

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

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.

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 items
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 and family	3 items
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, Oscar II	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 Otis	1 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 | | <i>A Texas Trilogy</i> |
| 3 | | <i>Ladyhouse Blues</i> |
| 4 | | <i>The Innocents</i> |
| 5 | | <i>The Gathering</i> |
| 6 | | <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> |
| 7 | | <i>A Party with Betty Comden & Adolph Green</i> |
| 8 | | <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> |
| 9 | | <i>The Good Companions</i> |
| 10 | | <i>I Have A Dream</i> |
| 11 | | <i>Music Is</i> |
| 12 | | <i>Don't Step on my Olive Branch</i> |
| 13 | | <i>Herzl</i> |
| 14 | | <i>I Love My Wife</i> |
| 15 | | <i>Side by Side by Sondheim</i> |
| 16 | | <i>Annie</i> |
| 17 | | <i>For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide...</i> |
| 18 | | <i>Days in the Trees</i> |

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

43	<i>American Buffalo</i>
44	<i>The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel</i>
45	<i>Ladies at the Alamo</i>
46	<i>Travesties</i>
47	Annotated Programmes - <i>Bloomsbury</i>
48	<i>Comedians</i>
49	<i>Dirty Linen and New Found Land</i>
50	<i>Gemini</i>
51	<i>Twenty-Five Years of Tony Awards</i>
52	<i>Twenty-seventh Annual Antoinette Perry Awards</i>

SERIES 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*