



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

John Van Druten papers

1901-1957

*T-Mss 1958-002

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Summary

Creator: Van Druten, John, 1901-1957

Title: John Van Druten papers

Date: 1901-1957

Source: Gift, Douglas Ebersole and Carter Lodge, 1958

Abstract: The John Van Druten papers consist of diaries, correspondence, writings, scrapbooks and ephemera documenting his life and career. The papers span the years 1901-1957 and give excellent insight into Van Druten's creative processes. Missing from the collection are scripts of his most well-known works. There are however, scripts for some plays including AWAKENING, CHANCE ACQUAINTAINCE, DANCING IN THE CHECKERED SHADE, THE RETURN HALF and SOLITAIRE. The papers also include many other literary forms: essays, parodies and poetry all written by Van Druten.

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Processing note: Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan. In 1993 all portions of the collection were reunited, reprocessed, opened and a finding aid created.

Separated Materials:

Auriol Lee

Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies

Peggy Wood

Ralph Forbes

Christopher Isherwood
Cathleen Nesbitt
Helen Gahagan
Dame May Whitty
Maurice Evans
Ruth Chatterton
Tamara Toumanova
George Brent and Ruth Chatterton
Group shot (signed by Dorothy Stickney)

The King and I rehearsal shot - (B file)
John Van Druten - 3 portraits
John Van Druten - Vandamm Photographs

See also the following collection of materials:

John Van Druten Papers, ca. 1920-1957. 3 linear feet (3 boxes, 12 vols.) The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division View finding aid.

Creator History

John Van Druten was born in London, England in 1901. Son of Eve and Wilhemus Van Druten, he demonstrated at a very early age his talent and love of writing. His first piece, written at the age of seven was a three page play about Mary, Queen of Scots. Because his father believed writing to be an unreliable career, Van Druten studied law and qualified as a solicitor of the Supreme Court Judicature in 1923. Not wanting to practice law he became a lecturer of legal history at the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth.

Van Druten continued his writing and realized his real talent in 1925 with the completion and production of his play, *Young Woodley*. This marked the end of his teaching career and the beginning of his career as a writer and playwright. Throughout his career as a playwright it was apparent that Van Druten's forte was comedy plays about everyday life. Many of his plays focus on women and their relationships with men. Among his best known works are: *I Am a Camera*, based on *The Berlin Stories* by Christopher Isherwood; *The Voice of the Turtle*; *Bell, Book and Candle*; *There's Always Juliet*; *I've Got Sixpence* and *I Remember Mama*. As a director he was acclaimed for his direction of the Broadway production of *The King and I*.

Van Druten emigrated to the United States and became a citizen in 1944. Most of his creative time was spent writing at his ranch in California, although the New York theater scene was the locale of his greatest successes and triumphs. Van Druten fell ill with heart problems in 1956 from which he never fully recovered. He died in 1957.

Custodial History

The John Van Druten Papers were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in separate installments by Douglas Ebersole and Carter Lodge. The first portion of the gift arrived in 1958 and was processed at that time on an item level. Essays were donated in 1965 by Douglas Ebersole. Correspondence from Cathleen Nesbitt was donated by Carter Lodge and Douglas Ebersole in 1984 with the stipulation that this material remain closed until the death of Ms. Nesbitt. In 1987, the scripts were donated by Douglas Ebersole.

Scope and Content Note

The John Van Druten Papers consist of diaries, correspondence, personal papers, ephemera, scrapbooks and writings documenting his life and career. The papers span the years 1901-1957. Photographs were separated and included in B photo files and autographed photograph collection. (See separation sheet). The papers give an excellent insight into Van Druten's creative processes and include much information on his intellectual interests. Missing from the collection are scripts of his most well-known works, rather the collection includes many other literary forms including essays, parodies and poetry.

