

Cerf, Bennett, 1898-1971.

Papers, ca. 1898-1977.

52 linear ft (ca. 6,300 items in 60 boxes, 45 volumes, & 22 oversized items).

Biography: Author & publisher. Columbia A.B. 1919; Litt.B. 1920.

Summary: Correspondence, manuscripts, memorabilia, photographs, phonograph and tape recordings, and printed files. Included are Cerf's personal correspondence files, 1929-1945, and the diaries and scrapbooks which he maintained from his school days throughout his active career. The diaries, in date-book format, contain terse notes on Cerf's meetings with authors and friends, on his travels and publishing activities; the scrapbooks contain correspondence and photographs, as well as memorabilia and printed items, and were annotated by Cerf and his wife, Phyllis Fraser Cerf Wagner. Also in the collection are manuscripts and proofs for Cerf's books including "The Laugh's on Me", "Treasury of Atrocious Puns", "The Sound of Laughter", "Stories to Make You Feel Better", and "At Random: the Reminiscences of Bennett Cerf", which was edited by Phyllis Cerf Wagner and Albert Erskine, 1977. The papers also include condolence letters written at the time of Cerf's death, photographs and photo albums, certificates and awards, and miscellaneous printed material, including Random House and Modern Library catalogues. Among the major correspondents are: Truman Capote, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Edna Ferber, Moss Hart, J. Edgar Hoover, Hubert Humphrey, Lyndon B. Johnson, John Lindsay, Joshua Logan, John O'Hara, Jacqueline Onassis, Richard Rodgers, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gertrude Stein, Adlai Stevenson, Harry Truman, and Robert Penn Warren.

Organization: Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged.**Finding aids:** Contents list, 4p.**Donors:** Gift of Phyllis Cerf Wagner and the Cerf Foundation, 1975, 1978-1981 (yearly), 1983, & 1984; Gift of Random House, 1988.

Available for faculty, students, and researchers engaged in scholarly or publication projects.

Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Librarian for Rare Books & Manuscripts.

1. Adams, Samuel Hopkins, 1871-1958. 2. Annenberg, Walter H., 1908- 3. Astaire, Fred 4. Auchincloss, Louis.
5. Baldwin, Faith, 1893- 6. Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965. 7. Baxter, Anne. 8. Benny, Jack, 1894-1974. 9. Berlin, Irving, 1888- 10. Bliven, Bruce, 1916- 11. Bow, Clara, 1905-1965. 12. Bradley, Omar Nelson, 1893-1981. 13. Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958. 14. Canfield, Cass, 1897- 15. Capote, Truman, 1924-16. Cerf, Christopher. 17. Cooke, Alistair, 1908- 18. Cousins, Norman. 19. Dewey, Thomas E. (Thomas Edmund), 1902-1971. 20. Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945. 21. Eban, Abba Solomon, 1915- 22. Fadiman, Clifton, 1904- 23. Faulkner, William, 1897-1962. 24. Ferber, Edna, 1887-1968. 25. Fisher, Dorothy Canfield, 1879-1958. 26. Flower, Desmond, 1907-3- 27. Fontaine, Joan, 1917- 28. Gershwin, George, 1898-1937.
29. Gershwin, Ira, 1896- 30. Gingrich, Arnold. 31. Goldwyn, Samuel, Jr., 1926- 32. Green, Martyn, 1899-1975.
33. Gruening, Ernest, 1887-1974. 34. Harriman, W. Averell (William Averell), 1891-1986. 35. Hart, Moss, 1904-1961. 36. Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961. 37. Hersey, John, 1914- 38. Hitchcock, Alfred, 1899-39. Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972. 40. Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978.
41. Hurlock, Madeleine, d. 1989. 42. Huxley, Aldous, 1894-1963. 43. Ingersoll, Ralph, 1900- 44. Javits, Jacob K. (Jacob Koppel), 1904-1986. 45. Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973. 46. Jones, James, 1921-1977. 47. Jovanovich, William. 48. Kennedy, Edward Moore, 1932- 49. Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971. 50. Kerr, Jean. 51. Knopf, Alfred A., 1892-1984. 52. Koch, Ed, 1924- 53. Kollek, Teddy, 1911- 54. Lefkowitz, Louis J. 55. Lindsay, John V. (John Vliet). 56. Logan, Joshua. 57. Loos, Anita, 1894-1981. 58. McBride, Mary Margaret, 1899- 59. McFee, William, 1881- 60. Machen, Arthur, 1863-1947. 61. McKuen, Rod. 62. Malraux, André, 1901-1976. 63. Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965. 64. Mencken, H.L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956. 65. Merrick, David. 66. Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907- 67. Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957. 68. Nash, Ogden, 1902-1971. 69. Nathan, George Jean, 1882-1958. 70. O'Flaherty, Liam, 1896-

