



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Louise Allbritton and Charles Collingwood papers

circa 1917-1960

*T-Mss 1985-003

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015.

Summary

Creator: Allbritton, Louise, 1920-1979

Title: Louise Allbritton and Charles Collingwood papers

Date: circa 1917-1960

Size: 1.26 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Donated by the Estate of Charles Collingwood, 1985

Abstract: Louise Allbritton (1920-1979) was an actress who appeared on stage, screen, and television. Her husband, Charles Collingwood (1917-1985), was an American broadcast journalist. The Louise Allbritton and Charles Collingwood papers (circa 1917-1960) document the career of Louise Allbritton through a scrapbook, clippings, letters, photographs, programs, business papers, and an address book. The collection also contains photographs of Charles Collingwood, as well as his lecture notes.

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>

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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015.

Creator History

Louise Allbritton (1920-1979) was an actress who appeared on stage, screen, and television. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, she moved to California, where she studied at the

Pasadena Playhouse before being hired by Universal Pictures in 1942. She toured Europe with the United Service Organization (USO) in 1943 before returning to the United States and resuming her film career. Among her film appearances were *Son of Dracula* (1943), *San Diego I Love You* (1944), *The Egg and I* (1947), and *Sitting Pretty* (1948). Allbritton married the radio and television journalist Charles Collingwood in 1946 and thereafter left the film industry. She continued to act on stage and television until the mid-1960s, including several plays in London in the 1950s. Louise Allbritton died of cancer in 1979.

Charles Collingwood (1917-1985) was an American broadcast journalist. A protégé of Edward R. Murrow, he reported from the North African campaign and the Normandy landings during the Second World War, and became a well-known television reporter and analyst for CBS News.

Scope and Content Note

The Louise Allbritton and Charles Collingwood papers (circa 1917-1960) document the career of Louise Allbritton through a scrapbook, clippings, letters, photographs, programs, business papers, and an address book. The collection also contains photographs of Charles Collingwood, as well as his lecture notes.

The scrapbook, dating mostly from 1943 to 1945, contains clippings, photographs, handbills, and congratulatory letters covering Allbritton's early career in Hollywood. The clippings date from 1943 to 1956, and document Allbritton's film and stage career.

The programs are for Allbritton's stage appearances between 1944 and 1960. They also hold promotional material for films or television appearances.

One folder documents Allbritton's United Service Organization (USO) tour of Europe in 1943. It contains an essay she wrote about the trip, clippings, and an apron that was part of her costume.

The letters hold fan postcards to Allbritton and a few letters to Charles Collingwood from colleagues. They also contain typed notes by Collingwood titled "Notes on Emanu-El Talk" dating from the late 1950s or early 1960s. The topic is world affairs, particularly in France.

The photographs are primarily from Collingwood's childhood and picture him and his family. Another set of prints is from a trip to Europe, probably from the 1950s. One print shows Collingwood and Allbritton with unidentified friends.

Business papers consist of stage contracts from the mid-1950s. They also include Allbritton's birth certificate. Allbritton was active with the Henry Street Playhouse on the lower east side of Manhattan in the 1950s. Papers regarding her work there are filed under Henry Street Settlement.

Arrangement: The papers are arranged by format or topic.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)

Television journalists

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)

Letters (correspondence)

Photographs

Programs (documents)

Scrapbook

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States -- 20th century

Theater -- United States -- 20th century

Names

Collingwood, Charles

United Service Organizations (U.S.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Address Book undated
- b. 1 f. 2 Business Papers 1920, 1953-1957
Clippings
- b. 1 f. 3-10 1943-1956
- b. 2 f. 1-8 1943-1956
- b. 3 f. 1 Henry Street Settlement 1954
- b. 3 f. 2 Letters 1943-1944, 1949, undated
- b. 3 f. 3 Photographs circa 1917-1950s
- b. 3 f. 4 Programs 1944-1960
 - v. 1 Scrapbook 1943-1945, 1954
- b. 3 f. 5 United Service Organization Tour 1943