

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Spencer Berger Collection on Film, Theater, and Music

YCAL MSS 759



by Beinecke staff

2008

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 759

CREATOR: Berger, Spencer, 1917-2002

TITLE: Spencer Berger Collection on film, theater, and music

DATES: 1876-2000

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 15.55 linear feet (27 boxes) + 2 broadside folders, 2 art

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of material created and accumulated by Spencer Berger, stemming from his avocational interest in film, theater, and music, and from his particular research and collecting activities focused on actors John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, and Ethel Barrymore and musicians Ted Lewis and Leopold Stokowski. Material includes correspondence; photographs, including movie stills and autographed photographs of John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, Ethel Barrymore, and others; playbills, clippings, and other printed material; notes; scrapbooks; and other papers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.berger>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.berger>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Spencer Berger, 1992-1996, and Eric H. Berger, 2007.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Boxes 24-25 (35mm film): Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Spencer Berger Collection on Film, Theater, and Music is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Spencer Berger Collection on Film, Theater, and Music. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection has received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below according to month and year of acquisition. In 2013, the collection was renamed from Spencer Berger Papers to Spencer Berger Collection on Film, Theater, and Music.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former call numbers: Uncat Za Ms 246, Uncat Za Ms 468, Uncat Za Ms 511, and Uncat MSS 993.

Spencer Berger (1917-2002)

Spencer Merriam Berger was a business executive and film historian. He was born on May 6, 1917 in New Haven, Connecticut, and graduated from Yale University in 1940. He served as president and chairman of the board of the former Berger Brothers Company of New Haven, which made women's and surgical corsets. He was a leading authority on the actors John, Lionel, and Ethel Barrymore, and an enthusiast of Ted Lewis and Leopold Stokowski.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of material created and accumulated by Spencer Berger, stemming from his avocational interest in film, theater, and music, and from his particular research and collecting activities focused on actors John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, and Ethel Barrymore and musicians Ted Lewis and Leopold Stokowski. Material includes correspondence; photographs, including movie stills and autographed photographs of John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, Ethel Barrymore, and others; playbills, clippings, and other printed material; notes; scrapbooks; and other papers.

Arrangement

Organized into four groupings: October 1992 Acquisition, December 1995 Acquisition, December 1996 Acquisition, and November 2007 Acquisition.

Collection Contents

October 1992 Acquisition, 1960, undated

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

b. 31	"Myself as I Think Others See Me," drafts, autograph manuscript, corrected and signed, and typescript English	1960, undated
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December 1995 Acquisition, 1876-1995*5.51 linear feet (12 boxes) + 2 broadside folders, 2 art*

The December 1995 Acquisition contains correspondence, notes, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed materials, such as programs and playbills, relating to stage performances, film, and the Barrymore family. Included are correspondence between Margot Peters and Spencer Berger; autographed photographs of Warner Baxter, Marie Dressler and others; and a collection of articles relating to Vitaphone and Warner Brothers on the twentieth anniversary of talking pictures.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 468.

Gift of Spencer Berger, 1995.

Files are not arranged in any particular order.

b.1	Clippings and receipts	1977-1993
b.1	To-do list and clippings	1993
b.1	Clippings and receipts	1979-1993, undated
b.1	Newsletters and correspondence	1914-1993
b.1	Movie industry regarding John Barrymore	1935-1982, undated
b.1	Clippings and correspondence	1938-1993
b.1	Film collection: correspondence and resume	1977-1993, undated
b.1	Receipts and newsletters	1977-1993, undated
b.1	Miscellaneous clippings and writings	1950-1991, undated
b.1	GSB and EHB Notes	1986-1987
b.1	Theatre programs	1940-1961
b.1	Photos	1921-1969, undated
b.1	<i>This is Tomorrow</i>	1937-1940
b.1	John Barrymore estate auction	1942
b.1	Correspondence "H" - "L"	1944-1974
b.1	Film books reviews	1967-1977, undated
b.1	Correspondence	1948-1985
b.1	Correspondence with Yale	1967-1973