71. O'Hara, John, 1905-1970. 72. Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929- 73. Paley, William S. (William Samuel), 1901- 74. Robinson, Edwin Arlington, 1869-1935. 75. Rodgers, Richard, 1902- 76. Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979. 77. Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945. 78. Roth, Philip. 79. Rusk, Dean, 1909- 80. Russell, Rosalind. 81. Schiff, Dorothy, 1903-1989. 82. Schlesinger, Arthur Meier, 1917- 83. Schulberg, Budd. 84. Severeid, Eric, 1912- 85. Shaw, Irwin, 1913- 86. Slesinger, Tess, 1905-1945. 87. Stein, Gertrude, 1874-1946. 88. Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968. 89. Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965. 90. Styron, William, 1925- 91. Tracy, Honor, 1915- 92. Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972. 93. Updike, John. 94. Van Vechten, Carl, 1890-1964. 95. Wagner, Phyllis Cerf, 1915- 96. Wallace, Henry Agard, 1888-1965. 97. Warren, Robert Penn, 1905- 98. Weidman, Jerome, 1913- 99. White, E.B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899- 100. Wiesel, Elie, 1928- 101. Williams, G. Mennen, 1911- 102. Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944. 103. Woollcott, Alexander, 1887-1942. 104. Wynn, Ed, 1886-1966. 105. Random House (Firm). 106. Editors. 107. Literature. 108. Publishers and publishing. 109. Albums. 110. Articles. 111. Audio cassettes. 112. Awards. 113. Bookplates. 114. Certificates. 115. Diaries. 116. Illustrations. 117. Lectures. 118. Memoires. 119. Notebooks. 120. Passports. 121. Phonodiscs. 122. Photographs. 123. Proofs. 124. Scrapbooks. 125. Speeches. 126. Tape recordings. 127. Authors, American.

ID: NYCR90-A37

MBB - 5/81
BRC - 2/85
CMS - 12/88
HR - 9/97
HR - 10/98

BENNETT A. CERF PAPERS

Box 1-2: Catalogued Correspondence

Box 1

- Adams, Samuel Hopkins
- Addams, Charles
- Anderson, Robert
- Annenberg, Walter
- Astaire, Fred
- Auchincloss, Louis
- Baldwin, Faith
- Baruch, Bernard M.
- Baskerville, Charles
- Baxter, Anne
- Beer, Thomas
- Benny, Jack
- Berlin, Irving
- Black, Hugo L.
- Bliven, Bruce
- Bow, Clara
- Bradley, Omar N
- Cabell, James Branch
- Canby, Henry Seidel
- Canfield, Cass
- Capote, Truman
- Cerf, Bennett A. Cerf, Christopher
- Cooke, Alistair Cerf, Jonathan
- Coppard, A. E.
- Cousins, Norman
- Crawford, Joan
- Darrow, Whitney, Jr.
- Dewey, Thomas E.
- Douglas, Norman
- Dreiser, Theodore
- Early, Stephen
- Eban, Abba
- Eisenhower, Dwight David
- Fadiman, Clifton Ervine, St. John
- Farley, Walter
- Farrar, John
- Faulkner, Estelle (Mrs. William)
- Faulkner, William
- Ferber, Edna
- Fisher, Dorothy Canfield
- Flower, Desmond
- Fontaine, Joan
- Furness, Betty
- Geisel, Theodor Seuss
- Gershwin, George
- Gershwin, Ira
- Gingrich, Arnold
- Goldwyn, Samuel, Jr.
- Goodson, Mark
- Grace, Princess of Monaco
- Green, Martyn

Box 2

- Gruening, Ernest
- Harcourt, Alfred
- Harriman, William Averell
- Hart, Moss
- Hemingway, Ernest
- Hersey, John
- Hitchcock, Alfred
- Hobson, Laura
- Hogan, Frank Smithwick
- Hoover, John Edgar
- Humphrey, Hubert Horatio
- Huxley, Aldous L.
- Ingersoll, Ralph
- Javits, Jacob K.
- Johnson, Claudie Alta Taylor (Mrs. L.B.)
- Johnson, Lyndon Baines
- Jones, James
- Jovanovich, William
- Kraing, Kenneth B.
- Kennedy, Edward M.
- Kent, Rockwell
- Kerr, Jean
- Kiplinger, Willard Monroe
- Knopf, Alfred A.
- Knopf, Helen
- Kober, Arthur
- Koch, Edward I.
- Kollek, Theodore
- Lefkowitz, Louis J.
- Lindsay, John Vliet
- Lindsay, Mary (Mrs. John V.)
- Logan, Joshua ← Loos, Anita
- McBride, Mary Margaret
- McFee, William
- McGovern, George
- Machen, Arthur
- McKuen, Rod
- Malraux, André
- Maugham, William Somerset
- Mencken, Henry Louis
- Merrick, David
- Michener, James A.
- Morley, Christopher
- Nash, Ogden
- Nathan, George Jean
- O'Flaherty, Liam
- O'Hara, John
- Onassis, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy
- Paley, William S.
- Robinson, Edwin Arlington

