

Guide to the Donald Lyons Papers

GEN MSS 1360



by Beinecke Staff, Brooke McManus

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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: GEN MSS 1360

CREATOR: Lyons, Donald

TITLE: Donald Lyons papers

DATES: circa 1910s-2010

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 21.25 linear feet (25 boxes) + 2 broadside and 1 computer

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The Donald Lyons papers consist of writings by Lyons, including film and theater criticism; personal and business correspondence, including letters from Danny Fields and Roger Darrobers; notebooks; personal papers and artwork; academic papers; photographs of friends, including Edie Sedgwick; videocassettes of "Theater Talk" and "Inside Broadway" programs; and computer files.

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

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.lyons>.

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
 item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, Inc., on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2012.

Purchased from Danny Fields on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 24 (audiovisual materials): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 25, 26 (digital media): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Donald Lyons 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.

Preferred Citation

Donald Lyons Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

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 as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

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

Donald Lyons (1938-2011)

Donald Lyons (1938-2011) was an American film and drama critic for publications including the *New Criterion*, *Film Comment*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Post*. He also contributed to the magazines *Rock Scene*, *Hit Parader*, *Rock & Soul*, and *Country Rhythms*. Lyons received a bachelor's degree from Fordham University (1959) and a master's degree from Harvard University, then taught English literature and classics at Harvard, Rutgers University, and New York University. He was the author of the influential volume *Independent Visions: A Critical Introduction to Recent Independent American Film* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1994).

Lyons was also well known for his association with Andy Warhol's Factory, where he acted in several films, contributed to *Andy Warhol's Interview* magazine, and helped shape the artistic vision of that group of artists and writers. Among his close friends were Edie Sedgwick and Danny Fields.

Scope and Contents

The Donald Lyons papers consist of writings by Lyons, including film and theater criticism; personal and business correspondence, including letters from Danny Fields and Roger Darrobers; notebooks; personal papers and artwork; academic papers; photographs of friends, including Edie Sedgwick; videocassettes of appearances by Lyons on the television programs "Theater Talk" and "Inside Broadway;" and computer files.

Arrangement

Organized into ten series: I. Writings and Criticism, 1957-2004. II. Correspondence, 1920s-2000s. III. Notebooks, 1950s-2000s. IV. Academic Papers, 1950s-2000s. V. Family and Personal Papers, 1910s-2010. VI. Photographs and Ephemera, 1920s-2000s. VII. Printed Materials, 1930s-1990s. VIII. Audiovisual Materials, 1994-2001. IX. Electronic Media, circa 1990s. X. May 2017 Acquisition, 1961-2004, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings and Criticism, 1957-2004

4.37 linear feet (5 boxes)

b.1	<i>Independent Visions</i> (21 folders)	1993-1994
b.2	<i>Independent Visions</i> (3 folders)	1992-1994
b.3	"Oscar" material	1969-1994
b.3	Unpublished theater criticism (3 folders)	circa 1991
b.3	<i>Wall Street Journal</i> published and manuscript theater criticism	circa 1990
b.3	Published and unpublished movie and theater material, <i>MD</i> magazine 2 Folders	circa 1991
b.3	Published and unpublished criticism (<i>Details</i> magazine) (2 folders)	circa 1990
b.3	Unpublished movie criticism (2 folders)	circa 1993
b.3	Published <i>Details</i> movie criticism and unpublished movie writings (2 folders)	circa 1990
b.3	Published <i>Details</i> movie criticism (2 folders)	1987-1989
b.3	Draft, probably for <i>Independent Visions</i>	circa 1993
b.3	Visconti writing (published), clippings on censorship ("porn rock"), notes, Bruce Springsteen article (<i>Rock Video</i> magazine)	circa 1985
b.3	Galleys, <i>New Criterion</i> , theater (2 folders)	1990-1991
b.3	Writing for <i>Film Comment</i> and <i>Crawdaddy</i> , published interview with Cukor/Lambert, published book reviews, poem by Janice Thaddeus	circa 1991
b.3	<i>Wall Street Journal</i> published book reviews, unpublished movie criticism, <i>Film Comment</i> correspondence and manuscript	1990-1991
b.4	Published film and theater reviews in <i>Crawdaddy</i> , <i>Interview</i> , and the <i>New York Post</i> (2 folders)	1971-1973, 1997-1999
b.4	Clippings of reviews in the <i>Wall Street Journal</i>	1983-1999
b.4	Writings by others, clippings, and D.C. movie lists	1976-2000
b.4	Clippings by others and film writing from <i>New Criterion</i> and <i>Rock Scene</i>	circa 1966, 1992-1995
b.4	Theater, film, classics writings for the <i>Wall Street Journal</i>	circa 1995

