



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Morrie Ryskind papers

1911-1985

*T-Mss 1996-024

Processed by Angela Weaver and the Theatre Collection Staff.

Summary

Creator: Ryskind, Morrie, 1895-1985

Title: Morrie Ryskind papers

Date: 1911-1985

Source: Gift, Family of Morrie Ryskind, 06/--/1996

Abstract: Morrie Ryskind, poet, playwright, and columnist. Awarded the 1932 Pulitzer Prize for drama for *Of Thee I Sing* co-written with George Kaufman, Ira Gershwin, and George Gershwin. Testified before the House Un-American Activities Hearings. The papers consist of correspondence, diaries and journals, and scripts by Ryskind. The bulk of the collection is scrapbooks, which have been microfilmed. These contain newspaper clippings pertaining to various productions, as well as Ryskind's published poetry and columns.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Access:

Photocopying prohibited. Series VII: Scrapbooks available in microfilm only, see *ZC 535 Reels 1-10.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Alternative Form Available: Series VII. Scrapbooks are available on microfilm; The Billy Rose Theatre Collection, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; call number *ZC-535 (Reels 1-10)

Location of Originals: Originals were discarded after filming

Preferred citation: *T-Mss 1996-024, Morrie Ryskind Papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note: Processed by Angela Weaver and the Theatre Collection Staff. Programs for various productions and a collection of books have been counted and separated from the papers. Scrapbook series has been microfilmed with the originals discarded.

Creator History

Morrie Ryskind, playwright, poet, and columnist, was born on October 20, 1895 in Brooklyn. After high school he attended The Columbia University School of Journalism where he served as editor of Columbia's humor magazine *The Jester*. In 1917, six weeks from graduation, Ryskind was expelled for writing an editorial which called Columbia President Nicholas Murray Butler, "Czar Nicholas". Ryskind was later awarded his degree in 1942. Ryskind's professional career as a writer began soon after his expulsion when he was hired as a reporter by *The World*, a post he held until 1921. That year he published a book of light verse called *Unaccustomed as I Am*, which received favorable reviews. Ryskind's poetry had appeared in numerous collegiate as well as professional publications. In 1924 Ryskind wrote shorts for the *Garrick Gaieties* drawing the attention of George Kaufman who asked him to collaborate on the musical *Cocoanuts*, a Marx Brothers vehicle with music by Irving Berlin. Ryskind worked with Berlin again in 1940 on the Broadway hit, *The Louisiana Purchase*. His collaboration with Kaufman included *Animal Crackers* and the film *A Night at the Opera*. Ryskind later adapted *Cocoanuts* and *Animal Crackers* for the screen, both successes for the Marx Brothers. When he married Mary House in 1929, Groucho Marx was his best man. Ryskind and Kaufman also collaborated with George and Ira Gershwin on three musicals, *Strike Up the Band*, *Let 'Em Eat Cake*, and *Of Thee I Sing* for which they shared the 1932 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. *Of Thee I Sing* was such a hit, that the phrase "to be a Throttlebottom," referring to one of the play's characters, entered into the cultural vocabulary of the country and Ryskind was prompted to write the book, *The Diary of an Ex-President*, from the point of view of the fictitious Wintergreen, Commander-in-Chief of the United States. In 1935 Ryskind left for Hollywood where he received two Academy Award nominations for the films, *My Man Godfrey* (1936) and *Stage Door* (1939). He also wrote the screenplays for *Room Service*, *Man About Town*, and *Claudia*. By the late 1940's Ryskind had ceased to write for either the stage or screen. In 1947 he testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee on the Communist infiltration of Hollywood. As a result of his testimony, Ryskind later said that he had been professionally ostracized. Ryskind became more involved with conservative politics as the years went on, serving as one of the original directors of *The National Review*. In 1960 he became a columnist for *The Los Angeles Times Syndicate*. He resigned in 1965 when one of his columns was suppressed. Later that year he joined *The Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, where he remained until he retired in 1978. Morrie Ryskind died in his home in Washington DC in 1985; he was 89 years old.

