Herbert Mitgang

Papers, c1929-1995

C. Meyers, 8/13/82; F. Pitaro, 3/1/90;
Revised: 12/7/95, J. Stinson;
Revised: 7/2004, M. Biondi
Summary

Title: Herbert Mitgang Papers, c.1929-95

Size: 41 linear ft. (26 cartons, 30 boxes)


Access: Audiotapes in Container #56 unavailable until duplicated

Description: The papers document the career of Herbert Mitgang as author, editor, journalist and producer of television documentaries. The papers include general correspondence, writings, research notes, notebooks, memorabilia, photographs, audiotapes of interviews, and motion picture films.
Biographical Note

Herbert Mitgang, author, editor, journalist and motion-picture producer was born on January 20, 1920 in New York City where he later attended St. John's College and Law School. During World War II he served as an army correspondent and became the managing editor of the Oran-Casablanca and Sicily editions of Stars and Stripes. After the war he joined the New York Times as a copy editor and reviewer. From 1955-62 he served as supervising editor of the drama section of the Sunday edition of the Times. He was an editorial writer and member of the editorial board of the Times in 1963-1964 and again in 1967-1976. From 1964 to 1967 Mitgang was assistant to the president and executive editor of CBS News during which time he produced several film documentaries including "Sandburg's Prairie Years", "Anthony Eden on Vietnam", and "D-Day Plus 20 Years". He also instructed evening classes in English at City College in 1948-1949 and was a visiting professor at Yale in 1975-1976. From 1948 to 1949 he was a member of the executive board of the Newspaper Guild of New York, CIO, and has been a long time-member and has served as president of both the Authors League and the Authors Guild. In addition to his career with the Times. Mitgang has contributed freelance articles to magazines, written several novels and biographies and has edited several books including the Letters of Carl Sandburg, Civilians Under Arms: Stars and Stripes Civil War to Korea, and Spectator of America.
Series Notes

The papers include general correspondence (1945-77), correspondence and papers relating to the Authors Guild (1957-59), the Authors League (1962-73), and the New York Times Op-Ed Page and editorial board (1970-76). There are also typescripts, notes and reviews of Mitgang's novels and biographies; a collection of articles, scripts, and films from his "CBS Reports" documentaries (1963-65); miscellaneous articles, reviews, interviews and other papers dating from World War II to the present; and awards, accounts, scrapbooks and memorabilia. There are also photographs taken by Mitgang to illustrate his articles and interviews.

Included also are the following additions to the Herbert Mitgang Papers received in 1990 and in 1994-1995:

The additions received in 1990 (90M6) consist of general correspondence, notes, printed matter, photographs and cartoons, typescripts and proofs, and files collected by Mitgang for his book Dangerous Dossiers: Exposing the Secret War Against America's Greatest Authors.

The Dangerous Dossiers files, which make up the bulk of this addition, consist of Mitgang's correspondence (1983-88) with the FBI and of copies (c1929-81; bulk: 1940-60) of FBI dossiers which Mitgang obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. A few files (as noted on the container list) contain letters from authors who were under investigation. The files are listed by name on the container list.

The general correspondence (one folder) which is with administrators of the Freedom of Information Act relates to requests for copies of FBI dossier files. The photographs which are standard publishers' publicity shots of authors, and the cartoons, which are in the form of photocopies or photostats, were collected by Mitgang for illustrating his book. The typescript is an original draft of Dangerous Dossiers. The proofs are corrected galleys for the book and for the segments of it which were published in The New Yorker magazine in the "Annals of Government" column under the title "Policing America's Authors".

The additions received in 1994 (94M34) and in 1995 (95M35) consist of Mitgang's writings; his research notes and papers; and audiotapes of his interviews with Helen Wolff and with Admiral Gene R. La Rocque. The writings consist of a corrected typescript of the introduction to Words Still Count with Me (New York and London, W.W. Norton, 1995) and corrected page proofs of the book; and a typescript of a biographical sketch of Helen Wolff which was published (Aug. 2, 1982) in the "Profiles" column of The New Yorker magazine.

