

George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



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**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu014003>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/2006568229>

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Collection Summary

Title: George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers

Span Dates: circa 1892-1998

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1922-1990s)

Call No.: ML31.K38

Creator: Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961

Creator: Schneider, Anne Kaufman

Extent: approximately 1,500 items ; 10 containers ; 6.0 linear feet

Language: Collection material chiefly in English

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

Abstract: George S. Kaufman was an American playwright, producer, director, drama critic, and humorist. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, scripts, and other materials related to his career. His daughter, Anne Kaufman Schneider (b. 1925), remained active in preserving Kaufman's legacy well into the 1990s. Her correspondence related to these efforts and family photographs are also included in the collection.

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

Carlisle, Kitty, 1910-2007--Correspondence.

Carlisle, Kitty, 1910-2007--Photographs.

Hart, Moss, 1904-1961--Correspondence.

Hart, Moss, 1904-1961--Photographs.

Kaufman, Beatrice, 1895-1945--Correspondence.

Kaufman, Beatrice, 1895-1945--Photographs.

Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961--Correspondence.

Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961--Photographs.

Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961.

Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961.

Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961. Plays. Selections.

Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-1991--Photographs.

Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-1991.

Schneider, Anne Kaufman--Correspondence.

Schneider, Anne Kaufman--Photographs.

Schneider, Anne Kaufman.

Schneider, Anne Kaufman. George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider papers. circa 1892-1998.

Selznick, Irene Mayer, 1907-1990.

Wickes, Mary, 1910-1995--Correspondence.

Subjects

Dramatists, American--20th century--Correspondence.

Dramatists, American--20th century.

Musical theater--United States.

Musicals--Librettos.

Stage photography.

Theater programs--United States.

Theater--United States.

Titles

George S. Kaufman collection, circa 1892-1998

Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)
Correspondence.
Photographic prints.
Playbills.
Programs (Documents)
Promotional materials.
Scrapbooks.
Scripts (Documents)

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift, Anne Kaufman Schneider, 1998. Additional materials received in 2002.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers were processed by Kevin O'Connell in 2014. Christopher Hartten coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2014.

Related Material

The following Library of Congress Music Division collections contain correspondence and other materials pertaining to George S. Kaufman: [Cole Porter Collection](#) (ML31.P67), [Gilbert Miller Papers](#) (ML31.M55), [George and Ira Gershwin Collection](#) (ML31.G38), and [Arthur Schwartz Papers](#) (ML31.S38). In addition, the Library of Congress Manuscript Division holds several pertinent collections: [George S. Kaufman Papers](#) (scripts only - MSS28233), [Howard Teichmann Papers](#) (MSS84881), [Joseph Alsop and Stewart Alsop Papers](#) (MSS10561), and [Rosamond Pinchot Papers](#) (MSS85544).

Copyright Status

Materials from the George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1889, Nov. 16	Born, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
1908	Moved with family to Paterson, New Jersey Submitted items to humor columnist Franklin Pierce Adams, who published them in the <i>Evening Mail</i> Adams became Kaufman's mentor in New York

- 1912 Humor columnist for the *Washington Times*
- 1913 Fired from the *Washington Times* for being Jewish
Humor columnist for the *Evening Mail* in New York
- circa 1914 Reporter and drama editor for the *Tribune*
- 1917, Mar. 15 Married Beatrice Bakrow (died 1945)
- 1917-1930 Drama editor for the *New York Times*
- 1918, Sept. 4 Made Broadway debut as a playwright with the opening of *Someone in the House*, co-authored with Larry Evans and Walter C. Percival
- 1919 Member of the Algonquin Round Table luncheons
- 1921 Second play, *Dulcy*, opened on Broadway (written with Marc Connelly)
Began a streak of 38 Broadway seasons that contained at least one play written or directed by Kaufman
- 1924 *Minick* opened on Broadway, the first of six collaborations between Kaufman and Edna Ferber
- 1925 Daughter Anne adopted
- 1925, Sept. 23 *The Butter and Egg Man* opened, the only straight play Kaufman wrote without a collaborator
- 1925, Dec. 8 *The Cocoanuts* opened, Kaufman's first play with the Marx Brothers, and a collaboration with Irving Berlin
- 1928 *The Front Page* opened, the first play for which Kaufman received credit as sole director
- 1930 Collaborated with Moss Hart for the first time on *Once in a Lifetime*
- 1931 *Of Thee I Sing* opened, written with Morrie Ryskind, music by George Gershwin and lyrics by Ira Gershwin
- 1932 *Of Thee I Sing* became first musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama
- 1936 *You Can't Take It with You* opened, a collaboration with Hart (ran for 838 performances)
In the midst of a child custody dispute, actress Mary Astor's ex-husband disclosed entries from her diary detailing her affair with Kaufman
- 1937 *You Can't Take It with You* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Collaborated with John Steinbeck on stage adaptation of *Of Mice and Men*
Directed *Of Mice and Men* which ran on Broadway for 207 performances
- 1938 *Of Mice and Men* won Drama Critics' Circle award as Best Play of the Year
- 1939 *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, written with Hart, began its run of 739 performances on Broadway
- 1940 Directed *My Sister Eileen*, which ran on Broadway for 864 performances

