

Groucho Marx Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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of Jewel Parker



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Groucho Marx Papers

Span Dates: 1930-1967

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1950-1965)

ID No.: MSS47845

Creator: Marx, Groucho, 1890-1977

Extent: 1,000 items; 6 containers; 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Humorist and actor. Correspondence, book typescripts, and film scripts relating to Marx's life and acting career.

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.

People

Ace, Goodman--Correspondence.

Allen, Fred, 1894-1956--Correspondence.

Blake, George, 1917-1955--Correspondence.

Cavett, Dick--Correspondence.

Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965--Correspondence.

Lewis, Jerry, 1926- --Correspondence.

Marx, Groucho, 1890-1977.

Marx, Groucho, 1890-1977. Groucho and me (1959)

Sheekman, Arthur, 1901-1978--Correspondence.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.

White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899-1985--Correspondence.

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses.

Motion picture industry--United States.

Motion picture plays.

Occupations

Actors.

Humorists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Groucho Marx, humorist and actor, were given to the Library of Congress by Marx in 1966. Additional material was acquired by purchase in 2003 and by gift in 2004.

Processing History

The papers of Groucho Marx were housed and listed circa 1966 and reprocessed in 2006.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Groucho Marx is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Groucho Marx are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Groucho Marx Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1890, Oct. 2	Born Julius Henry Marx, New York, N.Y.
1920	Married Ruth Johnson (divorced 1942)
1924	Appeared in <i>I'll Say She Is</i> (play)
1925	Appeared in <i>The Cocoanuts</i> (play)
1928	Appeared in <i>Animal Crackers</i> (play)
1929	Appeared in <i>The Cocoanuts</i> (film)
1930	Appeared in <i>Animal Crackers</i> (film)
1933	Appeared in <i>Horse Feathers</i> (film) Appeared in <i>Duck Soup</i> (film)
1935	Appeared in <i>A Night at the Opera</i> (film)
1937	Appeared in <i>A Day at the Races</i> (film)
1945	Married Catherine "Kay" Marvis-Gorcey (divorced 1951)
1946	Appeared in <i>A Night in Casablanca</i> (film)
1947	Appeared in <i>Copacabana</i> (film)
1950-1961	Hosted <i>You Bet Your Life</i> (television series)
1954	Married Eden Hartford (divorced 1969)
1959	Published <i>Groucho and Me</i> . New York: B. Geis Associates
1963	Published <i>Memoirs of a Mangy Lover</i> . New York: B. Geis Associates
1972	Awarded Commandeur des Arts et Lettres, Cannes Film Festival
1974	Awarded special Academy Award for achievements of the Marx Brothers

1977, Aug. 19 Died, Los Angeles, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Groucho Marx (1890-1977) span the years 1930-1967, with the bulk of the material dating from 1950 to 1965. Marx is best known as an actor in comedy films in the 1930s and 1940s as well as the host of the television show *You Bet Your Life* in the 1950s. The collection consists of typescripts of his books and film scripts, including *Animal Crackers*, *Duck Soup*, and *A Night at the Opera*. A large part of the collection contains correspondence with politicians, literary figures, and colleagues in the entertainment industry such as Goodman Ace, Fred Allen, Dick Cavett, T. S. Eliot, Jerry Lewis, Arthur Sheekman, Harry S. Truman, E. B. White, and Earl Wilson. An addition consists of a typescript draft of Marx's autobiography *Groucho and Me*, the published book, and correspondence with George Blake, the director of commercials for *You Bet Your Life*.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Books <i>Groucho and Me</i> , typescripts, 1959 (14 folders)
BOX 1	<i>Memoirs of a Mangy Lover</i> , typescripts, 1963 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	Ace, Goodman, 1950-1962, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Allen, Fred, 1950-1956, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Astor, David, 1954
BOX 2	Atkinson, Brooks, 1953
BOX 2	Baker, Russell, 1963-1964
BOX 2	Benoff, Mac, 1965
BOX 2	Berlin, Irving, 1956-1959
BOX 2	Blake, George, 1954-1956
BOX 2	Brown, John M., 1963
BOX 2	Cantor, Eddie, 1956-1964
BOX 2	Cavett, Dick, 1964-1966
BOX 2	Cerf, Bennett, undated
BOX 2	Coe, Fred, 1964-1965
BOX 2	Cook, Alistair, 1953-1957
BOX 2	Crosby, John, 1956-1963
BOX 2	Cross, Perry, 1962
BOX 2	Curley, James M., 1956
BOX 2	Delahanty, Thornton, 1945
BOX 2	Eliot, T. S., 1961-1964
BOX 2	Evans, Bergan, 1951-1963
BOX 2	Folsom, Frank, 1954
BOX 2	Gardner, Hy, 1953
BOX 2	Gershwin, Ira, 1959-1961
BOX 2	Gordon, Max, 1948-1954
BOX 2	Gottlieb, Alex, 1962
BOX 2	Green, Abel, 1948-1960
BOX 2	Green, Adolph, 1956-1961
BOX 2	Harbach, William, 1964
BOX 2	Hayden, Phyllis McGinley, 1954-1964
BOX 2	Hecht, Ben, 1951-1954
BOX 2	Hoffman, Irving, 1948-1953
BOX 2	Hughes, Lawrence, 1963
BOX 2	Johnson, Nunnally, 1960-1965, undated
BOX 2	Kanter, Hal, 1962