Custodial History

The Morrie Ryskind Papers were donated to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Billy Rose Theatre Division in July of 1996 in two installments. The collection was processed over the months of September and October of that same year.

Scope and Content Note

The Morrie Ryskind papers cover the years 1911 to 1985. The collection includes financial papers, contracts, writings, scripts with Ryskind's handwritten notes and edits, and newspaper clippings. There is only one box of correspondence, almost all of which is dated pre-1950. Although there are newspaper clippings and a few letters regarding Ryskind's involvement with the House Un-American Activities Committee Hearings, there is no official correspondence to or from the House Committee, nor are there letters to or from the Motion Picture Alliance, a conservative Hollywood group, whose members included Ryskind, Adolphe Menjou and Robert Taylor. The bulk of the collection is the scrapbook series which includes 31 microfilmed scrapbooks. Most of the items are clippings concerning stage and screen productions, as well as Ryskind's published poetry and newspaper columns. The

scrapbooks also contain numerous rejection letters Ryskind received in the early stages of his career.

Arrangement: Series I: Diaries and Journals Series II: Correspondence Sub-series 1 - General Sub-series 2 - Productions Sub-series 3 - Columbia University Series III: Writings Sub-series 1 - Numbered scripts Sub-series 2 - Non-numbered scripts Sub-series 3 - Miscellaneous articles Series IV: Contracts Series V: Personal Papers and Ephemera Series VI: School Publications Series VII: Scrapbooks (available on microfilm only)

Key Terms

Titles

Animal crackers (Motion picture)
Louisiana purchase (Motion picture)

Subjects

Communism and motion pictures
Dramatists, American
Motion picture authorship
Musical theater
Political plays
Screenwriters -- United States

Names

Ryskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983
Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961
Marx, Groucho, 1890-1977
United States. Congress. House. Committee on Un-American Activities

Container List

Series I: Diaries and Journals 1911-1934 (1 box)

This series contains diaries kept while Ryskind was a student at Columbia University; and a partial typewritten journal kept during the decade between 1923 and 1934.

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 1 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1895-1911 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 2 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1911-1912 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 3 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1912 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 4 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1912-1913 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 5 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1913-1916 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 6 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1917 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 7 Diary / Morrie Ryskind 1923-1924 (1 folder)

Series II: Correspondence 1918-1985 (1 box)

The letters are divided into general correspondence; business letters written in conjunction with specific productions/scripts; and correspondence with Columbia University regarding his attempts to secure his degree, and his tenure as a lecturer in the Journalism School. The general and business correspondence includes letters from Groucho Marx, Mary Pickford, Ira Gershwin, George Kaufman, and Katherine Dunham.

Sub-series 1 - General 1918-1985 (18 folders)

Personal and professional correspondence to Morrie Ryskind from many notables of his day. Included are Edna Ferber, Ira Gershwin, George S. Kaufman, Groucho Marx, Victor Moore, Mary Pickford and Wendell Wilkie. Of special note are personal letters written by Morrie Ryskind to his wife, Mary.

Alphabetical

- b. 2 f. 1 Correspondence / Edna Ferber 1936 (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 2 Correspondence / H. William Fitelson 1945 (1 folder (6 pages))
- b. 2 f. 3 Correspondence / Ira Gershwin 1931-1943 (1 folder (3 pages; 1 env.))
- b. 2 f. 4 Correspondence / Matthew M. Levy 1945-1946 (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 5 Correspondence / George S. (George Simon) Kaufman 1939-1947 (1 folder (7 items))
- b. 2 f. 6 Correspondence / Groucho Marx 1940 (1 folder (1 letter))
- b. 2 f. 7 Correspondence / Victor Moore 1940 (1 folder (1 letter))
- b. 2 f. 8 Correspondence / George Macy 1939 (1 folder (1 letter))
- b. 2 f. 9 *The New Leader correspondence* 1944-1946 (1 folder)
Correspondence to Morrie Ryskind from S. M. Levitas of *the New Leader*.
- b. 2 f. 10 Correspondence / Sidney Phillips 1931 (1 folder (2 pages))
- b. 2 f. 11 Correspondence / Mary Pickford 1940 (1 folder (3 pages))
- b. 2 f. 12 Correspondence / Norman Thomas 1939 (1 folder (6 pages))
- b. 2 f. 13 Correspondence / Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis) Wilkie 1940 (1 folder (3 letters))
- b. 2 f. 14 Correspondence "A-Z" 1918-1942 (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 15 Correspondence "A-Z" 1943-1946 (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 16 Correspondence "A-Z" 1946-1978 (1 folder)