b.1	Movie lists and appliance instructions	1987-1993, undated
b.1	Laserdisc information and Barrymore	1983-1993, undated
b.1	Clippings, correspondence and Yale	1967-1994
b.1	J.N. Darling correspondence	1932 November 9
b.1	John Barrymore sketches and engineering certificate	1938, undated
b.1	John Barrymore placard	1925 September
b.1	Buster Keaton autographed photo	1939
b.1	John Barrymore sketch 1923	1959 October
b.1	Barrymore brothers on TIME magazine cover	1932 March 7
b.1	Ethel Barrymore photos and coverage	1901-1941
b.1	Misc. papers	1926-1993, undated
b.1	Barrymore coverage (John, Lionel and Ethel)	1927-1982
b.1	Barrymore <i>Hamlet</i>	1921-1927
b.1	Autographed theatre programs	1933-1936
b.1	Photographs	1969, undated
b.1	Family slides from Margy H.	circa 1981
b.1	Ted Lewis	1920-1970
b.1	Celebrity pictures	1933 July, undated
b.1	Photos and etchings re: movie stars	1925-1964, undated
b.1	John Barrymore "Writes on the Movies"	1922-1939
b.2	Early movies, correspondence, clippings and list	1913-1993, undated
b.2	Movie list, photos	1989-1993
b.2	Barrymore clippings	1913-1993
b.2	Correspondence and notes - banks/financial and movie/CD clippings	1912-1993, undated
b.2	List of bills to pay	1992 September 2

b. 2	Barrymore art acquisition	1982-1992, undated
b. 2	Yale correspondence	1940-1968
b. 2	Correspondence and clippings re: movie histories	1943-1992, undated
b. 2	Laserdisc and financial reports	1986-1993
b. 2	Correspondence re: Barrymore book	1939-1944
b. 2	St. Thomas's Parish House playbills	1932-1935
b. 2	Barrymore series, Pacific Film archive	1982-1983, undated
b. 2	Misc. papers and correspondence	1933-1985
b. 2	Misc. correspondence	1944-1993
b. 2	Correspondence with Margot re: Barrymore	1964-1993
b. 2	Clippings and newsletters	1949-1993
b. 2	Laserdisc info	1991-1993, undated
b. 2	Laserdisc mailings	1945-1991
b. 2	Misc. mailings and newsletters	1926-1994, undated
b. 2	Cinephile and Blackhawk Film correspondence	1971-1975
b. 2	Films scrapbook	undated
b. 2	Misc correspondence and clippings [Goodman?]	1974-2012
b. 2	Newsletters - Evergreen News and Yale-New Haven	1935-1994
b. 2	Correspondence re: films	1982
b. 2	Business update mailings	1993, undated
b. 2	Film and stage promotions <i>2 Folders</i>	1952-1988
b. 2	Smithsonian mailings and notes	1982-1983
b. 2	Film and stage promotions	1924-1964, undated
b. 2	Film inventories and clippings	1967-1995, undated
b. 2	California travel information	1958-1993, undated

b. 2	Correspondence and movie listings and information re: retirement	1981-1994, undated
b. 3	Playbills and programs <i>12 Folders</i>	1933-1981, undated
b. 4	Playbills and programs <i>11 Folders</i>	1932-1978, undated
b. 5	Playbills and programs <i>9 Folders</i>	1917-1980
b. 6	Playbills and programs <i>10 Folders</i>	1878-1988
b. 7	Playbills and programs <i>9 Folders</i>	1932-1977
b. 8	Printed materials <i>14 Folders</i>	1933-1994, undated
b. 9	Playbills and programs <i>7 Folders</i>	1919-1995
b. 10	Playbills and programs relating to Barrymore family <i>6 Folders</i>	1876-1971
b. 11 (Broadside)	Poster - Elizabeth Love in <i>Holiday</i>	1936
b. 12 (Broadside)	Poster - Ethel Barrymore in <i>Capt. Jinks of the Horse Marines</i>	undated
b. 13 (Art)	Opera House of New Haven: Marie Gordon as <i>That Lass O' Lowrie's</i>	undated
b. 14 (Art)	Declaration of the Thirteen States of House	undated
	Oversize	
b. 15	Poster - John Barrymore in <i>20th Century</i>	1934, undated
b. 15	John Barrymore photos	undated
b. 15	"My Reminiscences," Ethel Barrymore scrapbook	1923-1924
b. 15	Poster - Garbo in <i>The Secret Loves of Queen Christina</i>	undated
b. 16	Movie promos <i>14 Folders</i>	1917-1984

December 1996 Acquisition, 1896-1992*0.5 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The December 1996 Acquisition consists chiefly of photographs of members of the Barrymore family and others; included are photographs signed by the Barrymores, Joan Bennett, Eric Blore, George Gerswhin, Leopold Stokowski, and Lawrence Tibbett. In addition, there are movie stills and printed materials.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 511.