Arrangement: Series I: Diaries Series II: Correspondence Series III: Personal Papers Series IV: Ephemera Series V: Writings Sub-series 1 Essays / Articles Sub-series 2 - Parodies Sub-series 3 - Plays Sub-series 4 - Poetry Sub-series 5 - Synopses Series VI: Scrapbooks

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries
Scrapbooks
Scripts

Subjects

Dramatists
Parodies
Theater -- United States

Names

Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Brooke, Jocelyn
Evans, Maurice, 1901-1989
Hassall, Christopher, 1912-1963
Huxley, Aldous, 1894-1963
Irwin, Margaret, d. 1967
Lawrence, Gertrude
Nesbitt, Cathleen, 1888-1982
Priestley, J. B. (John Boynton), 1894-1984
Robson, Flora, 1902-1984
Rodgers, Richard, 1902-1979
Savoir, Alfred, 1883-1934
Sullavan, Margaret, 1909-1960
Thorndike, Sybil, Dame, 1882-1976

Container List

Series I: Diaries,. 1940-1957 (1 box)

This series includes handwritten and typed diaries describing Van Druten's creative processes, personal life and experiences. Some of the most interesting material in these diaries is the detailed notation concerning the thought process and evolution of his writing. The diaries also include recollections, observations and experiences during his travels as well as introspective commentary on his feelings and beliefs. Some of the typed pages are carbon copies of personal letters to his friend and colleague, Dodie Smith.

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 1 **Diary synopsis / John Van Druten.** (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957--BiographyDiariesSynopses
Synopsis written by John Van Druten of his diaries.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Diary / John Van Druten 1940** (1 folder)
Dramatists--DiariesAuthors--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Diary / John Van Druten 1941-1943** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Diary / John Van Druten 1943** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Diary / John Van Druten 1944-1946** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Diary / John Van Druten 1947** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 7 **Diary / John Van Druten 1947** (1 folder.)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--BiographyTheater--Great BritainVoice of the turtleSullavan, Margaret, 1909-1960Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Diary [June 1, 1947-July 19, 1947] written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Diary / John Van Druten 1948-1952** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 9 **Diary / John Van Druten 1953-1954** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 10 **Diary / John Van Druten 1954-1957** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 11 **Diary / John Van Druten 1955** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Diary excerpt written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.
- b. 1 f. 12 **Diary / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesDramatists--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--Biography
Europe travel diary written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.

Series I: Diaries,. (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 13 **Diary / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Authors--DiariesVan Druten, John, 1901-1957--BiographyDramatists--Diaries
Diary excerpt written by John Van Druten documenting his life, career and creative processes.

Series II: Correspondence, . 1926-1957 (1 box)

Letters includes personal and business correspondence concerning Van Druten's life and career. Much of the correspondence is from famous literary and theatrical personages of his day. Included are: Jocelyn Brooke, Maurice Evans, Christopher Hassall, Aldous Huxley, Margaret Irwin, Gertrude Lawrence, Cathleen Nesbitt, J. B. Priestley, Dame Flora Robson, Alfred Savoir, Margaret Sullivan and Dame Sybil Thorndike.

Alphabetical

- b. 2 f. 1 **Correspondence / Brian Aherne** 1950 (1 folder (1 letter; 2 pages))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 2 **Correspondence / Enid Bagnold** 1955-1957 (1 folder (3 letters))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 3 **Correspondence / Richard Barthelmess** 1944 (1 folder (1 letter; 2 pages))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Correspondence to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 4 **Crossword puzzle by John Beal** (1 folder (3 pages))
Crossword puzzle created by John Beal and sent to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 5 **Correspondence / William A. Brady** 1943 (1 folder (2 letters))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Correspondence / Marlon Brando** (1 folder (3 pages))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 7 **Correspondence / Jocelyn Brooke** 1957 (1 folder (8 letters; 16 pages))
Forster, E.M. (Edward Morgan), 1879-1970--Criticism and interpretationVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 8 **Correspondence / Ivor John Carnegie Brown** 1949 (1 folder (2 letters; 3 pages))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1949 and undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Correspondence "A-B"** 1934-1957 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Correspondence to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 10 **Correspondence / Noel Coward** 1933 (1 folder (1 letter))
Distaff sideVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Correspondence / Patricia Collinge** 1954 (1 folder (2 letters; 6 pages))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Correspondence / Gladys Cooper** (1 folder (2 letters))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letters to John Van Druten.

