

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Hersey Family Papers

YCAL MSS 723



by Beinecke staff

April 2013

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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:** YCAL MSS 723

**CREATOR:** Hersey family

**TITLE:** Hersey Family Papers

**DATES:** 1860–1952

**BULK DATES:** 1906–1942

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.29 linear feet (8 boxes) + 1 broadside folder

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Collection contains correspondence and other materials relating to the family of American novelist and author John Hersey. Correspondence contains letters from John Hersey and members of the Hersey and Baird families. There are letters from John Hersey to his parents dating from his graduate studies in Cambridge, England, in 1936 and 1937, to dispatches written as a war correspondent, in 1942, while in the South Pacific. Other materials include various family papers, such as John's school books, a copy of his undergraduate thesis, "The Letters of John Trumbull," clippings and printed ephemera, photographs, and manuscript notes by Roscoe Monroe Hersey. Photograph albums contain images of China, circa 1907 and 1908, the Hersey family, and France in WWI, and a scrapbook documents the lives of Hersey children, starting in 1912

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

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## 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.herseyf>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund, 1994.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Hersey Family Papers 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.

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### Preferred Citation

Hersey Family Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing around the time of acquisition in 1994. Further organization, rehousing, and description were carried out in 2013.

Former call number: Uncat Za Ms 343.

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### Associated Materials

John Hersey Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Hersey Family

Roscoe Monroe Hersey (1878-) and Grace Baird Hersey (1882-1966) were missionaries in Tientsin, China, where Roscoe worked as a secretary for the Young Men's Christian Association. The Hersey family returned to the United States in 1925 and settled in Briarcliff Manor, New York. After they returned to the U.S., their son John Richard Hersey (1914-1993), the novelist and author, attended public school, Hotchkiss School, Yale University, and Clare College, Cambridge before working as a journalist, first for *Time* magazine (1937-1944), and then as a correspondent and editor for *Life* and *The New Yorker*.

Biographical information taken from "Hersey, John Richard." *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives*. Ed. Kenneth T. Jackson, Karen Markoe, and Arnold Markoe. Vol. 3: 1991-1993. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001. 268-270. *Biography In Context*. Web. 8 April 2013.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence and other materials relating to the family of American novelist and author John Hersey. Correspondence consists of letters from John Hersey and other members of the Hersey and Baird families to Roscoe Monroe and Grace Baird Hersey. There are letters from John Hersey to

his parents dating from his graduate studies in Cambridge, England, in 1936 and 1937, to dispatches written as a war correspondent, in 1942, while in the South Pacific. Other materials include various family papers, such as John's school books, a copy of his undergraduate thesis, "The Letters of John Trumbull," clippings and printed ephemera, photographs, and manuscript notes by Roscoe Monroe Hersey. Photograph albums contain images of China, circa 1907 and 1908, the Hersey family, and France in WWI, and a scrapbook documents the lives of Hersey children starting in 1912.

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## **Language(s)**

Chiefly in English; some material in Chinese.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1881-1942. II. Other Materials, 1860-1952.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1881-1942

0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series I. Correspondence contains letters from John Hersey and other members of the Hersey and Baird families. The series features letters from John Hersey to his parents dating from his graduate studies in Cambridge, England, in 1936 and 1937, to dispatches written as a war correspondent, in 1942, while in the South Pacific.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

b.1	Baird, Ella	1919-1924
b.1	Baird, John	1920, undated
b.1	Baird, W. <i>7 Folders</i>	1881-1917, undated
b.1	Hersey, Arthur	1920 June
b.1	Hersey, Grace Baird	1920-1923
b.2	<a href="#">Hersey, John</a> <i>6 Folders</i> Also stored in: Oversize, Box 5	1936-1942, undated
b.2	[Hersey?], Rob <i>2 Folders</i> Also stored in: Oversize, Box 5	1935-1936, undated
b.2	Hersey, Roscoe Monroe	1911-1942, undated
b.2	Hersey, Roscoe Jr.	1920, undated
b.2	Others	1897-1942
b.2	Unidentified	1916-1922, undated

**Series II: Other Materials, 1860-1952***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series II. Other Materials includes various family papers, such as John's school books, a copy of his undergraduate thesis, "The Letters of John Trumbull," clippings and printed ephemera, photographs, and manuscript notes by Roscoe Monroe Hersey. Photograph albums contain images of China, circa 1907 and 1908, the Hersey family, and France in WWI, and a scrapbook documents the lives of Hersey children, including John, starting in 1912.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 3	<i>Catalogue of Paintings by Colonel Trumbull</i> , printed version	1860
	Certificates Stored in: Oversize, Box 5	1904-1905
b. 3	<i>Chinese Triangles</i> , printed version	1924
b. 3	Clippings Also stored in: Oversize, Box 6	1919-1955, undated
b. 3	John Hersey schoolbooks	1925-1925
b. 3	"John R. Hersey Violin" lesson book	undated
b. 3	<a href="#">"The Letters of John Trumbull Relating to the Affairs of the World of the Period 1778-1814," edited and correlated by John R. Hersey</a>	[circa 1936]
b. 3	Medical records	[1911?]
b. 3	Manuscript notes	undated
b. 3	<i>Our Village: Briarcliffe Manor, N. Y. 1902 to 1952</i> , printed version, inscribed	[1952?]
b. 3	Photographs Also stored in: Oversize, Box 5	1923-1939
b. 4	Photograph albums Also stored in: Oversize, Box 7	1907-1939
b. 4	Pin and cutout	undated
b. 4	Printed ephemera Also stored in: Oversize, Box 5	1905-1952, undated
b. 4	Roscoe M. Hersey papers <i>5 Folders</i>	1906-1922, undated
	Scrapbook Stored in: Oversize, Box 8	1912-1923, undated
b. 4	Tientsin YMCA material	1909-1930, undated

**Oversize***0.83 linear feet (3 boxes) + 1 broadside folder*

b. 5 (Oversize)	Empty envelopes (In Series I)	undated
b. 5 (Oversize)	Empty envelope (In Series I)	undated
b. 5 (Oversize)	Certificates (In Series II)	1904-1905
b. 5 (Oversize)	Photographs (In Series II)	1923-1924
b. 5 (Oversize)	Printed ephemera (In Series II) <i>2 Folders</i>	1944, 1946
b. 6 (Broadside)	Clippings (In Series II)	1924-1943
b. 7 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Photograph album (In Series II)</a>	[circa 1914]
b. 8 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Scrapbook (In Series II)</a>	1912-1923, 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**

American literature -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
World War, 1914-1918 -- France -- Pictorial  
works

### **Geographic Names**

China -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Hersey, Grace Baird  
Hersey, John, 1914-1993  
Hersey, Roscoe Monroe  
Trumbull, John, 1750-1831

### **Families**

Hersey family