Series II: Correspondence (cont.)

Sub-series 1 - General (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 17 Correspondence from Morrie Ryskind to Mary Ryskind 1934 (1 folder (5 letters))
- b. 2 f. 18 Correspondence / Ryskind family 1939-1987 (1 folder)
Correspondence of children, Ruth and Allen Ryskind.

Sub-series 2 - Productions 1931-1946 (5 folders)

Correspondence regarding various productions including *Animal Crackers*, *Louisiana Purchase*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Strike Up the Band* and the motion picture *Nellie Bly*.
Alphabetical

- b. 2 f. 19 Correspondence / Morrie Ryskind 1931-1983 (1 folder)
Kalmar, Bert, 1884-1947
Correspondence regarding specific productions including *Animal Crackers*.
- b. 2 f. 20 Louisiana purchase (Musical) / Irving Berlin 1939-1941 (1 folder)
Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989
- b. 2 f. 21 *Nellie Bly (Musical) / Jimmy Van Heusen* 1946 (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 22 *Of thee I sing (Musical) / George Gershwin* 1932 (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 23 *Strike up the band (Musical) / George Gershwin* 1939-1979 (1 folder)

Sub-series 3 - Columbia University 1915-1942 (1 folder)

Correspondence with Columbia University regarding Ryskind's expulsion from the university and attempts to gain his degree.

- b. 2 f. 24 Correspondence / Columbia University 1915-1942 (1 folder)

Series III: Writings 1922-1972 (10 boxes)

Included in this series are Ryskind's stage and screen scripts, as well as newspaper and magazine articles he wrote. There is also a box of miscellaneous skits which consist of fragments of skits that are undated and sometimes untitled; and two folders of songs Ryskind wrote for various productions. Most of the film scripts can be traced through successive drafts. A majority of the scripts have handwritten edits and notes by Ryskind. The numbering system is Ryskind's.

Sub-series 1 - Numbered scripts 1922-1972 (8 boxes)

This sub-series contains both stage and film scripts which Ryskind wrote or co-authored. Some titles included are *Of Thee I Sing*, *Animal Crackers*, *Strike Up the Band*, *The Cocoanuts*, *Penny Serenade*, *Room Service*, *His Girl Friday*, *Louisiana Purchase* and *Face the Music*.
Chronological

- b. 3 f. 1 *Here's your hat / Howard Dietz*. (1 folder)
Script for the play *Here's Your Hat* by Howard Dietz and Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 3 f. 2 Untitled William Gaxton and Victor Moore sketch / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)
Annotated script with changes (#2) Gaxton Moore by Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 3 f. 3 *Country fair / Morrie Ryskind* (1 folder)
Script for *Country Fair* by Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 3 f. 4 *Cinderella / Morrie Ryskind* (1 folder)
Prologue (#4) for the play *Cinderella*.
- b. 3 f. 5 *Spinning wheel / George S. (George Simon) Kaufman* (1 folder)
Scenario (#5) for the musical comedy *Spinning Wheel*.
- b. 3 f. 6 *Poles are stubborn people / Morrie Ryskind* 1954 (1 folder)
Script (#6), including correspondence for the screenplay *Poles Are Stubborn People*.
- b. 3 f. 7 Miscellaneous skits / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)
Miscellaneous skits (#7) by Morrie Ryskind.