Series II: Correspondence.. (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 13 **Correspondence "C" 1932-1956 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957Christians, Mady, 1900-1951Crouse, Russel, 1893-1966Claire,
Ina, 1892-1985
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 14 **Correspondence "D" 1929-1954 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1929-1954; undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 15 **Correspondence / Dame Edith Evans 1947 (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 16 **Correspondence / Maurice Evans 1928 (1 folder (4 letters; 5 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 17 **Correspondence / Lynn Fontanne 1937 (1 folder (3 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1937 and undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 18 **Correspondence / Sir John Gielgud (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 19 **Correspondence / Ruth Gordon 1950 (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 20 **Correspondence "E-G" 1934-1954 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1934-1954; undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 21 **Correspondence / Oscar Hammerstein 1949-1951 (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1949-1951] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 22 **Correspondence / Julie Harris 1954-1956 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 23 **Correspondence / Rex Harrison (1 folder (3 letters; 4 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957Palmer, Lilli, 1914-1986
Undated letters to John Van Druten from Rex Harrison and Lilli Palmer.
- b. 2 f. 24 **Correspondence / Christopher Hassall 1944-1956 (1 folder (5 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Correspondence to John Van Druten. Copies of Van Druten's replies included.
- b. 2 f. 25 **Correspondence / Leland Hayward 1931 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 26 **Correspondence / Katharine Hepburn 1950 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 27 **Correspondence / Valerie Hobson 1954 (1 folder (3 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1954 and undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 28 **Correspondence / Celeste Holm (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letters to John Van Druten.

Series II: Correspondence.. (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 29 **Correspondence / Aldous Huxley 1937-1946 (1 folder (4 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 30 **Correspondence / Margaret Irwin 1952-1957 (1 folder (5 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1952-1957; undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 31 **Correspondence "H-J" 1926-1957 (1 folder)**
I've got sixpence/Is herwood, Christopher, 1904-1986/Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1926-1957; undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 32 **Correspondence / Jerome Kern 1942 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 33 **Correspondence / Deborah Kerr (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 34 **Correspondence "K" 1947-1955 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1947-1955] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 35 **Correspondence / Angela Lansbury 1950 (1 folder (1 letter; 2 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 36 **Correspondence / Gertrude Lawrence 1951 (1 folder (2 letters; 5 pages))**
King and I (Musical)/Van Druten, John, 1901-1957/Rodgers, Richard, 1902-1979
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 37 **Correspondence / C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis 1957 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 38 **Correspondence "L" 1933-1951 (1 folder.)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 39 **Correspondence / Mary Martin (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 40 **Correspondence / W. Somerset (William Somerset) Maugham 1944 (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1944 and undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 41 **Correspondence / Carson McCullers 1950 (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1950 and undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 42 **Correspondence "M" 1934-1947 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957/Mielziner, Jo, 1901-1976/Leblanc, Georgette, 1869-1941
Letters [1934-1947; undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 43 **Correspondence / Ogden Nash 1956 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 44 **Correspondence / George Jean Nathan 1944 (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1944 and undated] to John Van Druten.

Series II: Correspondence,. (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 45 **Correspondence / Cathleen Nesbitt 1945 (1 folder (24 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Correspondence [mostly undated] to John Van Druten. One copy of a Van Druten letter to Nesbitt included.
- b. 2 f. 46 **Correspondence / Beverley Nichols 1948-1954 (1 folder (3 letters; 6 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1948-1954] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 47 **Correspondence / John O'Hara 1953 (1 folder (1 letter))**
The Farmers HotelVan Druten, John, 1901-1957O'Hara, John, 1905-1970
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 48 **Correspondence / J. B. (John Boynton) Priestley 1951-1956 (1 folder (5 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 49 **Correspondence "P-Q" 1943-1956 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1943-1956] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 50 **Correspondence / Basil Rathbone 1955 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 51 **Correspondence / Sir Michael Redgrave 1955 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 52 **Correspondence / Cyril Ritchard 1948 (1 folder (2 letters; 3 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 53 **Correspondence / Dame Flora Robson. (1 folder (5 letters; 11 pages))**
Damask cheekVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 54 **Correspondence / Richard Rodgers 1949-1951 (1 folder (3 letters; 5 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 55 **Correspondence / Alfred Savoir (1 folder (5 letters; 8 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 56 **Correspondence / Robert E. (Robert Emmet) Sherwood 1937-1951 (1 folder (3 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 57 **Correspondence / Osbert Sitwell 1944 (1 folder (2 letters; 3 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 58 **Correspondence / Cornelia Otis Skinner 1948 (1 folder (1 letter))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 59 **Outgoing correspondence to Dodie Smith (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957Smith, Dodie, 1896-1990
Letters written by John Van Druten to Dodie Smith.
- b. 2 f. 60 **Correspondence / Muriel Spark 1957 (1 folder (6 letters; 11 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.