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 2	Kerr, Walter, 1958-1962
BOX 2	Kaufman, George S., 1951-1957
BOX 2	King, Alexander, 1960-1961
BOX 2	Kuchel, Thomas, 1964
BOX 2	Lee, C. Y., 1957
BOX 2	Levin, Hermin, 1956-1957
BOX 2	Lewis, Jerry, 1954-1962
BOX 2	Lieberson, Goddard, 1955-1964
BOX 2	Lindsay, Cynthia, 1962, undated
BOX 2	Little, Brown & Co., 1957-1958
BOX 2	Loesser, Frank, 1962-1964
BOX 2	Lyons, Leonard, 1962-1964
BOX 3	Martin, Peter, 1957-1960
BOX 3	Marx, Andrew, 1963-1965
BOX 3	Marx, Arthur, 1940-1945
BOX 3	Marx, Harpo, 1964
BOX 3	Marx, Minnie, 1964
BOX 3	<i>McCall's Magazine</i> , 1963
BOX 3	Murray, Arthur, 1951-1962
BOX 3	Murray, James, 1964
BOX 3	Murrow, Edward R., 1955-1959
BOX 3	Osterman, Lester, 1962-1963
BOX 3	Perelman, S. J., 1948
BOX 3	Rivkin, Allen, 1962
BOX 3	Rosten, Leo, 1951-1963
BOX 3	Ruby, Harry, 1949-1965
BOX 3	Salinger, Samuel, 1954-1964
BOX 3	Schlesinger, Arthur Meier (1917-), 1961
BOX 3	Schuster, M. Lincoln, 1950-1963
BOX 3	Sheekman, Arthur, 1930-1965, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3	Sheldon, Sidney, 1951-1952
BOX 3	Smith, C. R., 1953-1954
BOX 3	Sullivan, Frank, 1960-1965
BOX 3	Susskind, David, 1961-1964
BOX 3	Swope, Herbert B., 1954
BOX 3	Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene A., 1959-1963
BOX 3	Thurber, James 1957-1962
BOX 3	<i>Time</i> magazine, 1946-1952
BOX 3	Truman, Harry S., 1954
BOX 3	Tynan, Mrs. Kenneth, 1959
BOX 3	Van Horn, Harriet, 1957-1962
BOX 3	Welch, Joseph N., 1957-1960
BOX 3	White, E. B., 1954-1959
BOX 3	Wilson, Colin, 1957-1959
BOX 3	Wilson, Earl, 1949-1962

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 3	Zolotow, Samuel, 1945-1946
BOX 3	"A-Z" miscellaneous, 1943-1965 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Film scripts
BOX 4	<i>Animal Crackers</i> , 1930
BOX 4	<i>Monkey Business</i> , 1931 (2 folders)
BOX 4	<i>Duck Soup</i> , 1933
BOX 4	<i>A Night at the Opera</i> , 1935 (2 folders)
BOX 4	<i>A Day at the Races</i> , 1936
BOX 4	<i>Go West</i> , 1940
BOX 5	<i>Room Service</i> , 1938
BOX 5	<i>A Day at the Circus</i> , 1939
BOX 5	<i>A Night in Casablanca</i> , 1946
BOX 5	<i>It's Only Money</i> , 1948
BOX 6	Addition
	Book, <i>Groucho and Me</i> , 1959
BOX 6	Drafts (6 folders)
BOX 6	Published
BOX 6	Correspondence, George Blake, 1954-1956, 1967, undated