The research notes and papers relate to Admiral Gene R. La Rocque and Helen Wolff. The papers relating to Admiral La Rocque consist of notes and transcripts of Mitgang's recorded interviews (March 14, and Dec. 1, 1984) with Admiral La Rocque; and biographical materials (mainly printed ephemera) relating to Admiral La Rocque. Included is a letter (TLS, 9 p.) from Admiral La Rocque to Mitgang.
The papers relating to Helen Wolff consist of notes and transcripts of Mitgang's recorded interviews (March 15 and April 5, 1981) with Helen Wolff; and correspondence relating to Helen and Kurt Wolff. Included are letters from Beatrice Flexner, Günter Grass, Uwe Johnson, William Jovanovich, Georges Simenon; and seven letters from Helen Wolff. There is also an undated memorandum (4 p.) by Helen Wolff relating to Pantheon Books and her editorial policy.

The audiotapes consist of 5 audiocassettes of Mitgang's interviews with Admiral Gene R. La Rocque conducted at New York University (3/14/84) and at Admiral La Rocque's residence in Washington, D.C. (12/1/84); and 5 audio cassettes of his interviews with Helen Wolff (3/15/81, 3/22/81, 4/5/81). Included also is one audiocassette of the House Budget Hearings in Washington, D.C. (3/29/85).
## Container List

### General Correspondence

<table>
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Authors Guild
1 1957 - 1968 July
2 1968 June - 1969 March
3 1969 April - Dec
4 1970 - 1971 March
5 1971 Apr - 1971 Oct
6 1971 Nov - 1972 May
7 1972 June - 1972 Dec
8 1973 Jan - June
9 1973 July - 1974 Feb
10 1974 Mar - Sept
11 1974 Oct - Dec
12 1975
13 1976 Jan - April; 1978; 1979
14 Constitution and By-Laws
15 Financial Statements, 1968; 1972
16 Guide to the Author's Guild Trade Book Contract
17 Membership invitation and card (Mitgang's personal items)
18 Misc. articles, newsletter, clippings
19 Program proposals
20 Author's Guild Bulletin
21 1957 - 1964
22 1965 - 1970
23 1971 - 1972
24 1973
25 1976
26 1979

Authors League
12 1962 - 1973
13 1974 - 1979
14 Amicus Brief's
15 Constitution and By-Laws; Certificate of Incorporation
17 Printed Materials

New York Times Editorial Board
13 1970
14 1971 Jan - Sept
15 1971 Oct - Dec
16 1972
17 1973 Jan
18 1973 Feb - Mar
19 1973 Apr - May
20 1973 June - July
21 1973 Aug - Nov
22 1973 Dec - 1974 Jane - Feb
23 1974 Mar - June
24 1974 July - Dec
25 1975
26 1976
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**New York Times Op-Ed Page Correspondence**

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Lilienthal, David E.
Lynes, (Joseph) Russell
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McNeill, William H.
McWilliams, Carey
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Marshall, Samuel L.A.
Mends-France, Pierre
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Moynihan, Daniel Patrick
Nader, Ralph
Osborn, Robert
Papandreou, Andreas G.
Percy, Walker
Peyre, Henri
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Rosten, Leo

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Sahl, Mort
St. Clair, James D.
Schlesinger Jr., Arthur
Sciascia, Leonard
Shirer, William L.
Stanton, Frank

Strauss, Lewis L. (Admiral, USN)
Streeter, Edward
Swados, Harvey
Taylor, Telford
Teller, Edward
Thomas, Norman
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Tuchman, Barbara

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Urey, Harold C.
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Viereck, Peter

Wald, George
Wedemeyer, Albert C.
Yevtushenko, Yevgeny
Yost, Charles W.
Photographs
A-Z (Persons and subjects)

"Stars & Stripes" and Carl Sandburg (oversized photos only)

Writings

New York Times (c1948-79)
Other publications (clippings of articles)
Other publications (unsorted manuscripts)
Up Front with Bill Mauldin (Film Treatment)

Articles, Reviews, Interviews, and Related Papers (by Mitgang et al)

Articles by Mitgang
Notes for Articles (from Germany, Ireland and London)
Interviews: Gunter Grass, David Levine, Sean O'Faolain, and Mary Lavin
New York Times Articles by Others (1967-76)

