

Writers' War Board Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Writers' War Board Records

Span Dates: 1941-1945

ID No.: MSS46722

Creator: Writers' War Board

Extent: 73,000 items; 144 containers plus 2 oversize; 58.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Chiefly correspondence with writers and government agencies concerning dissemination of information and propaganda during World War II, together with writings, extracts of minutes of meetings, subject files, scrapbooks, photographs, posters, and other material.

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

Fadiman, Clifton, 1904-1999.

Green, Alan, 1906-1975.

LaFarge, Christopher, 1897-1956.

Leech, Margaret, 1893-1974.

Stout, Rex, 1886-1975.

Organizations

Writers' War Board.

Subjects

Authors, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Propaganda.

Places

New York (N.Y.)--Intellectual life--20th century.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of the Writers' War Board were given to the Library of Congress by the board between 1945 and 1947.

Processing History

The collection was organized and described in 1949. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the records of the Writers' War Board is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Writers' War Board 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, Writers' War Board Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Writers' War Board span the years 1941-1945 and consist chiefly of correspondence with writers and government agencies concerning dissemination of information and propaganda during World War II. Included are extracts of minutes of board meetings, correspondence, writings, subject files, scrapbooks, photographs, posters, and other records. Among the writers and individuals represented are Clifton Fadiman, Alan Green, Christopher LaFarge, Margaret Leech, and Rex Stout.

The collection is organized largely as received into twelve series: [Minutes](#), [Numerical File](#), [Correspondence I](#), [Correspondence II](#), [Correspondence III](#), [Transatlantic File](#), [Subject File](#), [Requests for Speakers](#), [Miscellany](#), [Manuscripts](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Oversize](#). Much of the material is not arranged. The correspondence series overlap chronologically, and [Correspondence II](#) includes a subset pertaining exclusively to Clifton Fadiman. An [Appendix](#) to this finding aid contains a tentative listing of subjects represented by first digits in the [Numerical File](#).

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in twelve series:

- [Minutes, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Numerical File, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Correspondence I, 1942-1943](#)
- [Correspondence II, 1942-1945](#)
- [Correspondence III, 1944-1945](#)
- [Transatlantic File, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Subject File, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Requests for Speakers, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Manuscripts, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Scrapbooks, circa 1942-1945](#)
- [Oversize, circa 1941-1945](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5	<u>Minutes, circa 1942-1945</u> Typed extracts from minutes of meetings of the board. Arranged by numerical folders designated as nos. 1-3 through 30-20.
BOX 6-93	<u>Numerical File, circa 1942-1945</u> Mainly correspondence relating to the work of the board. Dossiers are numbered, the first or cardinal digit representing the type of subject, the second, or subordinate digit representing individual projects. <i>See <u>Appendix</u> for tentative list of subjects represented by the first digits</i>
BOX 94-107	<u>Correspondence I, 1942-1943</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged as received in two groups, Set A and Set B, and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent.
BOX 108-116	<u>Correspondence II, 1942-1945</u> Letters sent and received mainly from 1944-1945. General correspondence is arranged alphabetically as received by name of correspondent. Correspondence under the letter "N" is missing. Includes a subset of correspondence with Clifton Fadiman, 1942-1944, at the end of the series.
BOX 117-118	<u>Correspondence III, 1944-1945</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically as received by name of correspondent.
BOX 119-121	<u>Transatlantic File, circa 1942-1945</u> Letters sent and received by the magazine. Articles are enclosed in some letters. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 122-131	<u>Subject File, circa 1942-1945</u> Mainly letters sent and received. Name and subject dossiers are arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 132	<u>Requests for Speakers, circa 1942-1945</u> Letters sent and received. No arrangement.
BOX 133-136	<u>Miscellany, circa 1942-1945</u> Miscellaneous letters sent and received and miscellany including printed matter and processed articles. No arrangement.