Series III: Writings (cont.)

Sub-series 1 - Numbered scripts (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 8 **Lizzie's lounge lizards / Morrie Ryskind.** (1 folder)
Elizabeth I, Queen of England, 1533-1603--Drama
Script (#8) for *Lizzie's Lounge Lizards* by Morrie Ryskind, a spoof on Queen Elizabeth I.

- b. 3 f. 9 ***Heavyweight championship / Howard Dietz*** (1 folder)
Outline (#9) for the play *Heavyweight Championship* by Howard Dietz and Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 3 f. 10 ***Man bites dog / Don Lochbiler*** 1931 (1 folder)
Script (#10), with changes, for the play *Man Bites Dog* by Don Lochbiler, Arthur Barton and Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 3 f. 11 ***The bigger they are (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind*** 1939 (1 folder)
Screenplay (#11) for the motion picture *The Bigger They Are*.
- b. 3 f. 12-13 ***Of thee I sing (Musical) / George Gershwin*** 1931 (2 folders)
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937--Television adaptationsTelevision scripts
Script (#12) for the play *Of Thee I Sing*; 1931 production and 1972 David Wolper production.

- b. 4 f. 1-2 ***Animal crackers (Musical) / Bert Kalmar*** (2 folders)
Script (#13); nondated first draft; script for the 1928 production *Animal Crackers*, written by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind, music by Bert Kalmer.

- b. 4 f. 3 ***Dream no more / Manuel Seff*** (1 folder)
Script (#14) no indication as to Ryskind's involvement with the script.
- b. 4 f. 4 ***Strike up the band (Musical) / George Gershwin*** 1929 (1 folder)
Script (#15) *Strike Up the Band*, book by Morrie Ryskind, includes revised 1929 version.
- b. 4 f. 5 ***The power of light / Morrie Ryskind*** (1 folder)
Script entitled *The Power of Light* by Morrie Ryskind and Howard Dietz.
- b. 4 f. 6 ***Twenty-one (Musical) / George Gershwin*** (1 folder)
Script for the musical *Twenty-One*, book by Herbert Fields and Morrie Ryskind, music by George Gershwin, lyrics by Ira Gershwin.
- b. 4 f. 7 ***Golden fleece / Morrie Ryskind*** (1 folder)
Script for the play *The Golden Fleece* by Morrie Ryskind and Edward Childs Carpenter.
- b. 5 f. 1 ***Let's do a show (Musical) / Irving Berlin*** 1931 (1 folder)
Script (#19) (2 copies) for the musical *Curtain Going Up*; music and lyrics by Irving Berlin; book by Moss Hart and Morrie Ryskind.

- b. 5 f. 2 ***Let 'em eat cake (Musical) / George Gershwin*** 1933 (1 folder)
Script (#20) for the musical *Let 'Em Eat Cake*; book by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind. Includes lyrics.

- b. 5 f. 3 ***The cocoanuts (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind*** (1 folder)
Script for the screenplay *Cocoanuts*.
- b. 5 f. 4 ***Kid Boots (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind*** (1 folder)
Script for the screenplay *Kid Boots*.
- b. 5 f. 5 ***G.I. Joe (Screenplay)*** 1944 (1 folder)
Script (#23) for the motion picture *G.I. Joe*.
- b. 5 f. 6 ***Nat Shilkret audition*** 1933 (1 folder)
Script (#24) for a skit entitled *Nat Shilkret Audition* by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 5 f. 7 ***Penny serenade (Motion picture)*** 1940 (1 folder)
Treatment (#25) for the motion picture *Penny Serenade*.

Series III: Writings (cont.)

