographs.
- b. 22 f. 7 *Night Eye Fire* 1969 June
San Francisco. Television production commissioned by the Dilexi Foundation. Includes photographs.
- b. 22 f. 6 *Action Theatre Parade* 1969 September
New York. A parade down Central Park West for the Avant Garde Festival.

1970

- b. 22 f. 9 *Dicelife Foundation* 1970 October
New York City. Installation at the Skyline Ballroom.

1971

- b. 22 f. 10 *Glider* 1971 November
New York City. Installation at the 69th Infantry Regiment Armory for the Avant Garde Festival. Alternately called Docking. See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition

1972

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. D. Project Files (cont.)

1972 (cont.)

- b. 23 f. 1-2 *Make it Yourself at Zelf* 1972 February
New York City. A work in progress performance at Finch College. Includes photographs.
See also: Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition
Make it Yourself at Zelf undated (Photographs)
C12 THE Drawers 18
- b. 23 f. 3 *Farewell Uncle Tom* undated
New York City. Editing and shooting additional footage for film produced by the Cannon Group, Inc.
- b. 23 f. 4-7 Unidentified 1961-1969
Includes unfinished or unnamed projects.
- b. 60 Unidentified undated (Golf balls)
- b. 61 Unidentified undated
- b. 65 Unidentified undated
- t. 70 Unidentified undated (Diagram and collage posters.)

I. E. Personal Files 1943-1972 (3 boxes)

The personal files are arranged in alphabetical order. These files consist of subject files, appearances made by Dewey, and conferences and events he attended. The file on International House regards a tour Dewey managed as an undergraduate at Columbia for international performers.

- b. 24 f. 1 Arts and the Inner City Conference (Chicago) 1968
- b. 24 f. 2 Autosuggestion undated
- b. 24 f. 3 Aviation 1965
- b. 24 f. 4 Chessman, Caryl 1960
- b. 24 f. 5 Chicago Freedom Rally and March 1966
- b. 24 f. 6 Committee for John and Yoko 1972
- b. 24 f. 7 Crystal Palace (St. Louis) 1963
- b. 24 f. 8 Dancers Workshop 1962-1963
- b. 24 f. 9-10 Environmental Arts 1967-1968
- b. 24 f. 11 Filmmakers Cinematheque undated
- b. 24 f. 12 Ford Foundation 1960-1966
- b. 24 f. 13 Forum '68: Arts of Confrontation Church and Culture 1968
- b. 24 f. 14 Ghetto Arts Program undated
- b. 24 f. 15 Goodman Theatre 1971
- b. 24 f. 16-18 Group 212 1968
- b. 24 f. 19 Group Meetings 1960
- b. 24 f. 20 Growth/Dependence 1966
- b. 24 f. 21 Happenings 1966-1967
- b. 24 f. 22 Identification Cards 1951-1970
- b. 25 f. 1 Indian Affairs 1971
- b. 25 f. 2-4 International House 1958
Includes photographs.
- b. 25 f. 5 Interviews 1966-1967, undated
- b. 25 f. 6 Jewish Museum 1969
- b. 25 f. 7 Kennedy, David--Correspondence 1943

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. E. Personal Files (cont.)

- b. 25 f. 8-11 Lower East Side 1966
- b. 25 f. 12 Nine Evenings: Theater and Engineering 1966
- b. 25 f. 13-15 Parks 1966, undated
- b. 25 f. 16-17 Playwriting 1958-1963
- b. 25 f. 18-19 Police 1965-1966
- b. 25 f. 20 Potential Projects 1966
- b. 25 f. 21 Presbyterian Center (Georgia) 1968
- Published Works
- All works are inscribed to Dewey.
- b. 32 *The Apple by Jack Gelb* 1960
- b. 32 *Cripple Mah and the New Order by C. Y. Lee* 1962
- b. 32 *Journey to the Surface of the Earth by Mark Boyle* 1970
- b. 32 *The Magic Theater by Ralph T. Coe* 1970
- b. 25 f. 22 Radio Appearances 1965
- b. 25 f. 23 Reports 1968
- b. 25 f. 24-25 Resumes undated
- b. 26 f. 1 Rockland Community College 1968
- b. 26 f. 2 Rome 1964, undated
- b. 26 f. 3 Salzburg Conference 1971
- b. 26 f. 4 Space undated
- b. 26 f. 5 Statements 1971
- b. 26 f. 6 Stony Brook State University of New York 1968
- b. 26 f. 7 Swedish Broadcasting Company 1966
- b. 26 f. 8 Tape Gallery undated
- b. 26 f. 9 Theater Projects 1971
- b. 26 f. 10 University of Cincinnati undated
- b. 26 f. 11 Vietnam 1966