Series II: Correspondence,. (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 61 **Correspondence / Marguerite Steen 1949 (1 folder (2 letters; 4 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 62 **Correspondence / Dorothy Stickney 1945-1956 (1 folder (3 letters; 4 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 63 **Correspondence / Margaret Sullavan (1 folder (4 letters; 6 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 64 **Correspondence "R-S" 1920-1956 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 65 **Correspondence / Dame Sybil Thorndike (1 folder (16 letters; 1 photograph))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 66 **Correspondence "T-V" 1927-1954 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 67 **Correspondence / John Deere Wiman 1944 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 68 **Correspondence / Margaret Webster (1 folder (2 letters))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Undated letters to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 69 **Correspondence / Dame Rebecca West 1954 (1 folder (1 letter; 2 pages))**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 70 **Correspondence / Thornton Wilder 1948 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letter to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 71 **Correspondence / Tennessee Williams 1947 (1 folder (2 letters))**
A Streetcar Named DesireVan Druten, John, 1901-1957Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983
Correspondence to John Van Druten from Tennessee Williams. Copy of Van Druten's reply included.
- b. 2 f. 72 **Correspondence "W-Z" 1941-1944 (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Letters [1941-1944; undated] to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 73 **Unidentified correspondence (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Unidentified and undated letters and telegrams to John Van Druten.
- b. 2 f. 74 **Outgoing correspondence / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Unidentified letters written by John Van Druten.

Series III: Personal Papers,. 1901-1954 (11 folders)

Van Druten's personal papers consist of primary source documents such as birth certificates, naturalization certificates, passports, degrees and certifications. Included is both the naturalization papers for him and his father and his law degree and certificates.

- b. 3 f. 1 **Articles of clerkship 1918 (1 folder)**
Lawyers--Training ofVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Articles of clerkship to a solicitor between John Van Druten and Charles Louis Nordon.

Series III: Personal Papers,. (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 2 **Birth certificate / John Van Druten** June 1, 1901 (1 folder)
Birth certificates
Birth certificate, June 1, 1901, London, England.
- b. 3 f. 3 **Certificate of naturalization / Wilhelmus Van Druten** 1915 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
English naturalization certificate for John Van Druten's father.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Certificate of naturalization / John Van Druten** August 11, 1944 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
United States certificate of naturalization for John Van Druten, August 11, 1944.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Young Woodley / John Van Druten** 1925 (1 folder)
Contracts
Contracts for Young Woodley by John Van Druten.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Plaza Hotel bill** 1926 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Bill for John Van Druten's room at the Plaza Hotel (New York, N.Y.).
- b. 3 f. 7 **Law degree / University of London** November 16, 1922 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Law degree of John Van Druten, November 16, 1922.
- b. 3 f. 8 **Honours examination certificate / Law Society (Great Britain)** June 1923 (1 folder)
John Van Druten's certificate of honours from the Law Society, June, 1923.
- b. 3 f. 9 **Certificate for passage of the bar examination** July 2, 1923 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
John Van Druten's certificate for his successful passage of the bar exam, July 2, 1923.
- b. 3 f. 10 **Passport / John Van Druten** 1954 (1 folder)
Passports
Passport belonging to John Van Druten.
- b. 3 f. 11 **School certificates / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
John Van Druten's school certificates.

Series IV: Ephemera,. 1923-1953 (8 folders)

Ephemera in this collection includes awards, programs, sketches and photographs. Of special note are photographs of Van Druten's California ranch and a pen and ink sketch from the play *The Distaff Side*.