Sub-series 1 - Numbered scripts (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 1-3 **Room service (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind** 1938 (3 folders)
Marx, Groucho, 1890-1977Marx, Harpo, 1888-1964Marx, Chico, 1887-1961Ball, Lucille, 1911-1989
Script (#26) in multiple drafts for the motion picture Room Service.
- b. 6 f. 4-6 **Where do we go from here? (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind** 1944 (3 folders)
Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation
Script with treatment (#27) for the motion picture Where Do We Go From Here?
- b. 7 f. 1 **His girl Friday (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind** 1939 (1 folder)
Hawks, Howard, 1896-1977Grant, Cary, 1904-Russell, Rosalind
Script (#28) for the motion picture His Girl Friday.
- b. 7 f. 2-3 **Claudia (Continuity script) / Morrie Ryskind** 1943 (2 folders)
McGuire, Dorothy, 1918-2001Young, Robert, 1907-1998Goulding, Edmund, 1891-1959Franken, Rose, 1895-1988Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation
Continuity script (#29) for the motion picture Claudia. Also includes original script for the play by Rose Franken.
- b. 7 f. 4-6 ***Meanest man in the world (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind*** 1942 (3 folders)
Script (#30) with treatment, continuity script and multiple drafts for the motion picture *The Meanest Man in the World*.
- b. 8 f. 1 ***The bus conductor's school / Howard Dietz*** (1 folder)
Skit (#31) entitled *The Bus Conductor's School* by Howard Dietz and Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 8 f. 2 ***This was a man / Morrie Ryskind*** (1 folder)
Scenario (#32) entitled *This Was a Man* by Morrie Ryskind and John Klorer.
- b. 8 f. 3 ***Nellie Bly / Sig Herzig*** (1 folder)
Script for the musical comedy *Nellie Bly* by Morrie Ryskind and Sig Herzig.
- b. 8 f. 4-6 **Louisiana purchase (Musical) / Irving Berlin** (3 folders)
Berlin, Irving, 1888---Film and video adaptationsChodorov, Jerome
Script (#34); includes musical and screen versions.
- b. 8 f. 7 ***Author! Author! (Musical) / Muriel Pollock*** (1 folder)
Script (#35) entitled *Author! Author!* by Morrie Ryskind, music by Muriel Pollock.
- b. 8 f. 8 ***The Buick show (Industrial show script) / Morrie Ryskind*** (1 folder)
Script (#36) entitled *The Buick Show* by Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 8 f. 9 ***Pardon my English (Musical) / George Gershwin*** (1 folder)
Script (#37) entitled *Pardon My English* book by Herbert Fields and Morrie Ryskind; music and lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin.
- b. 8 f. 10 ***Face the music (Musical) / Irving Berlin*** 1931 (1 folder)
Script (#38) entitled *Face the Music* by Irving Berlin and Moss Hart.
- b. 9 f. 1-3 **Palmy days (Screenplay)** 1931 (3 folders)
Cantor, Eddie, 1892-1964
Script (#39), Palmy Days, outline by Eddie Cantor. Two script versions one credited to Cantor, Ryskind and David Freedman, the second credited to Guy Bolton and Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 9 f. 4-5 **Man about town (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind** 1938 (2 folders)
Benny, Jack, 1894-1974Lamour, Dorothy, 1914-1996Sandrich, Mark, 1900-1945
Scripts (#40), bound versions dated 1938-1939, for the motion picture Man About Town.

Series III: Writings (cont.)

Sub-series 1 - Numbered scripts (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 6 *Let's do a show (Musical) / Irving Berlin* (1 folder)
Scripts (#41). *Curtain Going Up* (cover title *Let's Do a Show*).
- b. 9 f. 7 *Honest Dan Keeler / Newman Levy* 1938 (1 folder)
Outline (#42) for the story idea *Honest Dan Keeler*.
- b. 9 f. 8 *Checkmate / Frank Lea Short* (1 folder)
Script (#43) for the comic opera *Checkmate*. Includes lyrics written by Morrie Ryskind, Song for White King.
- b. 10 f. 1 *Long watch / Morrie Ryskind* 1950 (1 folder)
Script (#45), including rewrites, for the *Long Watch* by Morrie Ryskind and Harvey Haislip.
- b. 10 f. 2-3 *It's in the bag (Screenplay) / Morrie Ryskind* 1944 (2 folders)
Script (# 46) for *It's In the Bag*, includes shooting script.
- b. 10 f. 4-5 Unidentified script / Morrie Ryskind (2 folders)
Scripts (# 48)
- b. 10 f. 6 *Easy come, easy go (Screenplay)* (1 folder)
Screenplay (# 49) for *Easy Come, Easy Go*.