I. F. Writing 1952-1969 (11 boxes)

The writings are arranged in alphabetical order followed by a run of notebooks and unsorted material. Writings consist of poems, short stories, and play scripts. Notebooks contain diary entries, college writings, short stories, plot logs, and scripts. Many include both personal entries and ideas and sketches in one book. Often ephemeral artifacts, such as postcards, tickets, and other mementos, are interleaved. Many of the notebooks represent his travels, including an early European trip he took in 1952.

- b. 26 f. 12 Act of San Francisco 1963
- b. 26 f. 13 Among Other Miracles undated
- b. 26 f. 14 Art Voices: Score for Readers 1966
- b. 26 f. 15 Articulations 1966
- b. 26 f. 16 Billy undated
- b. 26 f. 17 Born of Shadows 1958
- b. 26 f. 18 Cave Drawings undated
- b. 26 f. 19 A Certain Change undated
- b. 26 f. 20 Chair 1961

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. F. Writing (cont.)

- b. 26 f. 21 A Conversation About Death and Other Images undated
- b. 26 f. 22-23 Cyanide Engagement 1960-1961
- b. 26 f. 24 Daddy's Assassin undated
- b. 26 f. 25 Darkness undated
- b. 26 f. 26 The Dream 1952
- b. 26 f. 27 Figurine for Grace Kelly undated
- b. 26 f. 28 For A Film undated
- b. 26 f. 29 Ghosts and Other Shades of Doubt undated
- b. 26 f. 30 Government undated
- b. 27 f. 1 Happenings undated
- b. 27 f. 2 Harry and the Girl undated
- b. 27 f. 3 Helsinki undated
- b. 27 f. 4 Home of the Brave undated
- b. 27 f. 5 House of Carleton Stanley undated
- b. 27 f. 6 Human Being 1961
- b. 27 f. 7 I Wait undated
- b. 27 f. 8 Interlude undated
- b. 27 f. 9 It's Certain undated
- b. 27 f. 10 Journal: My Trip Abroad 1952
- b. 27 f. 11 Journal of Vengeance undated
- b. 27 f. 12 Life at the Cannery 1961
- b. 27 f. 13 Little Barbara undated
- b. 27 f. 14 M. Davids undated
- b. 27 f. 15-16 Mart of Addenda 1961
- b. 27 f. 17 The Martin undated
- b. 27 f. 18 Matter of Force 1955
- b. 27 f. 19 Moment Returned undated
- b. 27 f. 20 Mooney Trip undated
- b. 27 f. 21-22 Night of the Runner 1960-1965
- b. 28 f. 1-4 Night of the Runner 1960-1965
- b. 28 f. 5-6 Nina East undated
- b. 28 f. 7 Off Campus undated
- b. 28 f. 8 On Growing Up and War undated
- b. 28 f. 9 On Tipping undated
- b. 28 f. 10 On William undated
- b. 28 f. 11 Operation Chowder Fodder 1965
- b. 28 f. 12 The Pearl Street Dog undated
- b. 28 f. 13 Plight of the Young 1956
- b. 28 f. 14 The Prominence 1958
- b. 29 f. 1-2 Random Thursday 1959
- b. 29 f. 3 Roller One 1971-1972

Series I: Personal and Performance Files (cont.)