1949, May 26	Married Leueen MacGrath (divorced 1957)
1950	Directed Frank Loesser musical <i>Guys & Dolls</i>
1951	Won Tony Awards for Best Director and Best Musical for <i>Guys & Dolls</i>
1961, June 2	Died, New York City

Scope and Content Note

The George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers consist of materials related to Kaufman's life and career and to productions of his plays in the four decades following his death, which were managed by Schneider, his daughter. A small portion of these latter materials pertain to actress Eva Le Gallienne, a friend of Schneider, and to producer Irene Mayer Selznick, for whom Schneider's husband Irving worked. Correspondence largely falls into two categories: letters from Kaufman, primarily to Schneider, Beatrice Kaufman, Moss and Kitty Hart, and actress Mary Wickes; and letters to Schneider about posthumous productions of Kaufman's plays. In addition, the correspondence contains letters from Beatrice Kaufman to Schneider and friends, as well as a small amount of George Kaufman's correspondence with Edna Ferber, Garson Kanin, Cole Porter, and others.

Photographs in the collection include portraits and candid images of Kaufman, Schneider, Beatrice Kaufman, Moss and Kitty Hart, Eva Le Gallienne, and various members of the Kaufman family. Other notable personalities present are Brooks Atkinson, Sam Zolotow, Alexander Woolcott, Harpo Marx, Howard Dietz, Sam Harris, Lorenz Hart, George M. Cohan, Richard Rodgers, Jacqueline Susann, Clifton Fadiman, Sam Levenson, Margalo Gillmore, Katherine Cornell, Helen Hayes, Ethel Merman, Frank Sinatra, Yip Harburg, Monty Woolley, Lynn Fontanne, Alfred Lunt, Irene Castle, Mary Astor, and Ginger Rogers. Photographs from posthumous productions of Kaufman's plays and other plays include images of Le Gallienne, Kate Burton, Jack Cassidy, Estelle Parsons, Stephen Sondheim, Kevin McCarthy, Ellis Raab, Sam Levene, Tom Bosley, Avery Schreiber, Faye DeWitt, Donny Most, Jason Robards, James Coco, Colleen Dewhurst, and Elizabeth Wilson. Several pages from a photo album kept by Schneider as a child and a variety of production stills from Kaufman plays are also included.

The remaining miscellaneous materials in the collection chiefly consist of playbills and scripts. These include a small number of items from original productions of Kaufman plays and many more from revivals and adaptations. Any notes or other annotations on the scripts are from later producers of the plays. Only a small quantity of the clippings are from Kaufman's lifetime; the majority are critical reviews and other articles about posthumous productions of his plays. Promotional materials, scrapbooks, writings of Schneider and Beatrice Kaufman, and items related to the George S. Kaufman Award round out the series.

Organization of the George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider Papers

The collection is organized in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1922-1998](#)
- [Photographs, circa 1892-1988](#)
- [Miscellany, 1921-1998](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Correspondence, 1922-1998

Letters and business papers to or from George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider.
Arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent.