Sub-series 2 - Un-numbered scripts 1926-1943 (1 box and 3 folders)

This sub-series contains an assortment of scripts, lyrics, songs and skits. Included are *Bring on the Girls*, *Strike Up the Band* and *Sweet Rosie O'Grady*.

- b. 11 f. 1 *Bring on the girls / George S. (George Simon) Kaufman* 1934 (1 folder)
Script for the play *Bring on the Girls*, produced in Washington D.C., October 22, 1934.
- b. 11 f. 2 *Strike up the band (Musical) / George Gershwin* 1930 (1 folder)
Script for *Strike Up the Band*, script by Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 11 f. 3 *Sweet Rosie O'Grady (Screenplay)* 1943 (1 folder)
Screenplay for the motion picture *Sweet Rosie O'Grady*.
- b. 11 f. 4 Unidentified treatment / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 5 Lyrics and songs / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)
Undated song lyrics and scores; lyrics written by Morrie Ryskind. Includes *Down Kentucky Way*, *Everybody Loves Me*, *50-50* and *Give Me the Key to Your Heart*.
- b. 11 f. 6 Lyrics and songs / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)
Undated song lyrics and scores; lyrics by Morrie Ryskind. Includes *Maybe It Doesn't Matter*, *Palm Beach Walk*, *They've All Stopped Calling Me Lazy Bones*, *We Want Wilkie* and *Why Can't You Learn to Love Me*.
- b. 11 f. 7 Lyrics and songs / Morrie Ryskind 1926-1930 (1 folder)
Animal crackers
Strike up the band
Kalmar, Bert, 1884-1947
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Bound volume of lyrics and scores.

- b. 12 f. 1-3 Skits and scripts / Morrie Ryskind (3 folders)

Sub-series 3 - Miscellaneous articles 1925-1930 (3 folders)

Newspaper and magazine articles by Morrie Ryskind.

- b. 12 f. 4 *Articles / Morrie Ryskind* 1930-1975 (1 folder)
Dated poetry and articles.
- b. 12 f. 5 *Articles / Morrie Ryskind* (1 folder)
- b. 12 f. 6 *Articles / Morrie Ryskind* 1925-1953 (1 folder)

Series IV: Contracts 1925-1928 (5 folders)

Contains contracts regarding specific productions/scripts; employment with various movie studios; copyright renewals; and royalties.

Series IV: Contracts (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 1 **Contracts / Morrie Ryskind 1925 (1 folder)**
Leave it to me!Long watchPorter, Cole, 1891-1964Gershwin, George, 1898-1937Ryskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Contracts relating to the productions Leave it to Me, Let 'Em Eat Cake and The Long Watch.
- b. 13 f. 2 **Contracts / Morrie Ryskind 1927 (1 folder)**
Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Contracts pertaining to the productions Louisiana Purchase, Of Thee I Sing and Pardon My English.
- b. 13 f. 3 **Contracts / Morrie Ryskind 1928-1966 (1 folder)**
MCA LtdTwentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation
Employment contracts.
- b. 13 f. 4 **Miscellaneous copyright and renewal Papers 1927-1973 (1 folder)**
Copyright and renewal papersAmerican Guild of Authors and ComposersLibrary of CongressMusic Publishers Holding CorporationParamount PicturesSongwriters' Protective Association
- b. 13 f. 5 **Miscellaneous royalty statements 1927-1940 (1 folder)**
Let 'em eat cakeOf thee I singPardon my EnglishMan bites dogGershwin, George, 1898-1937

Series V: Personal Papers and Ephemera (7 folders)

Includes a speech made by Ryskind at a Beverly Hills Republican dinner honoring his wife, Mary Ryskind, at which Ronald Reagan was the guest speaker; Columbia exams and papers; papers relating to the Lowenfels Case in which Ryskind and his collaborators were accused of plagiarizing *Of Thee I Sing*; and comments made in 1995 by Ryskind's sisters about his autobiography, *I Shot an Elephant in My Pajamas*.