I. F. Writing (cont.)

- b. 29 f. 4 Sadness of Christmas 1955
- b. 29 f. 5 Seagull undated
- b. 29 f. 6 The Second Trial of Santa Claus 1955
- b. 29 f. 7 Sometimes Even Always Odd 1961
- b. 29 f. 8 Spring Rains to Come 1961
- b. 29 f. 9 The Squeeze undated
- b. 29 f. 10 Sputnik and You 1957
- b. 29 f. 11 Stage Fright 1957
- b. 29 f. 12-14 The Supplanted undated
- b. 29 f. 15 Time 1966
- b. 29 f. 16 Tove undated
- b. 29 f. 17 Turner and Dormin undated
- b. 29 f. 18 The Victors undated
- b. 29 f. 19 Visit to Schell's Room undated
- b. 29 f. 20 A Way Out undated
- b. 29 f. 21 The Wedding of Times undated
- b. 29 f. 22 Weekend Dinner Party undated
- b. 29 f. 23 What Came Between undated
- b. 30 f. 1 Winter Conception undated
- b. 30 f. 2-3 Without 1957
- b. 30 f. 4 The Yard undated
- b. 30 f. 5-6 X-ings 1965
- b. 31 Notebooks 1952-1961
- b. 32 Notebooks 1952-1961
- b. 63 Notebooks 1952-1961
- b. 64 Notebooks 1952-1961
- b. 33 f. 1-10 Unsorted 1955-1969
- b. 34 f. 1-11 Unsorted 1955-1969

Series II: Arts Administration 1961-1972 (18 boxes)

This series is arranged by organization. The American Cooperative Theatre (ACT) was founded as a cooperative theater and Dewey still performed under the moniker after the organization had dissolved. ACT files include correspondence with founding members and information sheets for various productions. The Action Theater files contain correspondence and files regarding *Trade Mart* and *Harlem on My Mind*. The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) files contains administrative and subject files; chronological files consisting of correspondence and memoranda; and files for projects sponsored NYSCA including the New York Avant Garde Festival, a study on the Erie Canal, *Hudson Troubadour*, and *Intermedia '68*. Appropriation grants detail financial awards given by the council. The New York State Commission on Cultural Resources contains research files and material regarding trips Dewey took in his capacity as commissioner around New York state to visit local art and cultural institutions, community leaders, and legislators. The files for the Planning Corporation of the Arts (PCA), a study that was partially funded by NYSCA, consist of correspondence, transcripts of interviews, reports and summaries from PCA's various committees, and drafts of the final report.

American Cooperative Theatre

- b. 35 f. 1 General undated
- b. 35 f. 2 Contacts 1962

Series II: Arts Administration (cont.)
American Cooperative Theatre (cont.)

- b. 35 f. 3 Davis, R. G 1961-1962
- b. 35 f. 4 Defunct 1962
- b. 35 f. 5 Gloria Contreras Ballet Company 1962
- b. 35 f. 6-7 Halprin, Anna 1961-1962
- b. 35 f. 8 Partnership Agreements 1961-1962
- Action Theatre, Inc
- b. 35 f. 9-13 Chronological Files 1966-1970
- b. 35 f. 14-15 Film and Light Festival 1966-1967
- b. 36 f. 1-4 Film and Light Festival 1966-1967
- b. 36 f. 5 News Clippings 1965-1971
- New York State Council on the Arts
- b. 36 f. 6 Aid to Cultural Organizations 1970
- b. 36 f. 7-8 Appropriation 1970-1972
- b. 37 f. 1 Arlen, Ann 1970-1971
- b. 37 f. 2-3 Artists' Housing 1970
- b. 37 f. 4-6 The Arts 1970
- b. 37 f. 7 Associated Council of the Arts 1971
- b. 37 f. 8 Avant Garde Festival 1972
- b. 37 f. 9 Brochures 1960-1971
- b. 38 f. 1-3 Business and the Arts 1970
- b. 38 f. 4 Censorship 1970
- b. 38 f. 5-9 Chronological Files 1971-1970
- b. 39 f. 1-5 Chronological Files 1970-1968
- b. 39 f. 6 Columbia Presbyterian 1969
- b. 39 f. 7 Community Development Agency 1970
- b. 39 f. 8 Contracts 1970
- b. 39 f. 9 Cultural Affairs Office 1972
- b. 39 f. 10 Education and the Arts Conference (St. Louis) 1970
- b. 39 f. 11 Environment undated
- b. 39 f. 12 Erie Canal Study 1966
- b. 62 Erie Canal Study undated (Photograph album)
- b. 39 f. 13 Ghetto Arts Panel 1970
- b. 39 f. 14 Governor's Conference 1969-1970
- b. 39 f. 15 Happenings 1970
- b. 39 f. 16 Harris, Harry 1970
- b. 39 f. 17 Harvard Institute in Arts Administration 1970-1971
- b. 39 f. 18-19 Historical Data on the Arts 1969-1970
- b. 71 Hudson Troubadour 1968
Don McLean scrapbook and report
- b. 40 f. 1 Hudson Troubadour 1970
Includes photographs.
- b. 68 Hudson Troubadour undated (Poster)

