



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Randolph Carter papers

1860s-1997 [bulk 1930s-1980s]

*T-Mss 1999-019

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Summary

Creator: Carter, Randolph, 1908-1998

Title: Randolph Carter papers

Date: 1860s-1997 [bulk 1930s-1980s]

Size: 5.4 linear feet (9 boxes, 3 volumes, 1 oversized folder)

Source: Donated by Eugene Sorenson, 1999

Abstract: Randolph Carter (1908-1998) was an American writer, director, and critic. The Randolph Carter papers date from 1860s-1997 (bulk dates 1930s-1980s) and contain manuscripts, typescripts, journals, photographs, letters, sound recordings, and programs.

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:

Audiovisual materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access. Sound recordings available by appointment only.

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Creator History

Randolph Carter (1908-1998) was an American writer, director, and critic. He wrote plays and theater reviews, television and film scripts, and non-fiction books. A few of his original plays were produced on Broadway such as *Eugenia* (1957) and *Arms for Venus* (1937). He was the stage director for the 1938 and 1939 Litchfield Summer Theatre seasons in Connecticut. He authored *The World of Flo Ziegfeld* (1974), *Ziegfeld: The Time of His Life* (1988), and *Joseph Urban: Architecture, Theatre, Opera, Film* (1992, co-written with Robert Reed Cole). Carter was also a World War II Navy veteran.

Scope and Content Note

The Randolph Carter papers date from 1860s-1997 (bulk dates 1930s-1980s) and contain manuscripts, typescripts, journals, photographs, letters, sound recordings, and programs.

The bulk of the collection consists of typescripts for theater and television, many of which were written by Carter, while others were collaborations or adaptations. There is a manuscript draft for *The Green Stick: Last Days of Leo Tolstoy* (1950s), and a few published versions of plays such as *Lenient in Love* (1983) and *Fish Cure* (1935).

Production materials such as programs, flyers, sound recordings, and clippings document the plays *Gabrielle* (1941), *The Late Late Show* (1960s, part of *Triple Play*), *Battle of Heaven* (1969), *The Green Stick*, and *Eugenia* (1955). There are also production materials for Carter's non-fiction projects such as book proofs for *The World of Flo Ziegfeld*; and chapter drafts, notes and letters related to the development of *Joseph Urban: Architecture, Theatre, Opera, Film*.

The collection holds drafts of an autobiography, a journal record from 1969 to 1997 about Carter's life and work, and personal letters and photographs. There are also materials related to his military service in the Navy during World War II, including medals, and a written recollection of USS Chauncey (DD-667) for his participation in a naval history project.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letters (correspondence)

Manuscripts (document genre)

Photographs

Programs

Scrapbooks

Scripts (documents)

Sound recordings

Typescripts

Occupations

Male authors

Male dramatists

Playwrights

Screenwriters

Theater critics
Theatrical producers and directors

Subjects

Television authorship
Theater -- Production and direction
World War, 1939-1945 -- Naval operations, American
World War, 1939-1945 -- Veterans

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-3 Autobiography 1970s
Book Projects
- b. 1 f. 4 *Hugo Gnam's Dream House* 1997
Carter wrote an essay for this book.
- b. 1 f. 5-9 *Joseph Urban: Architecture, Theatre, Opera, Film* 1980s-1996
- b. 2 f. 1-4 *Joseph Urban: Architecture, Theatre, Opera, Film* 1980s-1996
- b. 2 f. 5 Belle Livingston Profile 1930s
- b. 2 f. 6 *Royal Gallery: English Monarchy 1900-1950* 1950s
- b. 2 f. 7-8 *The World of Flo Ziegfeld* 1970s
 - v. 3 *The World of Flo Ziegfeld* 1970s
- b. 3 f. 1 Film 1975
The Black McAngus script.
- b. 3 f. 2 Journal 1969-1997
- b. 3 f. 3-6 Letters 1927-1996
- b. 4 f. 1-2 Military 1940s-1994
Military 1941-1945
Medals are located in the *T-Cabinet. To view, email theatre@nypl.org to make an appointment.
- b. 4 f. 3-6 Photographs 1860s-1990s
 - o. 1 Photographs 1900s-1930s
Television
 - b. 4 f. 7 *The Arthor of Beltraffio* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 1 *A Cluster of Diamonds* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 2 *Dominique* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 3 *Edna* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 4 *An Eye for an Eye* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 5 *Florence Nightingale* 1952
 - b. 5 f. 6 *The Gamblers* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 7 *The Golden Egg* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 8-9 Lillian Gish 1960s-1990s
 - b. 5 f. 10 *The Reading Fingers: A Life of Louis Braille* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 11 *The Secret Letter* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 12 *The Siege of London* 1940s-1960s
 - b. 5 f. 13 *Sunshine House* 1940s-1960s
- Theater
 - o. 1 Alden, Hortense 1930s
 - b. 5 f. 14 Alden, Hortense 1934-1966
 - b. 5 f. 15 *Arms for Venus* 1937
 - b. 6 f. 1 *Arms for Venus* 1937
 - b. 6 f. 2-3 *Battle for Heaven* 1969

Theater (cont.)

- Battle for Heaven* 1970s
origsr.221683
Sound recording available by appointment only.
- b. 6 f. 4 *Bonnie and Clyde Revisited* 1940s-1960s
- b. 6 f. 5 *Come to My Party* 1986-1987
- b. 6 f. 6 *Elysian Fields* 1940-1960s
- b. 6 f. 7-8 *Eugenia* 1955-1957
- b. 6 f. 9 *Family Follies* 1930s-1960s
- b. 7 f. 1 *First Fling* 1940s-1960s
- b. 7 f. 2 *Gabrielle* 1941
- The Green Stick: Last Days of Leo Tolstoy*
1950s
origsr.221684
Sound recording available by appointment only.
- v. 1 1951
- v. 2 1951
- b. 7 f. 3 1951-1994
- b. 7 f. 4 *Her Lease on the Palace* 1940s-1960s
- b. 7 f. 5 *Lenient in Love* 1940s-1960s
- b. 7 f. 6 Litchfield Hills Theatre 1938-1939
- b. 7 f. 7 *Manhattan Triplex* 1940s-1960s
- b. 7 f. 8 *The Merry Widow* 1940
Adaptation and translation.
- b. 7 f. 9 *Museum Piece* 1969
- b. 7 f. 10-11 *Nora Ryan* 1979-1995
- b. 8 f. 1-2 Published Plays 1928-1983
- b. 8 f. 3 *The Servant Girls* 1940s-1960s
- b. 8 f. 4 *Singer Under Siege* 1940s-1960s
- b. 8 f. 5-7 Theatre Reviews 1967-1971
- b. 9 f. 1-3 Theatre Reviews 1967-1971
- Triple Play*
b. 9 f. 4-5 1960s
- The Late Late Show*
Sound recordings available by appointment only.
- 1960s
origsr.221687
- Number I 1960s
origsr.221685
- Number II 1960s
origsr.221686
- b. 9 f. 6 *The View Up the End and A Witch's Saturday Night* 1960s
- b. 9 f. 7 *What Do You Suppose the Aztecs Were Doing in San Malagata?* 1940s-1960s

Theater (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 8 *Wuthering Heights* 1937-1939
Adaptation.