

Ruth Gordon Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013093>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm73049825>

Prepared by Grover Batts

Collection Summary

Title: Ruth Gordon Papers

Span Dates: 1924-1969

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1969)

ID No.: MSS49825

Creator: Gordon, Ruth, 1896-1985

Extent: 6,000 items ; 26 containers ; 10.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Actress and playwright. General correspondence, production material, business records, and other papers concerning Gordon's career in movies and the theater.

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

Ferber, Edna, 1887-1968--Correspondence.

Gordon, Ruth, 1896-1985.

Guinness, Alec, 1914-2000--Correspondence.

Leigh, Vivien, 1913-1967--Correspondence.

Loos, Anita, 1893-1981--Correspondence.

Morse, Robert, 1931- --Correspondence.

Subjects

Drama--Stories, plots, etc.

Motion picture plays, American.

Theater--Production and direction.

Occupations

Actresses.

Playwrights.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Ruth Gordon, actress and playwright, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Gordon in 1969 and converted to a gift and purchase in 2008.

Processing History

The Ruth Gordon Papers were processed in 1972. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and again in 2013.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Gordon's husband, [Garson Kanin](#).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ruth Gordon is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ruth Gordon 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, Ruth Gordon Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ruth Gordon (1896-1985) span the years 1924-1969, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1940 and 1969. Included in the collection are correspondence, scripts, financial records, and other material relating mainly to the plays and motion pictures in which Gordon appeared. The papers are organized into four series: [General Correspondence](#); [Articles, Drama, and Motion Picture File](#); [Financial Records](#); and [Miscellany](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) consists mainly of letters received by Gordon, with only a scattered number of her replies. The correspondence relates primarily to her career as an actress and author and includes a substantial number of letters of particular interest from Edna Ferber, Alex Guinness, Vivien Leigh, Anita Loos, and Robert Morse.

Included in the [Articles, Drama, and Motion Picture File](#) are scripts and screenplays (many in sequential drafts that show the evolution of the work into its final form), financial records, publicity material, and reviews of the works. There is also correspondence relating to specific plays and motion pictures. A group of financial records contain Gordon's bank statements and cancelled checks for the years 1937-1957.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1924-1967](#)
- [Article, Drama, and Motion Picture File, 1945-1969](#)
- [Financial Records, 1937-1959](#)
- [Miscellany](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3	<u>General Correspondence, 1924-1967</u> Mainly letters received with a few replies. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 4-14	<u>Article, Drama, and Motion Picture File, 1945-1969</u> Articles, outlines, scripts, correspondence and other production material. Organized by type of work and therein alphabetically by title or type of material.
BOX 15-25	<u>Financial Records, 1937-1959</u> Bank statements and cancelled checks. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 26	<u>Miscellany</u> Printed biographical material and a miscellaneous item. Unarranged

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	General Correspondence, 1924-1967 Mainly letters received with a few replies. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 1	Abbott, George
BOX 1	Adams, Esther (Mrs. Franklin P. Adams)
BOX 1	Akins, Zoe
BOX 1	Allen, Fred
BOX 1	Ames, Winthrop
BOX 1	Anderson, Robert W.
BOX 1	Ashburn, Carroll
BOX 1	Atkinson, Brooks
BOX 1	Atkinson, Oriana
BOX 1	Ashcroft, Peggy
BOX 1	Astor, Minnie (Mrs. Vincent Astor)
BOX 1	"A" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Baldwin, Faith
BOX 1	Barillet, Pierre
BOX 1	Beaton, Cecil
BOX 1	Behrman, Samuel N.
BOX 1	Berlin, Irving
BOX 1	Bolton, Guy
BOX 1	Bouché, René R.
BOX 1	Brackett, Charles
BOX 1	Braithwaite, Lilian
BOX 1	Bromfield, Louis
BOX 1	Burke, Billie
BOX 1	"B" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Cornell, Polly
BOX 1	Cukor, George
BOX 1	Curie, Eve
BOX 1	"C-D" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Ehrlich, Hedwig (Mrs. Paul Ehrlich)
BOX 1	Evans, Maurice
BOX 1	"E" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Ferber, Edna
BOX 1	Fields, Gracie
BOX 1	Ferrer, José
BOX 1	Frankfurter, Felix
BOX 1	"F" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Gielgud, John
BOX 1	Gish, Dorothy
BOX 1	Gish, Lillian