Series II: Arts Administration (cont.)
New York State Council on the Arts (cont.)

- b. 40 f. 2-3 Indians 1971
- b. 40 f. 4 Inner City Arts 1968
- b. 40 f. 5 Institute for Contemporary Art (Boston) 1970-1971
- b. 40 f. 6-8 Interim Report 1970-1971
- b. 40 f. 9-11 Intermedia '68 1968
 - b. 62 Intermedia '68 1968 (Production binder)
- b. 40 f. 12 Lennon, John and Yoko Ono 1971-1972
- b. 40 f. 13 Lyons, Oren 1970-1972
- b. 40 f. 14 McHale, John undated
- b. 40 f. 15 Media Conference (Goddard College) 1970-1971
 - Members undated (Photographs on posterboard)
 - C12 THE Drawers 19
- b. 41 f. 1-7 Minutes 1970-1971
 - b. 41 f. 8 Museums 1970-1972
 - b. 41 f. 9 National Endowment for the Arts 1970-1971
 - b. 41 f. 10 The New School--Arts Administration Course 1970
 - b. 41 f. 11 New York Civil Liberties Union 1971-1972
 - b. 41 f. 12 Norway 1971
 - b. 41 f. 13 Program and Contract Cards 1969-1970
- b. 41 f. 14-15 Program Development 1967-1970
 - b. 41 f. 16 Radich, Stephen 1970
- b. 42 f. 1-2 Reich, Charles 1970
 - b. 42 f. 3 Rockefeller Family Fund 1970-1971
 - b. 42 f. 4 Ross, Simon 1971
 - b. 42 f. 5 Safe Return: Committee in Support of Semi-Retired Veterans 1972
- b. 42 f. 6-7 Salzburg Seminar in American Studies 1971
 - b. 42 f. 8 Santa Cruz (University of California) 1970
 - b. 42 f. 9 Sensory Experiences undated
 - b. 42 f. 10 The Space 1971
 - b. 42 f. 11 Space for Innovative Development 1971
 - b. 42 f. 12 Speeches 1969
 - b. 42 f. 13 Staff Reorganization 1969-1970
- b. 43 f. 1 Starkey, Alex 1971-1972
- b. 43 f. 2 Statements 1970-1971
- b. 43 f. 3 Stern, Gerd 1971-1972
- b. 43 f. 4-7 Study 1970-1971
 - b. 43 f. 8 Subway Projects 1970
 - b. 43 f. 9 Survey for Art and Library Planning in New York State Correctional Institutions 1968-1969
 - b. 43 f. 10 Technology 1969-1970
 - b. 43 f. 11 Theatre 1972
 - b. 43 f. 12 United States Information Agency 1972

Series II: Arts Administration (cont.)
New York State Council on the Arts (cont.)