b. 4	Published and manuscript film writings and notes, <i>Rock Scene</i> article	circa 1970-2000
b. 4	<i>Death in Venice</i> (movie) reviews	1971, 1987
b. 4	Film clippings by others, clippings from <i>Details</i>	circa 1988-1992
b. 4	Reviews and writings, mostly manuscripts, some published, and list of best films	circa 1988-2000
b. 4	Film biographies by Lyons, materials about Anthony Rapp from <i>Dazed and Confused</i> , and miscellaneous film writing by Lyons	circa 1996
b. 4	Writings, clippings by others	circa 1970-2004
b. 4	Published writings	1964
b. 4	Modernism	circa 1987-1994
b. 4	Movie, theater, and dance materials and clippings	circa 1971-2003
b. 4	Newspaper clippings	circa 2000
b. 4	Published and manuscript reviews, mainly from <i>New Criterion</i> , and a possible draft for <i>Independent Visions</i>	circa 1990-1997
b. 4	Writings for <i>Film Comment</i>	1993
b. 5	Published and manuscript writings for <i>New Criterion</i> and <i>Wall Street Journal</i> (3 folders)	circa 1975-1996
b. 5	Miscellaneous writings	circa 1995-2002
b. 5	Writings for <i>New Criterion</i> (2 folders)	1991-1997
b. 5	<i>Nemo's Almanac</i>	1971-1982
b. 5	Published writings, clippings, complete issues of <i>Film Comment</i> , Almodóvar interview from <i>Interview</i>	circa 1989-1993
b. 5	Film research clippings	circa 1991-1997
b. 5	Film and review notes, <i>Interview</i> magazine	1970s
b. 5	Classic Films	circa 1957-1964
b. 5	Materials for film biographies	1996
b. 5	Writings by Tom Beller	circa 1991
b. 5	Lists of films	circa 1987-1997
b. 5	Donald Lyons and friends	circa 1971-1999
b. 5	River Phoenix	1991-1994
b. 5	Lyons' translation of <i>Antigone</i>	circa 1959-1995
b. 5	Writings, stamps, and other papers	circa 1987-1995

Series II: Correspondence, 1920s-2000s*2.08 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 6	General correspondence (24 folders)	1960s-2000s
b. 7	General correspondence (7 folders)	1960s-2000s
b. 7	Danny Fields	1960s-1990s
b. 7	Ed Hennessey ("Eudora" or "Edita")	1965-1995
b. 7	Ed Hood	1960s-1970s
b. 7	Harold Peterson ("Halloween") (2 folders)	1960s-2000s
b. 7	Eric Bentley	1990s-2000s
b. 7	Roger Darrobers, regarding French cinema (4 folders)	1970s-1980s
b. 7	Family and friends (2 folders)	1920s-1990s
b. 7	Publishing correspondence (2 folders)	1970s-1990s

Series III: Notebooks, 1950s-2000s

1.04 linear feet (1 box)

b. 8

[Notebooks, diaries, and planners](#)
(17 folders)

1950s-2000s

Series IV: Academic Papers, 1950s-2000s*1.67 linear feet (3 boxes)*

b. 9	Fordham University paper, "Homer: a redefinition in the light of modern inquiry"	1959
b. 9	School writings and other academic papers (7 folders)	circa 1950s-1990s
b. 10	University writings (3 folders)	circa 1959
b. 11	Other academic papers, including student writing and class materials (3 folders)	1960s-1990s
b. 11	Rutgers University exam booklets filled with Lyons' writings on film, philosophy, and literature (8 folders)	circa 1980s-2000s
b. 11	Photocopied classics writings in English and German	undated
b. 11	Student tests and other academic papers	1960s-1980s