- b. 3 f. 12 **Award / National Institute of Arts and Letters (U.S.)** 1951 (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Award given to John Van Druten.
- b. 3 f. 13 **Autograph book** (1 folder)
Appointment booksThe ghosts of my friendsVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Book of autographs and ink blots of friends of John Van Druten.
- b. 3 f. 14 **Miscellaneous programs** 1924-1926 (1 folder (3 programs))
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Old programs from the early career of John Van Druten.
- b. 3 f. 15 **Sketches given to John Van Druten** 1933 (1 folder (3 sketches))
SketchesJohn Van Druten sketchVan Druten, John, 1901-1957Cagney, James, 1899-1986
Sketches [1933; undated] pertaining to the career of John Van Druten.
- b. 3 f. 16 **Aberystwyth (Wales) photographs** 1924-1925 (1 folder.)
Aberystwyth (Wales)Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Photographs taken at Aberystwyth, Wales.

Series IV: Ephemera., (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 17 **Angmering Shakespeare Festival photographs 1924** (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957Angmering Shakespeare Festival (England)
Photographs of the Angmering Shakespeare Festival.
- b. 3 f. 18 **Personal photographs / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Personal photographs of John Van Druten, his family and friends.
- b. 3 f. 19 **California ranch transparencies / John Van Druten 1953** (1 folder)
Transparencies of John Van Druten's ranch in California.

Series V: Writings. (2 boxes)

Writings include essays / articles, parodies, plays, poetry and synopses written by John Van Druten. It is undermined whether much of this materials was ever published.

Sub-series 1 - Articles and Essays. (36 folders)

These include writings of John Van Druten on general interest topics, theater topics, writers and personalities. These are all undated.

Alphabetical

- b. 4 f. 1 **The action passes / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 2 **American news letter : no. 2 / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 3 **American theatre news letter : no. 3 / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 4 **Arnold Bennett / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
EssaysBennett, Arnold, 1867-1931
Typescript of essay written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 5 **Dame May Whitty / John Van Druten.** (1 folder)
EssaysWhitty, May, Dame, 1865-1948
Typescript of essay written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 6 **Dickens is not dead / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 7 **Dwight Deere Wiman / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Journal articlesWiman, Dwight Deere, 1895-1951
Article written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 8 **The enduring ghost / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 9 **Here we go looby-loo / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 10 **Hollywood in the Hebrides / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 11 **I wish I knew the recipe / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay by John Van Druten.

Series V: Writings. (cont.)

Sub-series 1 - Articles and Essays. (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 12 **An impression of the current London theatre gathered from reading too many volumes of contemporary criticism / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 13 **The job of directing / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Journal articles
Article written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 14 **Julie Harris / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
EssaysHarris, Julie
Typescript of an essay/article written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 15 **Knowing about people / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 16 **Little granny / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Journal articles
Copy of published article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 17 **The man you shouldn't think about / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 18 **Margaret Sullavan / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
EssaysVoice of the turtleSullavan, Margaret, 1909-1960Van Druten, John, 1901-1957
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 19 **The mood of the moment / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 20 **The New York stage : autumn 1946 / John Van Druten 1946 (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 21 **Of course, it's not a play / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 22 **Persons of the play / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 23 **Playwright at work : preface / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript for the Preface of the book Playwright at Work.
- b. 4 f. 24 **Portrait of my friend / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 25 **Religion and the drama / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 26 **Sex and censorship in the theatre / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 27 **Shadow / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.

Series V: Writings. (cont.)

Sub-series 1 - Articles and Essays. (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 28 **Sidney Howard, friend and playwright / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 29 **Small souls and great plays / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 30 **The theatre collection / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 31 **There was a star danced / John Van Druten** 1952 (1 folder)
EssaysLawrence, Gertrude
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten on the death of Gertrude Lawrence.
- b. 4 f. 32 **Treason trial : no. 365 / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 33 **The tributary theatre overflows its banks / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 34 **Twenty years on Broadway / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 35 **The war and the theatre in America / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 36 **Where does it come from? / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Essays
Typescript of essay/article by John Van Druten.

Sub-series 2 - Parodies. (30 folders)

These include writings by John Van Druten either parody or satire on well-known works and authors of his day. Some authors included are: J. B. Priestley, G. B. Stern, W. Somerset Maugham, John Galsworthy, William Shakespeare and John Van Druten. These are all undated.