Clippings: Book Reviews (by Mitgang)
Articles and Notes (by Mitgang)
Papers re Organizations: PEN, Asian Scholars, Vietnam Veterans

Correspondence and Papers re Books by Mitgang

[contents removed to other boxes]

America at Random;
Lincoln As they Saw Him
Working for the Reader

The Return (typescript and manuscript)

Get These Men Out of the Hot Sun

Spectator of America

Washington in Civil War Days (typescripts and notes)

The Letters of Carl Sandburg (manuscript, correspondence, monograph)

[contents removed to other boxes]

New York Naturally (unpublished articles)
Between the Wars (magazine articles)
-unsorted books files and articles

The Man Who Rode the Tiger (typescript and letters)

-Civilians under Arms: Stars and Stripes Civil War to Korea (notes);
"The Stars and Stripes" (clippings)
-Dangerous Dossiers (Files)

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Cerf, Bennett
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DeAntonio, Emil
Dos Passos, John
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Frost, Robert
Galbraith, John K.
Gershwin, George
Ginsburg, Allen (1 TLS)
Greene, Graham (1 TLS)
Grosz, George
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Parker, Dorothy
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Picasso, Pablo
Pollock, Jackson
Porter, Cole
Porter, Katherine Anne
Pound, Ezra
Read, Herbert
Reagan, Ronald
Rice, Elmer
Ross, Harold
Runyon, Damon
Sandburg, Carl
Saroyan, William
Schiffrin, Jacques
Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur
Shahn, Ben
Shaw, Irwin
Sherwood, Robert
Silone, Ignazio
Silvers, Robert
Southern, Terry (2 ALS from Caroline Southern)
Soyer, Raphael
Spender, Stephen
Stafford, Jean
Stein, Gertrude
Steinbeck, John
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Williams, Tennessee
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New Yorker page proofs:
"Annals of Government - Policing America's Authors"
Paperback edition

44
Miscellaneous correspondence and reviews relating to
books by Mitgang

Notes, Printed Matter, Memorabilia, Accounts
45
Notebooks relating to Berlin, Egypt, England, Frankfurt Book Fair,
East Germany, Greece, Israel, Moscow, Scotland, Vietnam
Pocket Guides from World War II

46
Awards given to Mitgang
Printed matter, clippings, expense accounts, financial papers

47
Notes relating to classes taught at Yale, 1975-76; class taken by Mitgang
at Columbia
Clippings; short fiction by Mitgang

48
"St. John's News", 1937-38

49
Clippings: St. John's University newspaper, 1938
Scrapbook: World War II Stars and Stripes
Political cartoons by Bill Mauldin, David Levine and others
Unsorted papers

50
Miscellaneous papers

Films and Documentaries by Mitgang / Related Papers
[see also: Checklist of Audio-visual Materials on p. 9-10]

51-52
Television Documentaries (scripts and notes), 1963-65
Films:
-Alexander Calder-Anti-war Protest
-CBS Reports
-Henry Moore: Man of Forms
-Eden on Vietnam
-Ben Gurion
-The Story of Stars and Stripes
-Jimmy Walker
-Sandburg
- Anti-Defamation League
- Mike Wallace at Large
- D-Day Plus 20 Years
- CBS Reports
- Eisenhower at Normandy - D-Day Plus 20 Years
- Best of Sandburg
- Carl Sandburg - The Prairie Years

Albums:
- Score from Henry Moore: Man of Form
- Mike Wallace at Large

53 VHS Copies of Films:
- Carl Sandburg: The Prairie
- Carl Sandburg at Gettysburg
- D-Day Plus 20 Years
- Eden on Vietnam
- Henry Moore: Man of Form

Additional Papers (94M34; 95M35)