Box 1-2: Catalogued correspondenceBox 2 (cont)

Rockefeller, Margareta F.M. (Mrs.N.A.)	Woolcott, Alexander
Rockefeller, Nelson A.	Wynn, Ed
Rodgers, Dorothy (Mrs. Richard)	
Rodgers, Richard	<u>Catalogued manuscripts, photographs and art.</u>
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano	
Roth, Philip	Benson, Sally
Rusk, Dean	Cerf, Bennett A.
Russell, Rosalind	Clegg, Ernest
Schiff, Dorothy	Dwiggins, William Addison
Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr.	Ellis, Havelock
Schulberg, Budd	Furness, Betty
Sevareid, Eric	Geisel, Theodor Seuss
Shaw, Irwin	Gooden, Stephen
Simon, Richard L. Sherwood, M. H. C.	Haas, Robert
Slesinger, Tess	Hollister, Paul
Stein, Gertrude	Hoover, John Edgar
Steinbeck, John	Kent, Rockwell
Stettinius, Edward R., Jr.	Lawrence, David Herbert
Stevenson, Adlai E.	Leighton, Clare
Styron, William and Rose	Lindsay, Howard
Sulzberger, Arthure Ochs	Losch, Tilly
Tracy, Honor	McFee, William,
Truman, Harry S.	Morley, Christopher
Tunney, James Joseph	Richards, Ceri
Updike, John	Robinson, Edwin Arlington
Van Vechten, Carl	Shaw, George Bernard
Wallace, Henry Agard	Sinatra, Frank
Warren, Robert Penn Wagner, Phyllis F.C	Stephens, James
Weidman, Jerome	Stevenson, Adlai
White, Elvyn Brooks	Van Loon, Hendrik Willem
Wiesel, Elie	Van Vechten, Carl
Williams, G. Mennen	Weston, Edward
Willkie, Wendell L.	Woolsey, Juhn Munro

Arranged materialsPersonal papers

Box 3	1926, 1929-1933 Shelved off-site
Box 4	1936 - 1940 Shelved off-site
Box 5	1941 - 1943 Shelved off-site
Box 6	1943 - 1945 Shelved off-site
Box 7	1947 - 1971 and n.d. Shelved off-site

Condolence letters - Record of letters (1 volume)

Box 8	A - D Shelved off-site
Box 9	E - L Shelved off-site
Box 10	M - Z Shelved off-site

Arranged materialsManuscripts and Proofs

- Box 11 Diaries, 1915 - 1949 Shelved off-site
- Box 12 Diaries, 1950 - 1971 Shelved off-site
Notebooks and passports
- Box 13 The Laugh's on Me Shelved off-site
- Box 14 The Laugh's on Me Shelved off-site
Treasury of Atrocious Puns
- Boxes 15 - 17 The Sound of Laughter (3 boxes) Shelved off-site
- Box 18 Stories to Make You Feel Better Shelved off-site
- Boxes 19 - 20 At Random (boxes): see p. 5 Shelved off-site
21A--23
- Box 24 Try and Stop Me
Cerfboard Shelved off-site
Vest Pocket of Anecdotes
- Box 25 Articles and speeches by Cerf, A - Z Shelved off-site
Audio cassette: B. Cerf interviewed by Arnold Michaelis, WOR-TV, 20 June 1963.
- Boxes 26 - 28 Oral History Memoir, Columbia University (3 boxes) **WITHDRAWN**
RETURNED TO ORAL HISTORY OFFICE *Be*
- Boxes 29 - 30 Wagner, Phyllis Cerf, et al - Charlotte, Isabelle, Phyllis and Susan's
New York, New York (2 boxes) Shelved off-site *7/24/91*
- Box 31 Lecture Schedules, 1949 - 1971 Shelved off-site
- Box 32 Photographs of Cerf
Cerf, Bennett Shelved off-site
- Box 33 Photographs of Phyllis Cerf, Gustave Cerf, Cerf family, miscellaneous Shelved off-site
- Box 34 Photographs and photo albums (primarily Cerf, family and friends; 1981 and 1984 additions) Shelved off-site
- Box 35 Memorabilia and Miscellaneous items Shelved off-site
- Box 36 Clipping books, 1916 - 1917
1917 - 1919 Shelved off-site
1918 - 1933
- Box 37 Scrapbooks 1933 - 1940 Shelved off-site
- Box 38 " 1940 - 1943 Shelved off-site
- Bound volumes Scrapbooks, 1944 - 1971, 20 volumes Box ed: see p. 5
~~Printed material (Encyclopedia Britannica et al, 25 volumes)~~
- Box 39 Printed material - about Cerf Shelved off-site
- Boxes 40 - 41 - Articles by Cerf (2 boxes) Shelved off-site