Alphabetical

- b. 4 f. 37 **Came the dawn (Parody) / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957--Parodies, imitations, etcBehold, we liveVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Parody on the John Van Druten play, Behold We Live.
- b. 4 f. 38 **The consort (Parody)/ John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Parodies
Parody/farce in one act written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 39 **Daddy loves Mummy (Parody)/ John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Milne, A. A. (Alan Alexander), 1882-1956--Parodies, imitations, etcMilne, A. A. (Alan Alexander), 1882-1956
Parody of A. A. Milne's Michael and Mary.
- b. 4 f. 40 **A dialect Bluebeard (Parody) / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.

Series V: Writings. (cont.)
Sub-series 2 - Parodies. (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 41 **Dunnamany grandmothers (Parody)/ John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 42 **The fourth Mrs. Firth (Parody)/ John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Ervine, St. John G. (St. John Greer), b. 1883--Parodies, imitations, etcErvine, St. John G. (St. John Greer), 1883-1971
Parody by John Van Druten of the play *The First Mrs. Fraser* by St. John Ervine.
- b. 4 f. 43 **Frontispiece (Parody)/ John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Political satire
Political satire by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 44 **It pays to tell (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 45 **Keep the damn flame burning (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965--Parodies, imitations, etcMaugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965
Parody of W. Somerset Maugham's work *The Sacred Flame*.
- b. 4 f. 46 **Letter written by Miss Elsie Walsingham (Parody) 1934 (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody possibly written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 47 **Loud chuckles (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Hurst, Fannie, 1889-1968--Parodies, imitations, etcHurst, Fannie, 1889-1968
Parody written by John Van Druten about *Great Laughter* by Fanny Hurst.
- b. 4 f. 48 **Maiden Lane (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957--Parodies, imitations, etcVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Parody written by John Van Druten of his own work *London Wall*.
- b. 4 f. 49 **Martin Houseman (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 50 **The matron meditates (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 51 **Migraine (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Stern, G. B. (Gladys Bronwyn), 1890---Parodies, imitations, etcStern, G. B. (Gladys Bronwyn), 1890-1973
Parody written by John Van Druten of the novel *Debonair* by G. B. Stern.
- b. 4 f. 52 **Morocco bound (Parody)/ John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 53 **Novissima verba (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Brittain, Vera, 1893-1970--Parodies, imitations, etcBrittain, Vera, 1893-1970
Parody by John Van Druten of *Testament of Youth* by Vera Mary Brittain.
- b. 4 f. 54 **Observation Alley (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Priestley, J. B. (John Boynton), 1894---Parodies, imitations, etcPriestley, J. B. (John Boynton), 1894-1984
Parody by John Van Druten of *Angel Pavement* by J. B. Priestley.
- b. 4 f. 55 **Old Moore's almanac (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Wallace, Edgar, 1875-1932--Parodies, imitations, etcWallace, Edgar, 1875-1932
Parody by John Van Druten of *The Calendar* by Edgar Wallace.

Series V: Writings. (cont.)

Sub-series 2 - Parodies. (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 56 **A paraphrase (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 57 **Parisian interlude (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 58 **Preux chevalier (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 59 **Rebecca West (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 60 **Stanley Baldwin (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 61 **Ten to one (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Stuart, Aimée McHardy, 1890--Parodies, imitations, etcStuart, Aime_e, -1981
Parody written by John Van Druten of Nine Till Six by Aimée McHardy Stuart.
- b. 4 f. 62 **Vile babies (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 63 **The Warringtons (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Parodies
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 64 **With all thy faults (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Galsworthy, John, 1867-1933--Parodies, imitations, etcGalsworthy, John, 1867-1933
Parody written by John Van Druten of Exiled by John Galsworthy.
- b. 4 f. 65 **Worlds to conquer (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Political satire
Parody written by John Van Druten.
- b. 4 f. 66 **Young Hamlet (Parody) / John Van Druten (1 folder)**
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Parodies, imitations, etcShakespeare, William, 1564-1616
Parody by John Van Druten of the play Hamlet by William Shakespeare.

