THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS THE BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION

GEORGE OPPENHEIMER, 1900-1977 PAPERS, 1943-1977

```
8-MWEZ

+

n.c.

25,001

----

8-MWEZ

+

n.c.

25,011

(*T-Mss 1978-001)

MER
```

7/91

MAIN ENTRY: George Oppenheimer, 1900-1977

TITLE: Papers, 1943-1977

SIZE: 3 lin. ft.; 4 boxes, 7 scrapbooks

ACCESS: Unrestricted

SOURCE: Unknown

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT: George Oppenheimer, drama critic

was born in New York City on February 7, 1900. He was also co-

founder of Viking Press, a

screenwriter for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, a playwright, author and

editor. He wrote the play

Here Today (1932) and collaborated on numerous films, among them, Day at the Races, Broadway Melody of 1940, Two-Faced Woman and The War Against Mrs. Hadley for which he received an Oscar nomination. He also wrote The View From the Sixties

and The Passionate Playgoer. He died

on August 14, 1977.

DESCRIPTION: The papers of George Oppenheimer

consist of professional
correspondence, writings,

clippings, annotated programmes and scrapbooks. Of special note is the correspondence relating to his time

in India during World War II. There is a large portion of correspondence from famous

personalities of stage and screen.

INTRODUCTION

The George Oppenheimer Papers were transferred to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection about 1978. There is no further documentation as to the donation of these materials, however they were in good condition at the time of archival processing. Initial processing was done by Paul Myers during the late 1970's. Final arrangement and description was completed in 1991.

ARRANGEMENT NOTES

The George Oppenheimer Papers are arranged into 4 series. They are: 1. Correspondence; 2. Personal Papers; 3. Annotated Playbills; 4. Scrapbooks.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON GEORGE OPPENHEIMER

George Oppenheimer was born on February 7, 1900. He is best known as the drama critic for Newsday. He was also the co-founder of the Viking Press. His writing talents were multi-faceted; he was a playwright, screenwriter for MGM, an author and an editor. During the years 1970-1972 he was president of the New York Drama Critics Circle. His film credits include: Day at the Races, Broadway Melody of 1940, Two-Faced Woman, and The War Against Mrs. Hadley for which he received an Oscar nomination. He wrote for television as well and did numerous episodes of the series Topper. His books include: The View From the Sixties: Memories of a Spent Life and The Passionate Playgoer, among others.

During World War II he served under Lord Mountbatten in the India campaign. At this time he wrote a column for the army newspaper entitled "India Ink". He was a member of the First Motion picture Unit SEAC staff. Oppenheimer wrote, produced and directed training films and documentaties.

He was the drama critic for Newsday for many years and worked for the publication until his death. He died on August 14, 1977.

SCOPE NOTE

The George Oppenheimer papers consist of correspondence, clippings, writings, research notes, and annotated playbills from his professional career as a writer and drama critic. The papers span the years 1943-1977, though there is not much from his early professional career. Of special note is the correspondence from many famous personalities of stage and screen. The largest collection of letters are from Edna Ferber, and Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, however most of the letters are thank-you's for copies of his books or performance reviews.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I - CORRESPONDENCE

1943-1977

.8 lin.ft.

arranged alphabetically

The correspondence of George Oppenheimer consists of professional letters from actors and colleagues concerning his reviews as a drama critic and his writings. Some noted correspondents included in the collection are: Edna Ferber, Orson Welles, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, Richard Rodgers, Thornton Wilder and Katharine Cornell to name a few.

SERIES II - PERSONAL PAPERS

1943-1970

arranged by form of material

The personal papers of George Oppenheimer consist of drafts of his writings, reviews of his books, memberships and speeches. Of special note are issues of India Ink, his World War II newspaper column and his citation from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the film, The War Against Mrs. Hadley.

SERIES III - ANNOTATED PLAYBILLS

1975-1977

.4 lin.ft.

arranged by size

The annotated playbills consist of approximately 100 programs from Broadway, non-Broadway and European productions that Mr. Oppenheimer attended. There is marginalia on each programs concerning reactions and opinions of the performances.

SERIES IV - SCRAPBOOKS

1955-1976

1.8

lin.ft.

arranged chronologically

The scrapbooks were compiled by George Oppenheimer and are chronological record of his Newsday reviews.

GEORGE OPPENHEIMER PAPERS

SERIES I - CORRESPONDENCE

BOX NO. 1 (8-MWEZ + n.c. 25,004)

Folder No.