Gift of Spencer Berger, 1996.

Files are not arranged in any particular order.

b. 17	Photographs	1896-1943, undated
b. 17	Letter, ephemera	1935-1975
b. 17	Ephemera	1926-1969, undated
b. 17	Signed photographs	1930-1936, undated
b. 17	Photographs <i>8 Folders</i>	1892-1992, undated
	Oversize	
b. 18	Framed movie poster: John Barrymore in <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	1920
b. 18	John Barrymore estate auction poster; John Barrymore biography poster	1942, undated

November 2007 Acquisition, 1896-2000*9.33 linear feet (12 boxes)*

The November 2007 Acquisition consists of correspondence, writings, photographs, printed and other materials relating to film, the Barrymore family, Leopold Stokowski, Ted Lewis, and other cultural figures and activities.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 993.

Gift of Eric H. Berger, 2007.

Boxes 24-25 (35mm film): Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Files are not arranged in any particular order.

b. 19	Spencer Berger collection	undated
b. 19	Stokowski material <i>11 Folders</i>	1941-1996
b. 19	Ted Lewis material <i>17 Folders</i>	1915-1997
b. 20	Film correspondence 1970s <i>8 Folders</i>	1969-1979
b. 20	Film correspondence 1980s	1975-1988
b. 20	Film correspondence 1990s	1989-1992
b. 20	Drew Barrymore <i>3 Folders</i>	19[85?]-1995, undated
b. 20	Antoinette 9/22/91	1972-1990
b. 20	Missing MP - Stills, 11/14/89	1980-1989
b. 20	H of B pix to Knopf	1990-1991
b. 20	Confessions and American 7/1987	1933
b. 20	Barrymore	1936-1983, undated
b. 20	<i>The Films of John Barrymore</i>	1921-1969
b. 20	J, E, and L 1920s and 30s	1926-1988
b. 20	<i>John Barrymore: A Centenary Tribute</i>	1982 July 6
b. 20	John Barrymore prints	1932
b. 20	Article draft	1957
b. 20	Barrymore <i>2 Folders</i>	1891-1991, undated
b. 20	Richard III 1920	1920-1940

b. 20	1917	1917 December 23
b. 20	1916	1916-1940
b. 20	Damned in Paradise, Kober	1975-1988
b. 20	Streamlined Shakespeare	1937, 1950
b. 20	1915	1915 September 5
b. 20	Lionel's reviews	1927-1945
b. 20	Uncle Sam	1911
b. 20	1905	1905 February 5
b. 20	<i>Good Night Sweet Prince - G.F.</i>	1940-1944
b. 20	Various papers	1935-1990
b. 20	MP-10 - file	1969-1990
b. 20	MP hold / future	1944-1991
b. 21	Ethel - biography	1940-1954
b. 21	1941	1941
b. 21	American Citizen	1914-1952
b. 21	<i>Fortune Hunter 1909</i>	1909-1940
b. 21	<i>Twentieth Century 1934</i>	1934-1976
b. 21	<i>Marie Antoinette 1938</i>	1938
b. 21	<i>Thief for a Night 1913</i>	1913 April 1
b. 21	1912	1912
b. 21	<i>Believe Me, Xantippe</i>	1913
b. 21	Misc.	1927-1928
b. 21	Bill of Divorcement	1942-1956, undated
b. 21	<i>Spawn of the North</i>	1938, 1971
b. 21	1938	1938-1941
b. 21	<i>Night Club Scandal</i>	1937
b. 21	<i>True Confession</i>	1937
b. 21	<i>Bulldog Dr.'s Revenge</i>	1937
b. 21	<i>Long Lost Father</i>	1934