- b. 14 f. 1 **Articles / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)**
Miscellaneous articles written about Ryskind including his obituary.
- b. 14 f. 2 **Biographical materials / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)**
Ryskind, Morrie, 1895---Biography
Biographical information including an interview with Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 14 f. 3 **School papers / Columbia University (1 folder)**
Papers pertaining to Columbia University including exams.
- b. 14 f. 4 **Financial papers / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)**
Bank statements, pay stubs and other financial materials belonging to Morrie Ryskind.
- b. 14 f. 5 **Walter Lowenfels plagiarism case (1 folder)**
Of thee I singKaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983Harris, Sam, 1872-1941Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Papers pertaining to the Lowenfels plagiarism case.
- b. 14 f. 6 **Miscellaneous personal items / Morrie Ryskind (1 folder)**
- b. 14 f. 7 **Press book / Morrie Ryskind 1918-1919 (1 folder)**
Paramount-Artcraft Pictures

Series VI: School Publications 1914-1922 (5 folders)

Columbia University publications including *The Jester*, *The Jester Book of Light Verse*, and a Columbia yearbook with Ryskind's picture.

- b. 15 f. 1 **Publications / Columbia University 1914-1942 (1 folder)**
Miscellaneous documents and publications relating to Ryskind's attendance at Columbia.
- b. 15 f. 2 ***Jester Book of Light Verse / Columbia University 1922 (1 folder)***

Series VI: School Publications (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 3 *Jester Magazine / Columbia University* 1914-1915 (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 4 *Jester Magazine / Columbia University* 1915-1918 (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 5 *Columbian / Columbia University* 1917 (1 folder)

Series VII: Scrapbooks, . 1914-1970

*ZC 535, Reels 1-10 (32 vols. (available in 10 reels of microfilm))

The scrapbooks contain Ryskind's published poetry and articles including the columns "The Conning Tower," "Shadow Box," "Stage Coach" and "The Morrie Ryskind Column"; newspaper clippings about specific stage productions and films; as well as numerous rejection letters from publishers regarding his poetry during the 1920's. Scrapbooks have been rearranged by date rather than by Ryskind's number system. Scrapbooks are available in microfilm only.

Chronological

- v. 1 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1912-1914**
*ZC 535 (Reel 1) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower."
- v. 2 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind April-December**
*ZC 535 (Reel 1) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower".
- v. 3 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind January-June**
*ZC 535 (Reel 1) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 4 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind June-September**
*ZC 535 (Reel 2) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 5 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind September 1916-March 1917**
*ZC 535 (Reel 2) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerJester MagazineRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985Columbia University
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower".
- v. 6 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind May-December**
*ZC 535 (Reel 2) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower".
- v. 7 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind September 1917-November 1918**
*ZC 535 (Reel 3) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 8 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind January 1919-August 1921**
*ZC 535 (Reel 3) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower" and Unaccustomed as I Am.
- v. 9 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind September 1921-1924**
*ZC 535 (Reel 3) (1 scrapbook)
Stage coachRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "Stage Coach."
- v. 10 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1924**
*ZC 535 (Reel 3) (1 scrapbook)

Series VII: Scrapbooks,. (cont.)