- BOX 137-143 Manuscripts, circa 1942-1945
Typed or processed manuscripts submitted to the board for use in its work
and a few letters sent and received.
No arrangement.
- BOX 144 Scrapbooks, circa 1942-1945
Printed material concerning the work of the board, including posters,
clippings, letters, magazines articles, and other printed matter.
References to the scrapbooks are found in the Numerical File and various
correspondence series.
- BOX OV 1-OV 2 Oversize, circa 1941-1945
Scrapbooks.
Arranged and described according to the series and container from which
they were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Minutes, circa 1942-1945 Typed extracts from minutes of meetings of the board. Arranged by numerical folders designated as nos.1-3 through 30-20.
BOX 1	1-3 to 1A-37 and special
BOX 2	1-39
BOX 3	3-1 to 11-46
BOX 4	13-47 to 27-5
BOX 5	27-6 to 30-20
BOX 6-93	Numerical File, circa 1942-1945 Mainly correspondence relating to the work of the board. Dossiers are numbered, the first or cardinal digit representing the type of subject, the second, or subordinate digit representing individual projects. See <i>Appendix</i> for tentative list of subjects represented by the first digits
BOX 6	1-1 to 1-5
BOX 7	1-5 to 1-29A
BOX 8	1-31 to 1-33
BOX 9	1-33 to 1-40
BOX 10	1-41 to 1-44-7
BOX 11	1-44-8 to 1-52
BOX 12	1-52 to 1-57
BOX 13	1-58 to 1-65
BOX 14	1-65 to 1-65-2
BOX 15	1-66 to 1-79
BOX 16	1-79A to 1-79-2
BOX 17	1-79-3 to 1-79-6
BOX 18	1-79-7 to 1-79-20
BOX 19	1-79-21 to 1-79-27
BOX 20	1-79-29 to 1-123
BOX 21	1A-1 to 1A-13
BOX 22	1A-1B to 1A-4
BOX 23	1A-5 to 1A-23A
BOX 24-25	1A-23A to 1A-23A
BOX 26	2-1 to 2-132
BOX 27	3-1 to 3-53-4
BOX 28	3-53-5 to 3-53-41
BOX 29	3-53-41 to 3-62
BOX 30	3-64 to 3-66
BOX 31	3-66-1 to 3-71
BOX 32	3-66-1 to 3-41

Numerical File, circa 1942-1945

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 33	2A-20 to 3B-15
BOX 34	2C to 3C-21
BOX 35	3C3 to 3C5
BOX 36	3C5 to 3C7
BOX 37	3C8 to 4-9
BOX 38	4-9
BOX 39	4-9A to 4A-11
BOX 40	4A 15 to 5-133
BOX 41	5-133
BOX 42	5-133 to 5-146
BOX 43	5-147 to 5-154
BOX 44	5-155 to 5-164
BOX 45	5-164 to 5-165
BOX 46	5-168 to 5A-1
BOX 47	6-1 to 8-18
BOX 48	8-18 to 8-21
BOX 49	8-22 to 9-13-1
BOX 50	9-13-1 to 9-26
BOX 51	9-26 to 10-16
BOX 52	10-17 to 11-1
BOX 53	11-1 to 11-10
BOX 54	11-10 [Lidice, Czechoslovakia]
BOX 55	11-10 [Lidice, Czechoslovakia]
BOX 56	11-11 to 11-25
BOX 57	11-25 to 11-31
BOX 58	11-37 to 11-32
BOX 59	11-32 to 11-33
BOX 60	11-34 to 11-37
BOX 61	11-37
BOX 62	11-38 to 12-5
BOX 63	12-5 to 13-1
BOX 64	13-1 to 13-18
BOX 65	13-18 to 13-18-40
BOX 66	13-18-11 to 13-18-79
BOX 67	13-18-88 to 13-18-109
BOX 68	13-19 to 13-31
BOX 69	13-32 to 13-42
BOX 70	13-43 to 13-74
BOX 71	13-75 to 17-9
BOX 72	18-1 to 20-9
BOX 73	20-10 to 21-15
BOX 74	21-6 to 22
BOX 75	22-1 to 22-6
BOX 76	22-26 to 22B-8
BOX 77	22B-10 to 22B-53
BOX 78	23-1 to 23-10