54 Writings
- "Profile" of Helen Wolff (The New Yorker)
- Words Still Count with Us

55 Research Notes and Papers
- La Rocque, Gene R.
- Wolff, Helen and Kurt

56 Audiotapes
- Interview with Gene R. La Rocque
- Interview with Helen Wolff
### Checklist of Audiovisual Materials

#### Audiotapes

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<th>Control #</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>00001</td>
<td>Herbert Mitgang: [Score to &quot;Henry Moore: Man of Form&quot;]: This is the musical score to the CBS documentary, &quot;Henry Moore, Man of Form.&quot; The video to this documentary is available as V0103.</td>
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<td>00002</td>
<td>Herbert Mitgang: [Century Association Dinner]: This is a dinner given by the Century Association with speeches given by several people.</td>
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<td>00000</td>
<td>-Interview with Gene R. La Rocque</td>
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<td>00000</td>
<td>-Interview with Helen Wolff</td>
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#### Videotapes

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<td>V 00101</td>
<td>Herbert Mitgang: &quot;Carl Sandburg: The Prairie&quot;: Reporter Howard K. Smith interviews the famed biographer of Abraham Lincoln as they tour through the locations of the President's childhood on up to his departure from Springfield as an adult. The opening begins with a talk about Lincoln's childhood and his love for Anne Rutledge. At 2:45 we learn how a trip to New Orleans inspired him to be a politician. Lincoln held many jobs as a young man as is recounted at 5:30. His time as a lawyer is touched on at 8:30. His family is discussed at 10:30. Sandburg provides an anecdote about Lincoln's stovepipe hat at 13:00. Lincoln's views on slavery are looked at 16:00 and the Nebraska Bill is mentioned at 17:00. Finally, the famous Lincoln Douglas debates are spoken of at 18:30. This interview takes place one year after another interview Smith did with Sandburg for CBS News, &quot;Carl Sandburg at Gettysburg.&quot; [See 00102] Herbert Mitgang/David Buksbaum/Fred Friendly, 1957. B/W Video VHS tape.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V 00102</td>
<td>Herbert Mitgang: &quot;Carl Sandburg at Gettysburg&quot;: Howard K. Smith interviews famed Abraham Lincoln biographer, Carl Sandburg at the site of the greatest battle during the Civil War. They begin by talking about why there was a war which leads into the battle itself at 5:00. At 9:00 Sandburg explains the southern rationale and the government they wished to form. At 15:00 General Robert E. Lee is talked about and Harriet Beecher Stowe is touched upon at 45:00. This is the first interview that Smith had with Sandburg. The second, &quot;Carl Sandberg: the Prairie&quot; is available for viewing [see 00101]. Palmer Williams/Herbert Mitgang/Fred Friendly, 1956. B/W Video VHS tape.</td>
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<td>V 00103</td>
<td>Herbert Mitgang: &quot;Henry Moore: Man of Form&quot; Renowned sculptor Henry Moore is the subject of this documentary with Charles Collingwood for CBS News. In the course of the hour, the piece looks at the sculptor who crafted the &quot;Bronze Reclining Woman&quot; which sits in the fountain at Lincoln Center. The composer of the background music for this documentary is Thomas Wagner and the conductor is Alfrede Antonini. The soundtrack is available for listening [see A00001]. William K. McClure, 1955 B/W Video VHS tape.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V 00104</td>
<td>Herbert Mitgang: &quot;D-Day Plus 20 Years: Eisenhower...&quot;. Walter Cronkite interviews President Eisenhower as he tours Normandy twenty years after the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. This special report for CBS News was viewed on 22 networks in 19 countries. The piece opens with a discussion of the planning of the attack in the actual war room. This is followed by a retracing of the route, by boat, to Normandy at 22:30.</td>
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Eisenhower recounts the difficulties they faced at 29:00. Omaha Beach, the target, is looked at 39:00. The armaments of both sides is discussed at 43:00. Eisenhower trades war stories with Madame Simone Rideau, wife of the then mayor of Eglise, a city in Normandy at 52:45. This documentary is supplemented with footage of the attack and of audio tracks of Eisenhower's speeches. 1964 B/W Video VHS tape

V 00105 Herbert Mitgang: "Eden on Vietnam". Charles Collingwood interviews Anthony Eden, former foreign secretary and prime minister in Great Britain. As the man instrumental in bringing about a temporary peace in the then French war in Vietnam and the author of Towards Peace in Indochina, Eden offers his ideas on ending the Vietnam War. 1967 B/W Video VHS tape