Series V: Family and Personal Papers, 1910s-2010

6.13 linear feet (5 boxes)

b. 12	Writings and drawings sent to Lyons	circa 1960s-1990s
b. 12	Drawing	undated
b. 12	Copy of Tennessee Williams' <i>Slapstick Tragedy</i> and a <i>New York Times</i> clipping	1965, 1990
b. 12	High school yearbook	1955
b. 12	Personal and travel documents (3 folders)	1940s-2000s
b. 12	Travel papers (2 folders)	circa 1970s-2010
b. 12	Family insurance policies, birth certificates, house deed	1928-1994
b. 12	Portrait of child and older portrait of children	circa 1910s, circa 1930s
b. 12	Family papers, photographs, and slides	circa 1944-1986
b. 12	<i>Dames</i> poster, Margo Channing poster, sheet music	1934, 1995
b. 12	School objects	1951-1989
b. 12	WordPerfect training manual	circa 1991-1993
b. 12	Printed materials including news and magazine clippings, e-mails and writings by others (2 folders)	circa 1990s-2000s
b. 12	Script by Billy Squier	1995
b. 12	Clifford Odets material, <i>In Hell + Why</i>	1996
b. 13	Childhood papers and books (2 folders)	circa 1944-1994
b. 13	Poetry booklets and magazines	1965-1972
b. 13	Some Songs of the Sidewinders and related correspondence	circa 1971-1999
b. 14	Baby shoes and viewfinder	
b. 15	Drawing	
b. 15	Clippings	1970s-1990s
b. 15	Poster	
b. 15	Legal documents re: Ed Hood's estate	1980s
b. 16 (Broadside)	Pen and ink drawings	circa 1983

Series VI: Photographs and Ephemera, 1920s-2000s*2.54 linear feet (4 boxes)*

b. 17	Family photograph album	circa 1920s-1970
b. 18	Family photograph albums	circa 1930s-1950s
b. 19	Family scrapbook	1940s-1970s
b. 20	Childhood photographs, clippings, postcards, and other family material	circa 1920s-1980s
b. 20	Photographs of Donald Lyons	circa 1950s-2000s
b. 20	Photographs of friends and family	1970s-1990s
b. 20	Celebrity and other photographs	circa 1970s-1980s
b. 20	Edie Sedgwick photographs and other materials (2 folders)	1960s-2000s

Series VII: Printed Materials, 1930s-1990s*1.79 linear feet (3 boxes)*

b. 21	Magazines with River Phoenix articles	circa 1990-1992
b. 22	Magazines with articles written by Lyons	circa 1970s-1990s
b. 23	Issues of <i>Magnetoscope</i>	1972
b. 23	Printed research materials (11 folders)	circa 1930s-1990s

Series VIII: Audiovisual Materials, 1994-2001*0.42 linear feet 7 Videocassettes (VHS) (1 box)*

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 24, ■■■■ 39002099362304	"Inside Broadway": Bruce Jay Friedman and Donald Lyons, part 2 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:31:59 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] genmss136039002099362304.u.mp4	1994 January 19
	Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 24, ■■■■ 39002099362296	"Inside Broadway": Donald Lyons <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:30:44 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] genmss136039002099362296.u.mp4	1995 January 12
	Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 24, ■■■■ 39002099362320	"Inside Broadway": Howard Kissel and Donald Lyons <i>1 Audiocassette 00:32:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] genmss136039002099362320.u.mp4	1996 June 3
	A note included with this videocassette, dated 9/9/96, reads: Dear Donald: I love this show. You and Howard Kissel were both great. Thank you for doing it. I'm sorry it took so long to get this tape to you. It looks like we'll be back on the air in November, and I devoutly hope you'll be our guest again this season. All the best, Susan Haskins.	
	Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 24, ■■■■ 39002099362312	"Theater Talk": Jacques le Sourd and Donald Lyons <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:28:10 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] genmss136039002099362312.u.mp4	1997 December 17
	A note included with this videocassette reads: Thank you again. This was a very popular show. [We] look forward to your next appearance. All the best, Susan.	
	Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 24, ■■■■ 39002099362346	"Theater Talk": Jacques le Sourd and Donald Lyons <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:28:01 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] genmss136039002099362346.u.mp4	1998 May 14
	Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 24, ■■■■ 39002099362338	"Theater Talk": le Sourd, Lyons, Morehouse, Simonson <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:27:08 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] genmss136039002099362338.u.mp4	1998 October 30
	Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	

b. 24, IIII
39002099362353

"Theatre Talk" # 716: Edward Albee
1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:28:26 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
[\[Aviary\] genmss136039002099362353.u.mp4](#)

2001 February 2

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.
Consult Access Services for further information.