Numerical File, circa 1942-1945

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 79	23-12 to 23-22
BOX 80	23-12 to 23-22
BOX 81	23-37B to 23-74
BOX 82	23A1 to 24-12
BOX 83	24-12, A-L
BOX 84	24-12, M-2
BOX 85	24-12 to 24-12-1A
BOX 86	24-12-1B to 24-12-3B
BOX 87	24-12-3C to 24-16
BOX 88	24-12 to 24-41
BOX 89	24-42 to 24-50
BOX 90	24-50-1 to 24A-2
BOX 91	24A-2 to 24A-4
BOX 92	25-2 to 25-4
BOX 93	26-2 to 26-4
BOX 94-107	Correspondence I, 1942-1943 Letters sent and received. Arranged as received in two groups, Set A and Set B, and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent.
BOX 94	Set A A-Bw, 1942-1943 Bo-Bz, 1942
BOX 95	Bo-Bz, 1943 C, 1942-1943 C, 1942
BOX 96	D, 1943 E-F, 1942-1943 G, 1942
BOX 97	G, 1943 H-J, 1942-1943
BOX 98	K-Mc, 1942-1943
BOX 99	M-W, 1942-1943
BOX 100	O-R, 1942-1943 S-So, 1942
BOX 101	S-So, 1943 Sp-U, 1942-1943 W-Wo, 1942
BOX 102	Set B A-C
BOX 103	D-H
BOX 104	I-N
BOX 105	O-S
BOX 106	T-W
BOX 107	W-Wo

Correspondence I, 1942-1943

Container

Contents

Wo-Wg

BOX 108-116	Correspondence II, 1942-1945 Letters sent and received mainly from 1944-1945. General correspondence is arranged alphabetically as received by name of correspondent. Correspondence under the letter "N" is missing. Includes a subset of correspondence with Clifton Fadiman, 1942-1944, at the end of the series.
BOX 108	General, 1944-1945
	A
BOX 109	B
BOX 110	C
BOX 111	D-E
BOX 112	E-H
BOX 113	I-N
BOX 114	M-P [W missing]
BOX 115	P-S T
BOX 116	T U-W Clifton Fadiman, 1942-1944
BOX 117-118	Correspondence III, 1944-1945 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically as received by name of correspondent.
BOX 117	A-K Request for scripts and information
BOX 118	L-Z Request for scripts and information
BOX 119-121	<i>Transatlantic</i> File, circa 1942-1945 Letters sent and received by the magazine. Articles are enclosed in some letters. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 119	A-C
BOX 120	C-H
BOX 121	J-Z
BOX 122-131	Subject File, circa 1942-1945 Mainly letters sent and received. Name and subject dossiers are arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 122	Acknowledgment of bonds Approvals, version I Assignments, issues 1-4

Subject File, circa 1942-1945

Container

Contents

	Authors refused
	Awaiting reply
	Background and research material
	Bell, Ulric (platform)
	Bode, B., miscellany
BOX 123	Brief items
	Cables from Geoffrey Crowther
	Cables for Margaret Leech
	Cartoons, political
	Circulars and bulletins
	Comments and criticisms
	Correspondence with pinks
	Correspondence with whites
BOX 124	Correspondence with yellows
	Crowther, Geoffrey
	Crowther, Geoffrey, commentary, issue III
	Dogs
	Dope sheet
	Editorial committee
	Correspondence
	Minutes
	“The Face,” by Sargeant Arthur Laurent
	Forest fire fighting, student nurses
	Form letters
	Gallico, Paul
	General correspondence
	Girl Scouts
	Gizyck, Felicia
	Grant, James
	Grew, Joseph
BOX 125	Hidley, Philo
	Hirsch, Mrs. Selma G.
	Hollywood Writers Mobilization
	Inside Maple City
	Job applicants
	Junior League
	Kleeman, Rita Hale
	Landry, Robert
	Marthay, McCleery
	MacDonald, Claudine
	Magazines
	Manuscripts
	March by Mitchell Grayson
	May 28 showing
	Minutes
	Mitchel Field clips