Arranged materials

Boxes 42 - Books by Cerf (6 boxes) **Shelved off-site**

47

48 Books by Phyllis Cerf Wagner **Shelved off-site**

Boxes 49 - Books from the Library of Bennett Cerf (7 boxes) **Shelved off-site**

55

Box 56 Random House and Miscellaneous **Shelved off-site**

Box 57 Random House and Modern Library Catalogues **Shelved off-site**

Box 58 Random House Catalogues (triplicate) **Shelved off-site**
Random House Stock Information

Box 59 Random House Printed Material **Shelved off-site**

Box 60 Random House Printed Material (duplicate) **Shelved off-site**

Box 61 Columbia University; Miscellaneous **Shelved off-site**

Box 62 Bookplates of Bennett Cerf **Shelved off-site**

Box 63: Leighton, Clare, *The Return of the Native*, 1929. Woodcuts; one of 30 numbered sets of 12 prints, signed; illustrations for Thomas Hardy, *The Return of the Native*, (New York: Harper Brothers, 1929); Manuscripts and proofs: *At Random, The Reminiscences of Bennett A. Cerf*, 1977 - mock-ups **Shelved off-site**

Box 64: Condolence message from Random House, Inc. concerning the death of Bennett Cerf; various photographs and proofs **Shelved off-site**

Boxes 65-75: see p. 5 **Shelved off-site**

Addition to Bennet A. Cerf Box ListBoxes 19 - 23: At Random

- Boxes 19-20: *At Random* t. ms. **Shelved off-site**
- Box 21: *At Random*: t.mss.: Cuts & Discards **Shelved off-site**
 List of Illustrations
 Index
 Typesetter's copy of t.ms.
- Box 21a: *At Random*: t.ms. 1st Draft **Shelved off-site**
 Uncorrected 1st Proof
- Box 22: *At Random*: Master Galley **Shelved off-site**
 Master Page Proofs
 Page Proofs (foul matter)
 Photographs and Illustrations for the Book
- Box 23: *At Random*: Correspondence **Shelved off-site**
 Reviews and Related Material

Boxes 65 - 73: Scrapbooks

- Box 65: November 1944 - November 1946 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 66: December 1946 - June 1949 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 67: June 1949 - April 1952 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 68: April 1952 - December 1954 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 69: January 1955 - October 1957 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 70: October 1957 - July 1960 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 71: July 1960 - April 1964 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 72: April 1964 - February 1968 **Shelved off-site**
- Box 73: January 1968 - 1971 **Shelved off-site**

Boxes 74 -75

- Box 74: Audio Records: "November 22" **Shelved off-site**
 "Frank Sinatra: A Man and His Music" (limited edition)
 "Let's Talk About Writers with Bennet Cerf"
 Musical Score for "Joanna" (autographed by Rod McKuen)
- Scrapbooks: January - October 1944
 1945 - 1970
- Box 75: Photo Albums **Shelved off-site**
 Inscribed Copy of *The Look Book*
 Inscribed Copy of *Salt Air*

Oversized Material

Flat Box 293

Charcoal portrait of Bennett Cerf by René Bouchet

Photostat reproduction of front page of "New York Times" May 25, 1898

Photograph of Bennett Cerf in office

Flat Box 294

Academic gown

Two mock-ups: cartoon sketches

Flat Box 295

Photographs - oversized: Bennett Cerf in front of Random House Building, photograph by Ray Shorr; Bennett Cerf with Marilyn Monroe; Bennett Cerf in office; Bennett Cerf in office with secretary Paulene Kreesworth Freidnear; Bennett Cerf at desk; David Klopper, Robert Hoas, and Bennett Cerf; Jonathan and Christopher Cerf (sons of Bennett and Phyllis Cerf); other misc. photographs

Manuscripts and proofs: *At Random, The Reminiscences of Bennett A. Cerf, 1977* (page proofs, photographs, end - paper)

Flat Box 296

Photographs - oversized: Bennett Cerf in office, photograph by Ray Shorr; James Silverman, Robert Berstein, Bennet Cerf, and Lyndon Johnson; photograph of sign "Sioux City Welcomes Bennett Cerf"; Bennett Cerf in office with children's books; Bennett Cerf (as younger man); other misc. photographs

Photograph - John O'Hara, photograph by Phyllis Cerf

Condolence message from Random House, Inc. concerning the death of Bennett Cerf

Honorary degree awards

1 statuette ("The Thinker"; plaque missing) - Stack 15, cage 20; 23e