BOX 2, 9

Photographs, circa 1892-1988

Chiefly portraits and candid photographs of the Kaufmans, Moss and Kitty Hart, Eva Le Gallienne, and production stills.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 3-10

Miscellany, 1921-1998

Clippings, playbills, scripts, promotional materials, a scrapbook, and other assorted materials.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1922-1998 Letters and business papers to or from George S. Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Schneider. Arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Booth, John E., 1944
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Ferber, Edna, 1956
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Hart, Moss and Kitty, 1936, 1952-1961
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Kanin, Garson, circa 1954
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Kaufman, Beatrice, 1935-1940 From George S. Kaufman
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Kaufman, Beatrice, 1937-1945 Miscellany
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Kaufman, George S., 1929-1933, 1949 Miscellany
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Porter, Cole, 1955
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Schneider, Anne Kaufman, 1941-1943 From Beatrice Kaufman
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Schneider, Anne Kaufman, 1936-1957 From George S. Kaufman
BOX-FOLDER 1/11-14	Schneider, Anne Kaufman, 1953-1998 Miscellany
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Tyler, George C., 1922-1924, 1933-1935
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Wickes, Mary, 1942-1958
BOX 2, 9	Photographs, circa 1892-1988 Chiefly portraits and candid photographs of the Kaufmans, Moss and Kitty Hart, Eva Le Gallienne, and production stills. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 2/1, 9/1	Hart, Moss and Kitty, alone and with others, 1939-1954, and undated Includes: Arlene Francis, George Jessel, Alexander Woollcott
BOX-FOLDER 2/2, 9/2	Kaufman, Beatrice, alone and with others, 1909, 1935, and undated Includes: Charles Friedman, "Yip" Harburg, Moss Hart, Ethel Merman, Frank Sinatra, Alexander Woollcott
BOX-FOLDER 2/3, 9/3	Kaufman, George S., alone, circa 1892-1956
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Kaufman, George S., with others, 1930s and undated Includes: Katharine Cornell, Moss and Kitty Hart, Beatrice Kaufman, Harpo Marx, Anne Schneider, Alexander Woollcott
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Le Gallienne, Eva, alone and with others, 1952, 1979-1982 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/6, 9/4	Miscellaneous family members, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Miscellaneous productions, 1976-1988 and undated

Photographs, circa 1892-1988

Container

Contents

	Includes: <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> , <i>Animal Crackers</i> (1982), <i>June Moon</i> , <i>The Royal Family</i> (1976), <i>Strike Up the Band</i> (1988), <i>You Can't Take It With You</i>
BOX-FOLDER 9/5	Miscellany, undated
	Interior of Kaufman home
BOX-FOLDER 2/8-10	Miscellany, circa 1925-1939
	Photo album
	Chiefly childhood photos of Anne Kaufman and friends, and sightseeing photos in London and Colorado
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Other people, undated
	Includes: Mary Astor, Irene Castle, Lynn Fontanne, Alfred Lunt, Harpo Marx, Ginger Rogers, Alexander Woolcott, Monty Woolley
BOX-FOLDER 2/12, 9/6	Schneider, Anne Kaufman, 1979, 1987, and undated
BOX 3-10	Miscellany, 1921-1998
	Clippings, playbills, scripts, promotional materials, a scrapbook, and other assorted materials. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 10	Clippings, 1929-1990s
	Mostly posthumous reviews of Kaufman productions
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	George S. Kaufman Award, 1987
BOX-FOLDER 3/2-3	Le Gallienne, Eva, 1980s-1990s
	Clippings, related correspondence, programs, and other materials
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	Miscellany, 1953, 1972, and undated
	Programs, 1921-1997
	Kaufman productions
BOX-FOLDER 3/5-26	A - M
BOX-FOLDER 4/1-10, 9/7	N - Z
BOX-FOLDER 4/11	Programs, 1939-1998
	Non-Kaufman productions
BOX-FOLDER 4/12	Promotional materials, 1980s-1990s
BOX-FOLDER 9/8-9	Scrapbooks, 1930s-1940s
	Clippings about George S. and Beatrice Kaufman, childhood writings by Anne Kaufman, and correspondence
	Scripts, 1925-1994
BOX-FOLDER 5/1-8	A - I
BOX-FOLDER 6/1-6	I - P
BOX-FOLDER 7/1-5	R - S
BOX-FOLDER 8/1-2	Y
BOX-FOLDER 8/3	Writings, 1934, 1943, and undated
	Works by Beatrice Kaufman, Anne Kaufman Schneider, and Isaac Adler