Sub-series 3 - Plays,. 1924-1942 (17 folders)

These include plays and excerpts of plays both titled and untitled written by John Van Druten. Included are: *Dancing in the Checkered Shade*, *Solitaire*, *Chance Acquaintance*, *Awakening* and excerpts from *Anatomy of a Murder*.

Alphabetical

- b. 5 f. 1 ***Anatomy of a murder / John Van Druten* (1 folder (4 sheets))**
Four pages of annotated rewrites for the play *Anatomy of a Murder* by John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 2 ***Awakening / John Van Druten* (1 folder (1 script))**
Scripts
Typescript of the play *Awakening* by John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 3 ***Chance acquaintance / John Van Druten* (1 folder (1 script))**
Scripts
Typescript for the play *Chance Acquaintance* by John Van Druten.

Series V: Writings. (cont.)

Sub-series 3 - Plays,. (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 4-6 **Dancing in the checkered shade / John Van Druten** (3 folders (1 script))
Scripts
Typescript of the play *Dancing in the Checkered Shade* by John Van Druten. [Folder 4: Act I, Scene 1; Folder 5: Act I, Scene 2-4; Folder 6: Act II, Scene 1-3]
- b. 5 f. 7 ***Good friends / John Van Druten*** (1 folder (14 pages))
Excerpt of the play *Good Friends* by John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 8 **A play in three acts / John Van Druten 1924** (1 folder (1 script))
Scripts
Typescript of a play [ca. 1924] by John Van Druten. [Cover title *A Play in Three Acts*].
- b. 5 f. 9 ***Old acquaintance / John Van Druten*** (1 folder (5 pages))
Typed notes for the play *Old Acquaintance* by John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 10 **The return half / John Van Druten** (1 folder (1 script))
Scripts
Typescript for the play *The Return Half* by John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 11 ***Scenes from any Scandinavian play*** (1 folder (4 pages))
Script excerpt entitled *Scenes From Any Scandinavian Play*.
- b. 5 f. 12 **Solitaire / John Van Druten 1942** (1 folder (1 script))
Corle, Edwin, 1906-1956--Stage adaptationsScripts
Typescript of the play *Solitaire* by John Van Druten adapted from the novel *Solitaire* by Edwin Corle.
- b. 5 f. 13 ***The third day / John Van Druten*** (1 folder (1 volume))
Volume containing a manuscript copy of Act III of the play *The Third Day* by John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 14 **The warden / Harold Bowen** (1 folder (1 script))
ScriptsVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Typescript of the play *The Warden* by Harold Bowen and John Van Druten.
- b. 5 f. 15-17 **Untitled script excerpts / John Van Druten** (3 folders)
Excerpts from an untitled script by John Van Druten.

Sub-series 4 - Poetry 1920

Early poetry written by John Van Druten probably from his early years [ca. 1920s]

- b. 5 f. 18 **Poetry / John Van Druten 1920** (1 folder)
Poetry written by John Van Druten.

Sub-series 5 - Synopsis

Synopsis for a play idea entitled *The Lives of Imogene Cole*.

- b. 5 f. 19 **The lives of Imogene Cole / John Van Druten** (1 folder)
Synopses
Synopsis for a play entitled *The Lives of Imogene Cole*.

Series VI: Scrapbooks 1924-1930 (3 volumes)

Scrapbooks contains clippings documenting his early works which were produced both in the United States and England. Productions included are *The Return of the Soldier*, *Diversion*, *Young Woodley* and *Chance Acquaintance*.

Chronological

- b. 6 **Scrapbook / John Van Druten 1924-1927** (1 scrapbook)
Van Druten, John, 1901-1957--BiographyClippingsThe return halfYoung WoodleyVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Scrapbook of clippings documenting the early career of John Van Druten.

Series VI: Scrapbooks (cont.)

- b. 7 **Scrapbook / John Van Druten 1927-1930 (1 scrapbook)**
ClippingsDiversionChance acquaintanceYoung WoodleyVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Scrapbook of clippings documenting the early career of John Van Druten.
- b. 8 **Scrapbook / John Van Druten 1928-1930 (1 scrapbook)**
ClippingsReturn of the soldierDiversionYoung WoodleyVan Druten, John, 1901-1957
Scrapbook of clippings documenting the early career of John Van Druten.