b. 21	1933	1933
b. 21	<i>Topaze</i>	1933
b. 21	1932	1932
b. 21	1930	1930
b. 21	John Barrymore illness and death notices	1942
b. 21	1942	1942-1943
b. 21	<i>Bulldog Dr. Comes Back</i> 1937 [empty]	undated
b. 21	1939	1939-1942
b. 21	1921	1921-1940
b. 21	<i>Dinner at Eight</i>	1933, 1969
b. 21	<i>Counsellor at Law</i>	1933-1970, undated
b. 21	<i>Rasputin</i>	1932-1971, undated
b. 21	<i>State's Attorney</i>	1932, undated
b. 21	<i>Arsene Lupin</i>	1932-1969
b. 21	<i>Grand Hotel</i>	1932
b. 21	<i>Svengali</i>	1931, undated
b. 21	<i>Mad Genius</i>	1931
b. 21	<i>Moby Dick</i>	1930
b. 21	<i>Show of Shows</i>	1930
b. 21	<i>Man from Blankley's</i>	1930
b. 21	1931	1931
b. 21	1935	1935
b. 21	1934	1934
b. 21	1936	1936-1963
b. 21	<i>Hold that Coed</i>	1938, 1968
b. 21	<i>Bulldog Dr.'s Peril</i>	1938
b. 21	<i>Romance in the Dark</i>	1938
b. 21	<i>Midnight</i>	1939
b. 21	<i>Great Man Votes</i>	1939-1940

b. 21	<i>My Dear Children</i>	1938-1943
b. 21	<i>World Premiere</i>	1941
b. 21	<i>Playmates</i>	1941-1942
b. 21	The Great Profile	1940
b. 21	The Invisible Woman	1940-1941
b. 21	Articles for <i>Saturday Review of Literature</i>	1944-1982
b. 21	Age 14 random notes	undated
b. 21	Tribute to John Barrymore	1969-1983
b. 21	SMB Keys [John Barrymore]	1982, undated
b. 21	Titles	undated
b. 21	Barrymore estate correspondence	1942
b. 21	Misc. correspondence and drafts	1957-1983
b. 21	Tribute to John Barrymore	1969
b. 21	World of Entertainment 2/14/1982, JB Centennial	1982
b. 21	<i>Sea Beast</i> intro	1953 May 14
b. 21	We Barrymores 5/1951	1950-1952
b. 21	Wolper / John Barrymore biography	1962-1963
b. 21	GEH John Barrymore tribute	1969
b. 21	<i>The Barrymores</i> by Hollis Alpert	1963-1965
b. 21	Yale Art Gallery 2/11/1982 JB centennial	1982 February 8
b. 21	Tribute to John Barrymore	1969
b. 21	Empty folders	undated
b. 22	Barrymore <i>20 Folders</i>	1894-1997, undated
b. 23	<i>House of Barrymore</i> <i>6 Folders</i>	1987-1989
b. 23	Barrymore clippings	1940-1988
b. 23	Articles	1932-1936
b. 23	Newspaper clippings	1955
b. 23	Correspondence, notes and articles	1914-1993
b. 23	Charlie McGee / <i>Firestarter</i> button	undated

b. 23	1920	1920-1940
b. 23	1919	1919-1939
b. 23	1918	1918, 1942
b. 23	Redemption 1918	1918-1940
b. 23	Clippings	1959, undated
b. 23	Ethel Barrymore theatre program	circa 1929
b. 23	John Barrymore in <i>The Beloved Rogue</i>	undated
b. 23	J. Barrymore moviebook	undated
b. 23	<i>My Dear Childrentickets</i>	1940
b. 23	Photo-negatives New York Public Library	1901-1918
b. 23	<i>Maytime 1937</i>	1937
b. 23	Lubin, 9/87	1980-1988
b. 23	File, 7/90	1938-1988
b. 23	<i>Sea Beast</i>	1973-1992
b. 23	Power-Waters biography	1940-1941
b. 23	Barrymore reviews	1919-1987
b. 23	Beinecke - Pat Willis 5/95	1953-1993
b. 23	Barrymore clippings	1936-1981
b. 23	Correspondence re film	1914-1987
b. 23	Talks, articles, by SMB	1953-1996
b. 23	Barrymore miscellaneous	1913-1993, undated
b. 24 (Cold storage)	"A Library of Motion Picture Stills Collected by Spencer Berger," canisters 1-30	1903-1947, undated
b. 25 (Cold storage)	"A Library of Motion Picture Still Collected by Spencer Berger," canisters 31-42	1903-1947, undated
	Scrapbook of Barrymore performances Stored in: Oversize, Box 30	undated
b. 26	Ethel Barrymore Proofs	undated
b. 26	<i>Good Night Sweet Prince</i> unrevised proofs	undated
b. 26	<i>The Barrymores</i> (Albert, Hollis) proof	1964
b. 26	<i>Memoirs, Ethel Barrymore</i>	1954 December