- v. 11 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1925**
*ZC 535 (Reel 4) (1 scrapbook)
Stage coachShadow boxRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook, includes Ryskind's columns "Stage Coach" and "Shadow Box."
- v. 12 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1926**
*ZC 535 (Reel 4) (1 scrapbook)
Stage coachRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook, includes Ryskind's column "Stage Coach."
- v. 13 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1927**
*ZC 535 (Reel 5) (1 scrapbook)
The Garrick gaities (Revue)Ryskind, Morrie, 1895-1985Rodgers, Richard, 1902-1979
Scrapbook includes Unaccustomed as I Am and The Garrick Gaities.
- v. 14 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1928**
*ZC 535 (Reel 5) (1 scrapbook)
Kalmar, Bert, 1884-1947
Scrapbook includes Animal Crackers.
- v. 15 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind January 1929-February 1930**
*ZC 535 (Reel 5) (1 scrapbook)
Kalmar, Bert, 1884-1947Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Scrapbook includes Animal Crackers, The Cocoanuts and Strike Up the Band.
- v. 16 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind February 1930-February 1932**
*ZC 535 (Reel 6) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985Kalmar, Bert, 1884-1947Gershwin, George,
1898-1937
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower", Animal Crackers, Of Thee I Sing
and Strike Up the Band.
- v. 17 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind February-September**
*ZC 535 (Reel 6) (1 scrapbook)
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937Ryskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Of Thee I Sing, Diary of an Ex-President and the Walter Lowenfels
plagiarism case.
- v. 18 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind September 1932-December 1934**
*ZC 535 (Reel 6) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower", Of Thee I Sing, Let 'Em Eat Cake
and the motion picture Bring on the Ladies.
- v. 19 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind January 1935**
*ZC 535 (Reel 7) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 20 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind 1935**
*ZC 535 (Reel 7) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985
Scrapbook includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower".

Series VII: Scrapbooks,. (cont.)

- v. 21 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** December 1936-December 1939
*ZC 535 (Reel 7) (1 scrapbook)
My man Godfrey (Motion picture : 1936)Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Scrapbook includes Of Thee I Sing and the motion pictures My Man Godfrey, Stage Door and Man About Town.
- v. 22 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** January 1940-December 1941
*ZC 535 (Reel 7) (1 scrapbook)
The Conning TowerMeanest man in the worldRyskind, Morrie, 1895-1985Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Scrapbook dated includes Ryskind's column "The Conning Tower", Louisiana Purchase, Of Thee I Sing and the motion pictures Penny Serenade, The Meanest Man in the World, G.I. Joe, Where Do We Go From Here?, Claudia and It's In the Bag.
- v. 23 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** January 1947-December 1948
*ZC 535 (Reel 8) (1 scrapbook)
Scrapbook includes the motion picture *Louisiana Purchase*.
- v. 24 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** January 1949-June 1954
*ZC 535 (Reel 8) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 25 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** May 1954-November 1959
*ZC 535 (Reel 8) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 26 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** January 1960-March 1961
*ZC 535 (Reel 9) (1 scrapbook)
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Scrapbook includes Of Thee I Sing.
- v. 27 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** 1961-1963
*ZC 535 (Reel 9) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 28 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** 1963-1966
*ZC 535 (Reel 9) (1 scrapbook)
Menjou, Adolphe, 1890-1963Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
Scrapbook dated October 1963-1966 includes articles on Adolphe Menjou and John F. Kennedy.
- v. 29 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** October 1966-January 1969
*ZC 535 (Reel 10) (1 scrapbook)
- v. 30 **Scrapbook / Morrie Ryskind** 1969-1970
*ZC 535 (Reel 10) (1 scrapbook)
Scrapbook includes a television adaptation of *Of Thee I Sing*.
- v. 31 **Shadow box / Morrie Ryskind**
*ZC 535 (Reel 10) (1 scrapbook)
Clipping scrapbook from "Shadow Box" column, number 1-112.
- v. 32 **Shadow box / Morrie Ryskind.**
*ZC 535 (Reel 10) (1 scrapbook)
Clipping scrapbook from "Shadow Box" column, number 113-128.