- b. 43 f. 13 Upstate Contacts 1969
- b. 43 f. 14 Urban Arts Corporation 1970-1971
- b. 43 f. 15 Urban Development 1971
- b. 43 f. 16 Video Arts Program 1970
- b. 43 f. 17 Wadsworth, Anne 1969
- b. 43 f. 18 Wampum 1969-1972
- b. 44 f. 1 Wampum 1969-1972
- b. 44 f. 2 Westbeth Seminar 1977
- b. 44 f. 3 White House 1971-1972
- b. 44 f. 4 WNYC 1970

New York State Commission on Cultural Resources

- b. 44 f. 5 General 1970-1971
- b. 44 f. 6 Cultural Commission Brooklyn Hearings 1971-1972
- b. 44 f. 7-8 Correspondence and Memoranda 1970-1971
- b. 45 f. 1-4 Executive Meetings 1970-1971
- b. 45 f. 5 Lincoln Center--Tour 1970
- b. 61 Membership Certificate 1970
- b. 45 f. 6 New York State Council on the Arts 1970
- b. 45 f. 7 Printed Material 1972
- b. 46 f. 4-5 Recommendations 1970-1971
- b. 45 f. 8-10 Reports 1971
- b. 46 f. 1-3 Reports 1971
- b. 46 f. 6-9 Research Files 1970-1971
- b. 47 f. 1-2 Research Files 1970-1971
- b. 47 f. 3-4 Seminars 1970-1971
- b. 47 f. 5-8 Trips 1970-1971

Planning Corporation of the Arts

- b. 48 f. 1 Associated Council of the Arts--Conference 1971
- b. 48 f. 2-4 Board Meetings 1971
- Committees
- b. 48 f. 5 General 1971
- b. 48 f. 6 Artists in Society 1971
- b. 48 f. 7 Arts in Education 1971
- b. 48 f. 8 The Case for Equity 1971
- b. 48 f. 9 The Case for Excellence 1971
- b. 48 f. 10 Executive 1971
- b. 49 f. 1 Finances 1971
- b. 49 f. 2 New Approaches and Technology 1971
- b. 49 f. 3 Structures 1971
- b. 49 f. 4 Ways and Means 1971
- b. 49 f. 5-6 Correspondence 1971-1972

Series II: Arts Administration (cont.)
Planning Corporation of the Arts (cont.)

- b. 50 f. 1-2 Debrief Tapes 1971
- b. 50 f. 3-5 Project Binders 1971
- b. 51 f. 1-2 Project Binders 1971
- b. 51 f. 3-5 Report 1971
- b. 51 f. 6-9 Retreat 1971
Includes photographs.
- b. 52 f. 1-2 Retreat 1971
- b. 52 f. 3 Special Projects 1971

Series III: Other Artists' Work 1959-1971 (2 boxes)

This series consists of scores, scripts, and works of art acquired by Dewey; the majority of works appear to have been gifted to Dewey. The Yoko Ono file contains Dewey's contribution to Ono's *Draw Circle* project. The general file contains programs for Happenings by other performance artists. The unidentified file contains sketches of animals, a print of a boat, and a collage by unidentified artists.

- b. 52 f. 4 General 1959-1965, undated
 - t. 69 Anderson, Maxell 1968 (Poster)
 - t. 69 Maciunas, George undated
Timeline titled "Diagram of the Historical Development of Fluxus and Other 4 Dimensional, Aural, Optic, Olfactory, Epithelial and Tactile Art Forms."
- b. 52 f. 5 Olzon, Staffan-- *Trespass* 1968 (Radio Script)
- b. 52 f. 6 Ono, Yoko 1964
- b. 52 f. 7 Prins, Ralph-- *Theater Fotos* 1971 (Exhibition Catalogue)
 - b. 62 Roos, Lise--Paper Cutout of Man and Woman undated
- b. 52 f. 8 Salmenhaara, Erkki--Cresendi and Concerto per due Violon 1962-1963 (Scores)
- b. 52 f. 9 Stoši_, Josip--Chatbooks 1963
- b. 52 f. 10 Vautier, Ben-- *Ben Dieu Art Sa Revue* undated (Artist Book)
 - b. 62 Unidentified undated
 - t. 69 Unidentified undated (Collage)