b. 27	<i>Image</i> magazine 6 Folders	1973-1982
b. 27	<i>The Moonlighter</i> , trade ad	1953 June 17
b. 27	Lou Walters, Latin Quarter Program	1946 August 3
b. 27	<i>How to become a Movie Star</i> , by Irving Klaw	1946
b. 27	Films in Review	1994
b. 27	<i>Small Wonder</i> program	1948 August
b. 27	The Smokies Guide; Great Smokey Mountains National Park	1941
b. 27	Official Guidebook; Worlds Fair, Chicago	1933
b. 27	Portrait photographs	1973
b. 27	Misc. flyers	1940-1942, undated
b. 27	Misc. printed material	undated
b. 27	<i>The Films of Buster Keaton</i>	1969 April 18
b. 27	Bimini Bay Song	1921
b. 27	Programs	1915-1973
b. 27	Misc film - ? Beinecke	1932-1985
b. 27	Shorts, surveys, personal	undated
b. 27	Features 1935 on	undated
b. 27	Records SMB films	undated
b. 27	Kerr 9/93	1974-1992
b. 27	Helen Claire	1933-1974, undated
b. 27	G. Fowler Letters	1930-1977
b. 27	SMB Misc. correspondence	1928-1991
b. 27	Jas.Card 12/94	1950-2000
b. 27	Griggs Collection 2 Folders	1944-1970
b. 27	Weinberg	1966-1979
b. 27	Flagg	1937-1960
b. 27	K. Brownlow	1970-1992
b. 28	Birchman	1937-1943

b. 28	Vallee	1975-1977
b. 28	Danny Kaye <i>3 Folders</i>	1975-1987
b. 28	Tibbett	1940-1976
b. 28	Woody Allen	1978-1995
b. 28	SMB personal misc 8/96	1941-1983
b. 28	Unpublished SMB film articles	1976, undated
b. 28	SMB lecture notes	1953-1989
b. 28	Charlie Chaplin	1977-1986
b. 28	Yale film course 12/66	1965-1967, undated
b. 28	Choate School <i>Moby Dick</i>	1967 February 8
b. 28	Gaylord benefit program 4/01/73	1972-1973
b. 28	N.H. Historical Society <i>2 Folders</i>	1966, 1982
b. 28	World Entertainment Stokowski 4/18/1982	1916-1982, undated
b. 28	<i>Don Juan</i> - Creative Arts 2/22/1973	1973 February
b. 28	Western History Ass'n. 10-11-72	1972-1974
b. 28	Butch Cassidy <i>3 Folders</i>	1969
b. 28	SMB YAM article 2/1985	1969-1995
b. 28	A.K. / Yale 10/1986	1985-1987
b. 28	III-9 YFSC 5/1989	1986-1990
b. 28	Yale Art Gallery	1982
b. 28	YFA <i>2 Folders</i>	1969-1984
b. 28	Film correspondence 1920s	1927-1929
b. 28	Film correspondence 1930s <i>2 Folders</i>	1930-1939, undated
b. 28	Film correspondence 1940s <i>3 Folders</i>	1936-1949
b. 28	Film correspondence 1950s <i>3 Folders</i>	1934-1959

b. 28	Film correspondence 1960s <i>2 Folders</i>	1946-1969
b. 28	Correspondence and notes <i>5 Folders</i>	1909-1991
b. 29	Film industry photos <i>10 Folders</i>	1901-1992, undated
b. 29	Elizabeth Love Catron	1936-1949
b. 29	Yale Film Associates <i>3 Folders</i>	1967-1973
b. 29	Tibbett	1930-1976
b. 29	Ted Lewis	1970-1970, undated
b. 29	Index to shorts	1975-1982
b. 29	Misc. re: film	1917-1981
b. 29	Sunday clips, programs, etc.	1937-1987, undated
b. 29	Film at Yale	1965-1988, undated
b. 29	Beinecke	1926-1983
b. 29	Acquisition data and catalog indices	undated
	Oversize	
b. 30	Scrapbook of Barrymore performances	1908-1941
b. 30	<i>Walt Disney's Fantasia</i> , 50th Anniversary commemorative program	undated
b. 30	The Stage	1933 June

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States
Musicians -- United States

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Photographs

Names

Barrymore, Ethel, 1879-1959
Barrymore, John, 1882-1942
Barrymore, Lionel, 1878-1954
Berger, Spencer, 1917-2002
Lewis, Ted, 1892-1971
Stokowski, Leopold, 1882-1977