Subject File, circa 1942-1945

Container

Contents

BOX 126	Miscellaneous articles and clippings of interest Returned questionnaires Permissions, radio shows Correspondence with Navy Department regarding use of material Special Service Division correspondence Unidentified Name file New York Newspaper Women's Club Office of Civilian Defense
BOX 127	Office of Defense Transport Office of Facts and Figures Office of War Information Telegrams Book Division Miscellany Orientation files Patric, John Payment Perelman, S. J. Personalities, background Phillips, Barbara Photography and maps Photographs Playbills Playbills, Inc. Plays Burack Schools Poetry Polish Information Center Porter, Sylvia Poster committee, Judge Advocate General
BOX 128	Posters Prescott, Orville Press research issues Pringle, Henry, Office of War Information. Public Affairs Commission Published, Writers' War Board Published publicity, N.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Radio material Reference Refusals, version I Replies, Adv. C., Revised Statement Reprints Nonfiction, published Fiction, under consideration

Subject File, circa 1942-1945

Container

Contents

BOX 129	Rodell, Mrs. Rodgers, Dorothy, New York War Fund Sample mailing See magazine Selective Service Ask Sillcox Speeches Sports writers bulletin State extension directors Tarkington, Booth Theta Sigma Phi "This Month," reprints from <i>Transatlantic</i> Thompson, D., and reply, Version I <i>Transatlantic</i> for Geoffrey Crowder <i>Transatlantic</i> manuscripts K-L M-N S-V
BOX 130	Typical requests and replies (Bi-Ho etc) United Nations responses Unanswered U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps background Volunteers for help Waithman, Robert, Washington letter White, Marion
BOX 131	The Woman Woman power Writers' War Board Assorted Brief items Contest, class IT, submitted by SSO Writers' War Board Syndicated Services Subcommittee Woman's Day Women's Army Auxiliary Corps United Nations Day
BOX 132	Requests for Speakers, circa 1942-1945 Letters sent and received. No arrangement.
BOX 132	Correspondence concerning requests for speakers, circa 1942-1945
BOX 133-136	Miscellany, circa 1942-1945 Miscellaneous letters sent and received and miscellany including printed matter and processed articles. No arrangement.

Miscellany, circa 1942-1945

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 133-136	Miscellaneous correspondence and other unarranged papers, circa 1942-1945
BOX 137-143	Manuscripts, circa 1942-1945 Typed or processed manuscripts submitted to the board for use in its work and a few letters sent and received. No arrangement.
BOX 137-143	Unarranged manuscripts, circa 1942-1945
BOX 144	Scrapbooks, circa 1942-1945 Printed material concerning the work of the board, including posters, clippings, letters, magazines articles, and other printed matter. References to the scrapbooks are found in the Numerical File and various correspondence series.
BOX 144	General, 1942-1944 Loose material Bound vol. <i><u>See Oversize</u></i> "Lidice Lives," circa 1941-1945 <i><u>See Oversize</u></i>
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, circa 1941-1945 Scrapbooks. Arranged and described according to the series and container from which they were removed.
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks (Container 144) General Bound vol., 1942-1944
BOX OV 2	"Lidice Lives," circa 1941-1945

Appendix: Tentative List of Subjects Represented by First Digits in the Numerical File

- 1. General war background material
- 2. Army Air Force
- 3. Rehabilitation
- 4. Navy
- 5. War bonds
- 6. Agriculture
- 7. Schools
- 8. Labor
- 9. Civilian dramatic programs
- 10. Office of Price Administration
- 11. Lidice, Czechoslovakia
- 12. Radio
- 13. Office of War Information [?] or Coordinator of Information
- 14. Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs
- 15. [Missing]
- 16. Economic warfare
- 17. War Production Board
- 18. Office of Strategic Services
- 19. War Manpower Commission
- 20. Red Cross
- 21. National War Fund [relief]
- 22. United Nations
- 23. Germany
- 23A. Japan
- 24. Miscellaneous material re dissemination of information [?]
- 25. [Missing]
- 26. Japanese and Americans relocation
- 27. Office of Defense Transportation
- 28. "I Am an American Day"
- 29. [Missing]
- 30. Register and vote (propaganda for)