1	Correspondence -	Abbott, George	2	items
2		Acton, Harold	7	items
3		Agar, Herbert & Wm.	4	items
4		Amherst, Jeffrey	6	items
5		Anderson, Robert	3	items
6		Arlen, Harold	1	item
7		Atkinson, Brooks	6	items
8		Auchincloss, Louis	2	items
9		Bailey, Pearl	1	item
10		Behrman, Sam N. 4 it	ems	5
11		Bellah, James W.	3	items
12		Berlin, Irving	2	items
13		Brown, John Mason	5	items
14		Cornell, Katharine	5	items
15		Crawford, Joan	1	item
16		Crouse, Russell 3 it and family	ems	5
17		Ferber, Edna	24	items
18		Fontanne, Lynn	6	items
19		Gershwin, Ira	2	items
20		Gielgud, John	6	items
21		Gordon, Ruth	2	items

22	Correspondence -	Hammerstein,OscarII	2 items
23		Haydn, Richard	17 items
24		Hayes, Helen	5 items
25		Hellman, Lillian	6 items
26		Houseman, John	2 items
27		Inge, William	4 items
28		Lunt, Alfred	16 items
29		Rodgers, Richard	11 items
30		Rose, Billy	2 items
31		Selznick, David O.	1 item
32		Simon, Neil	1 item
33		Skinner, Cornelia Ot	isl item
34		Welles, Orson	8 items
35		Wilder, Thornton	7 items
36		World War II	assorted
37		Miscellaneous (A-B)	
38		Miscellaneous (C-D)	
39		Miscellaneous (E-F)	

BOX NO. 2 (8-MWEZ + n.c. 25,004A)

Folder No.

1	Correspondence -	Miscellaneous	(G-I)
2		Miscellaneous	(J-L)
3		Miscellaneous	(M-O)
4		Miscellaneous	(P-R)
5		Miscellaneous	(S-U)
6		Miscellaneous	(V-Z)
7		Miscellaneous	(Unidentified)

SERIES II - PERSONAL PAPERS

BOX NO. 3 (8-MWEZ + n.c. 25,006)

Folder No.

1	Awards -	Academy Award Nomination - "The War Against Mrs. Hadley"
2	Clippings -	Algonquin Roundtable
3		Frank Sullivan
4	Memberships -	Drama Desk (includes correspondence & bylaws)
5		Fire Watch
6	Photographs -	Miscellaneous
7	Programmes -	Miscellaneous
8	Speeches -	Eulogies
9		John Mason Brown
10		Schuyler Chapin Pipe Night

11		Very Good Eddie
12		Miscellaneous
13	Writings -	The Best In The World (Reviews & Clippings)
14		Diary (North Sea cruise 6/28/73-8/14/73)
15		Fifty Years of the American Theatre (Outline)
16		Frank Sullivan Through the Looking Glass (Correspondence)
17		The Garden of Allah
18		Autobiographical Sketch of George Oppenheimer
19		In Search of Dorothy Parker
20		India Ink (Newscolumn) WWII India & Ceylon
21		Life With Kober
22		Murder By Omission (Outline)
23		Miscellaneous Oppenheimer books (Correspondence)
24		The Passionate Playgoer
25		Pearls Before Swine
26		Penny Wise
27		Play It For Laughs (Announcement)
28		Revue
29		The Story of Lady by Liza
30		The Story of Lady by Liza (Correspondence)
31		The View From the Sixties (Clippings & Reviews)
32		Published Articles - Fiction
33		Miscellaneous

SERIES III - ANNOTATED PLAYBILLS

BOX NO. 4 (8-MWEZ + n.c. 25,007)

Item No.

1	Annotated Programmes -	Loose Flyers
2		A Texas Trilogy
3		Ladyhouse Blues
4		The Innocents
5		The Gathering
6		The Cherry Orchard
7		A Party with Betty Comden & Adolph Green
8		Fiddler on the Roof
9		The Good Companions
10		I Have A Dream
11		Music Is
12		Don't Step on my Olive Branch
13		Herzl
14		I Love My Wife
15		Side by Side by Sondheim
16		Annie
17		For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide
18		Days in the Trees

19		Wheelbarrow Closers
20		Anna Christie
21	Annotated Programmes -	Lily Tomlin in "Appearing Nightly"
22		The Robber Bridegroom
23		The Shadow Box
24		A Texas Trilogy
25		Pygmalion
26		Checking Out
27		Poor Murderer
28		The Eccentricities of a Nightingale
29		Best Friend
30		Porgy and Bess
31		Mark Twain Tonight
32		Romeo & Juliet
33		A Texas Trilogy
34		No Man's Land
35		Caesar and Cleopatra
36		Sly Fox
37		The Club
38		The Night of the Iguana
39 <u>God</u>		Your Arms Too Short To Box With
40		The Trip Back Down
41		Unexpected Guests
42		Otherwise Engaged

43	American Buffalo
44	The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel
45	Ladies at the Alamo
46	Travesties
47 Annotated Programmes -	Bloomsbury
48	Comedians
49	Dirty Linen and New Found Land
50	Gemini
51	Twenty-Five Years of Tony Awards
52	Twenty-seventh Annual Antoinette Perry Awards
SERIES I	IV - SCRAPBOOKS
BOX NO. 5 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,008)	
Scrapbook - George Oppenheimer	Newsday column 1955-1962
BOX NO. 6 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,001)	
Scrapbook - George Oppenheimer	Newsday column 1962-1963
BOX NO. 7 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,011)	
Scrapbook - George Oppenheimer	Newsday column 1965-1966
BOX NO. 8 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,010)	
Scrapbook - George Oppenheimer	Newsday column 1968-1971
BOX NO. 9 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,002)	

Scrapbook - George Oppenheimer Newsday column 1971-1972

BOX NO. 10 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,003)

Scrapbook - George Oppenheimer Newsday column 1975-1976

BOX NO. 11 (MWEZ + n.c. 25,009)

Scrapbook - A Mighty Man Is He