General Correspondence, 1924-1967

Container

Contents

BOX 1	Golden, John
BOX 1	Grant, Cary
BOX 1	Guinness, Alec
BOX 1	Guinzberg, Harold K.
BOX 1	Hardwicke, Helena (Lady Cedric Hardwicke)
BOX 1	Harris, Sam H.
BOX 1	Harrison, Rex
BOX 1	Hart, Mess
BOX 1	Helpmann, Robert
BOX 1	Hoffmann, Irving
BOX 1	Howard, Polly (Mrs. Sidney Howard)
BOX 1	Howard, Sidney
BOX 1	Howe, James Wong
BOX 1	Huston, Walter
BOX 1	Hutchins, Robert M.
BOX 1	Hyde, John
BOX 1	"H" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Isaacs, Stanley M.
BOX 1	"I" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Jeans, Ursula
BOX 1	Jones, Robert Edmond
BOX 1	"J" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Kaufman, George S.
BOX 1	Kazan, Elia
BOX 1	"K" miscellaneous
BOX 1	Lanchester, Elsa
BOX 1	Laughton, Charles
BOX 1	Lawford, Ernest
BOX 1	Lawrence, Gertrude
BOX 1	Leigh, Vivien
BOX 2	Lillie, Beatrice
BOX 2	Leontovitch, Eugenie
BOX 2	Loos, Anita
BOX 2	Lindsay, Howard
BOX 2	Logan, Joshua
BOX 2	Lubitsch, Niccla
BOX 2	Luce, Clare Boothe
BOX 2	"L" miscellaneous
BOX 2	MacArthur, Charles
BOX 2	McCarthy, Frank
BOX 2	McCowen, Alec
BOX 2	McKay, Scott
BOX 2	McKenna, Kenneth
BOX 2	McQueen, Steve
BOX 2	Macrae, Arthur
BOX 2	"Mc" miscellaneous

General Correspondence, 1924-1967

Container

Contents

BOX 2	Martin, Mary
BOX 2	Massey, Dorothy
BOX 2	Massey, Raymond
BOX 2	Merrick, David
BOX 2	Morse, May
BOX 2	Morse, Richard
BOX 2	Morse, Robert
BOX 2	Murphy, Noel
BOX 2	"M" miscellaneous
BOX 2	Niven, David
BOX 2	"H-O" miscellaneous
BOX 2	Pardoll, David
BOX 2	Patterson, Joseph Medill
BOX 2	Peck, Gregory
BOX 2	Pitts, Zazu
BOX 2	Porter, Cole
BOX 2	Porterfield, Robert
BOX 2	"P-Q" miscellaneous
BOX 2	Redgrave, Michael
BOX 2	Reiner, Carlotta (Mrs. Fritz Reiner)
BOX 2	Ritter, Thelma
BOX 2	Rogers, Ginger
BOX 2	Ross, Ariane (Mrs. Harold W. Ross)
BOX 2	Ross, Emily
BOX 2	Rosten, Norman
BOX 2	"R" miscellaneous
BOX 2	Sell, Henry B.
BOX 2	Selznick, David O. <i>See also Container 1, Hyde, John</i>
BOX 2	Shean, Al
BOX 2	Sherwood, Madeline
BOX 2	Sherwood, Robert E.
BOX 2	Shubert, Lee
BOX 2	Simonson, Lee
BOX 2	Skinner, Cornelia Otis
BOX 2	Snow, Carmel
BOX 2	Sothorn, Ann
BOX 2	Soulé, Henri
BOX 2	Sterling, Jan
BOX 2	Stickney, Dorothy
BOX 2	Sullivan, Ed
BOX 2	Sweet, Blanche
BOX 2	Swope, Herbert Bayard
BOX 3	"S" miscellaneous
BOX 3	Tillstrom, Burr
BOX 3	"T-U" miscellaneous
BOX 3	Valentine (Valentina Nicholaevna Sanina Schlee)

General Correspondence, 1924-1967

Container

Contents

BOX 3	Van Druten, John
BOX 3	Verdon, Gwen
BOX 3	Vidor, Doris (Mrs. Charles Vidor)
BOX 3	“V” miscellaneous
BOX 3	Warner, Jack
BOX 3	Webster, Margaret
BOX 3	Welles, Orson
BOX 3	Wescott, Glenway
BOX 3	West, Rebecca
BOX 3	White, Blwyn Brooks
BOX 3	Whitty, May
BOX 3	Williams, Emlyn
BOX 3	Winter, Ella
BOX 3	Wodehouse, Pelham Grenville
BOX 3	Welfert, Ira
BOX 3	Woods, Marion K.
BOX 3	Woolcott, Alexander
BOX 3	“W” miscellaneous
BOX 3	Unidentified

BOX 4-14

Article, Drama, and Motion Picture File, 1945-1969

Articles, outlines, scripts, correspondence and other production material.