Series IV: Sound and Video recordings 1963-1987

Sound recordings consist of recordings of rehearsals, productions, and post-Happening discussions with audience members, participants, and staff members. Additionally, there are recordings of various noises and sound effects used in plays and performances. Most of his productions were recorded in some capacity and there are particularly extensive sound recordings for Dewey's corporate projects, *Trade Mart* (for Monsanto) and Scott Paper Company. There are also recordings of Dewey's monologues and radio appearances, and anti-Vietnam marches he attended in New York and California. Dewey recorded interviews and casual conversations with other artists and writers including Stella Adler, Jose Benardete, Leil Lowndes, John McHale, Don McLean, Bill Parsons, Folke Rabe, Carolee Schneeman, and Bill Turnbull, among others. The sound recordings contain musical performances by Folke Rabe and Terry Riley; poetry readings by Jim Brody, Allen Ginsberg, Judith Malina, Frank O'Hara, John Perant, and Tony Tole; a reading by Gore Vidal; a lecture by Allan Kaprow; and performances by Robert Chef, Al Hansen, and Emilio De La Vega. Additionally there are recordings of New York State Council on the Arts meeting and events, and the Planning Corporation of the Arts meetings, seminars, and retreat.

Video recordings consist of recordings of Dewey's Happenings and his film *The Man Who Abandoned Cars*; his piece for Yoko Ono's *This is Not Here* show at the Everson Museum; footage of protest marches used in *Selma Last Year*; and a recording of Dewey's memorial service. In addition to Dewey, videographers include Jerry Chalem, and Aldo Tambellini.

Inquiries regarding audio and video materials may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition 1962-1987 (4 boxes)

This series contains diagrams, photographs, news clippings, scripts, and Barbara Moore's curatorial comments used in the mounting of the *Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey* exhibit at the Franklin Furnace Archive in New York City. The exhibit included performance diagrams, instructions, and photographs of Dewey's. Photographs depict Dewey and others, the bulk of which are affixed to foamboard.

- b. 53 f. 6 Catalogue 1987
- b. 68 Chronology of Dewey's Work undated
- b. 61 Graph of Dewey's Work undated
 - Photographs 1971, undated
 - C12 THE Drawers 18
 - Exhibited Works
- b. 65 *Action Theatre Parade* 1969
- b. 65 *City Scale* 1963, 1987
- b. 65 *Docking* 1971
 - Alternately called Glider. See also: Subseries I. D. Project Files--Glider.
- b. 65 *Elm City Garage Works* 1968, 1987
- b. 66 *The Gift (Paris)* 1963, 1987
- b. 66 *The Gift (San Francisco)* 1962, 1987
- b. 66 *In Memory of Big Ed* 1963, 1987
- b. 66 *Make It Yourself at Zelf* 1972, 1987
- b. 68 *Make It Yourself at Zelf* 1972
 - Make It Yourself at Zelf* 1972 (Photographs)
 - C12 THE Drawers 18
- b. 66 *The Man Who Abandoned Cars* 1987
- b. 66 *Museum Piece* 1964, 1987

Series V: Action Theatre: The Happenings of Ken Dewey Exhibition (cont.)
Exhibited Works (cont.)

- b. 66 *Red, White and Blue Car Collision* 1967, 1987
 Alternately called July 4th: 3 Car.
- b. 67 *Sames* 1965, 1987
- b. 67 *Selma Last Year* 1987
- b. 67 *Street Piece* 1963, 1987
- b. 67 *Summer Scene* 1964, 1987
- t. 69 *Summer Scene* 1964 (Diagram)
- b. 67 *That Happening* 1987
 Alternately called Cincinnati Journey.
- b. 67 *Without and Within* 1965, 1987