Series IX: Computer Media, circa 1990s*0.21 linear feet (1 box) + 1 computer*

Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 25

b. 25 "Writing by Tom Beller," one 3.5" floppy disk circa 1991

b. 25 [no label information]
2012-genm-51-0001
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1474560 bytes (1.47 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)

b. 26 Nautilus PC tower 1990s

b. 25 DONALD LYONS 1 of 5
2012-genm-51-0002
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1492992 bytes (1.49 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)

b. 25 EURIPIDES LYONS 2 of 5
2012-genm-51-0003
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1492992 bytes (1.49 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)

b. 25 WORDPERFECT Printer 2 LYONS 3 of 5
2012-genm-51-0004
1 3.5_floppy_disk 737280 bytes (737.28 Kilobytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)

b. 25 FAX 1 OF 2 Donald 11/23/02 LYONS 4 of 5
2012-genm-51-0005
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1492992 bytes (1.49 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)

b. 25 FAX 2 OF 2 Donald 11/23/02 LYONS 5 of 5
2012-genm-51-0006
1 3.5_floppy_disk 1492992 bytes (1.49 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)

Series X: May 2017 Acquisition , 1961-2004, undated*1 linear foot (1 box) + 1 broadside*

Printed material, photographs, and other papers relating to Donald Lyons, movies and plays, the Museum of Modern Art film series, and drafts of writings by others.

Purchased from Danny Fields on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2017.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 27	<i>Ballet Review</i>	1970
b. 27	Clippings	1966-1973
b. 27	Ezra Pound article in <i>New Criterion</i>	1999
b. 27	Film and theater stills	1972-1984
b. 27	Film ephemera	1959-1983
b. 27	Film festival	1995
b. 27	Film Society of Lincoln Center	2000
b. 27	G. W. Pabst	1998, undated
b. 28 (Broadside)	"Le Départ" poster	1967
b. 27	Lyons film ratings	1968
b. 27	Mousepad	undated
b. 27	Museum of Modern Art Department of Film programs and other printed materials <i>5 Folders</i>	1968-1999
b. 27	Museum of Modern Art Department of Film (British films) programs and other printed materials	1984-1986
b. 27	Other film screenings	1965-1969
b. 27	Printed material	1963-1968
b. 27	The New School film series	1969-1974
b. 27	The New York Cultural Center film series	undated
b. 27	Untitled essay	undated
b. 27	"Walking Tall" film stills	circa 1973
Writings of others		
b. 27	Bentley, Eric. Translation of "Bertolt Brecht's A Man's Man"	undated
b. 27	Cunningham, Sean. "The Importance of Being Jewish"	2004
b. 27	Frayn, Michael. "Democracy: A play in two acts"	2003
b. 27	Johnson, Rosie. "Escape from Georgia"	undated

Writings of others (continued)

b. 27	Lowenstein, Mark. "The Playmakers"	undated
b. 27	Marasco, Robert. "The Precinct of Apollo: comedy in six scenes"	1961
b. 27	Rubin, Barbara. "Trip Along with Christmas on Earth Continued Again Continuing Remains"	1966
b. 27	Sealey, Bob. "Confession and Farewell"	undated
b. 27	Waxman, Max. "The Lazlo Girl"	undated
b. 27	Wolfson, John. "Mother Hump"	1964

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

Dramatic criticism -- United States
Film criticism -- United States
Film critics -- United States -- Archives
Theater critics -- United States -- Archives

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials -- United States -- 20th Century
Born digital -- United States -- 20th Century
Photographs -- United States -- 20th Century

Occupations

Film critics -- United States -- 20th Century
Theater critics -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Darrobers, Roger
Fields, Danny
Lyons, Donald
Sedgwick, Edie
Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987

Corporate Body

Andy Warhol's Factory (New York, N.Y.)