Organized by type of work and therein alphabetically by title or type of material.

BOX 4	Article, “How to Think Up a Play”
BOX 4	Dramas
BOX 4	<i>The Loves of Cass McGuire</i>
BOX 4	Script
BOX 4	Correspondence
BOX 4	Anspach, Andrew A.
BOX 4	Brown, Slade
BOX 4	Cornell, Katherine
BOX 4	Ehrlich, Richard A.
BOX 4	Friel, Brian
BOX 4	Gershe, Leonard
BOX 4	Goetz, William
BOX 4	Lefkowitz, Nathan
BOX 4	Lerman, Leo
BOX 4	Lieberson, Coddard
BOX 4	Lyons, Leonard
BOX 4	McDowall, Roddy
BOX 4	Merrick, David
BOX 4	Nichols, Mike
BOX 4	Sinatra, Frank
BOX 4	Turgeon, Peter
BOX 4	<i>The Matchmaker</i>
BOX 4	Correspondence
BOX 4	Colbert, Claudette

Article, Drama, and Motion Picture File, 1945-1969

Container

Contents

BOX 4	Cukor, George
BOX 4	Cutts, Patricia
BOX 4	Goetz, William
BOX 4	Guthrie, Tyrone
BOX 4	Henderson, Ray
BOX 4	Laughton, Charles
BOX 4	Marx, Harpo
BOX 4	Tracy, Spencer
BOX 4	Webb, Clifton
BOX 4	Box office statements (2 folders)
BOX 4	Production
BOX 5	Programs
BOX 5	Publicity
BOX 5	Reviews (3 folders)
BOX 5	Salary vouchers
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	<i>A Very Rich Woman</i> , scripts (5 folders)
BOX 6	(8 folders)
BOX 6	<i>Years Ago</i>
BOX 6	Script (2 folders)
BOX 7	(8 folders)
BOX 8	(2 folders)
BOX 8	Correspondence
BOX 8	Gordon, Max
BOX 8	Lazar, Irving
BOX 8	Massey, Dorothy
BOX 8	Porterfield, Robert
BOX 8	"A-W" miscellaneous
BOX 8	Music and set design
BOX 8	Royalty earnings
BOX 8	Printed matter
BOX 9	Motion pictures
BOX 9	<i>The Actress</i>
BOX 9	Outline
BOX 9	Screenplay (9 folders)
BOX 10	(8 folders)
BOX 11	(8 folders)
BOX 12	(8 folders)
BOX 13	(1 folder)
BOX 13	Correspondence
BOX 13	Cukor, George
BOX 13	"G-S" miscellaneous

Article, Drama, and Motion Picture File, 1945-1969

Container

Contents

BOX 13 Miscellany
BOX 13 *Lord Love a Duck*, screenplay
BOX 13 *Rosemary's Baby*
BOX 13 Screenplay
 (2 folders)
BOX 13 Publicity
BOX 13 Shooting schedule and production call sheets
BOX 14 Printed matter
 (2 folders)
BOX 14 *What Ever Happened to Aunt Alice?*
BOX 14 Screenplay
 (4 folders)
BOX 14 Shooting schedule and production call sheets
BOX 14 Miscellaneous papers
BOX 14 Printed matter

BOX 15-25

Financial Records, 1937-1959

Bank statements and cancelled checks.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 15 1937-1938
BOX 16 1939-1940
BOX 17 1941-1942
BOX 18 1943-1944
BOX 19 1945-1946
BOX 20 1947
BOX 21 1948-1949
BOX 22 1950-1951
BOX 23 1952-1954
BOX 24 1955-1956
BOX 25 1957, 1959

BOX 26

Miscellany

Printed biographical material and a miscellaneous item.
Unarranged

BOX 26 Clippings and miscellaneous printed matter
 (2 folders)