

Guide to the Beinecke Library Construction Photographs

BRBL RECORD GROUP 2



by Michael Rush

September 2025

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: BRBL RECORD GROUP 2

CREATOR: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

TITLE: Beinecke Library construction photographs

DATES: 1960–1963

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.08 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: The Beinecke Library construction photographs consist of mostly black and white, with some color, photographic prints documenting the construction of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library between 1960 and 1963. The photographs capture exterior and interior shots of the construction process, as well as images of the finished building, the movement of collections from Sterling Memorial Library, the opening reception, and notable contributors to the creation of the library including University Librarian James Babb, inaugural Beinecke Library Director Herman W. "Fritz" Liebert, Edwin Beinecke, Frederick Beinecke, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. The photographer is unknown for most prints - a small group of photographs were taken by C. T. Alburtus.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.construction>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.construction>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Beinecke Library accrued the Beinecke Library construction photographs at the time of the construction of the library between 1960 and 1963.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Beinecke Library Construction Photographs is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Beinecke Library Construction Photographs. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

The Beinecke Library construction photographs were initially described by Kathi Isham as part of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Records (BRBL RECORD GROUP 1). In 2025 Michael Rush separated the construction photographs from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Records to facilitate continued public access to the photographs. At that time he made adjustments to the arrangement and description.

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

Related Materials

Related material: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Records (BRBL Record Group 1)

Related material: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, photographs (RU 106). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Yale University built the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library between 1960 and 1963. Architect Gordon Bunshaft of the firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill designed the building. The George A. Fuller Construction Company was the general contractor. The building and its endowment are the gift of Edwin J. Beinecke, Yale 1907; Frederick W. Beinecke, Yale 1909; Walter Beinecke, Yale 1910; and their families.

Scope and Contents

The Beinecke Library construction photographs consist of mostly black and white, with some color, photographic prints documenting the construction of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library between 1960 and 1963. The photographs capture exterior and interior shots of the construction process, as well as images of the finished building, the movement of collections from Sterling Memorial Library, the opening reception, and notable contributors to the creation of the library including University Librarian James Babb, inaugural Beinecke Library Director Herman W. "Fritz" Liebert, Edwin Beinecke, Frederick Beinecke, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. The photographer is unknown for most prints - a small group of photographs were taken by C. T. Alburtus.

Arrangement

The Beinecke Library construction photographs are arranged in rough chronological order.

Collection Contents

b.1	Model	circa 1960
b.1	James Babb with model	circa 1960
b.1	Construction <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1960-1963
b.1	Construction, color snapshots	circa 1960-1963
b.1	Panoramic construction views and C.T. Alburtus photographs	circa 1961-1963
b.1	Construction	1961 May, June, July
b.1	Construction	1961 August, September, October
b.1	Construction	1961 December 1
b.1	Construction	1962 February, March
b.1	Construction	1962 April, May
b.1	Construction	1962 June
b.1	Construction	1962 July, August
b.1	Construction	1962 September, October, November
b.1	Construction	1963 January, February
b.1	Construction	1963 March 4
b.1	Construction	1963 April
b.1	Construction	1963 July, August
b.1	Construction	1963 September
b.1	Finished building	1963
b.1	Move from Sterling Memorial Library to the Beinecke	1963
b.1	BRBL opening reception	1963 October
b.1	Noguchi, Liebert, Beineckes, etc.	undated

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.

Subjects

Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century
College buildings -- Design and construction

Geographic Names

New Haven (Conn.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints
Photographs

Names

Beinecke, Edwin J. (Edwin John), 1886-1970
Beinecke, Frederick W.
Bunshaft, Gordon, 1909-1990
Liebert, Herman W. (1911-1994)
Noguchi, Isamu, 1930-

Corporate Bodies

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Contributors

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Alburtus, C.T.