

# Guide to the Mary Ellen Bute Papers

GEN MSS 603



by Lisa Conathan

2008

P. O. Box 208330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 603

**CREATOR:** Bute, Mary Ellen

**TITLE:** Mary Ellen Bute Papers

**DATES:** 1907–1985

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 14.85 linear feet (36 boxes, including 1 Oversize box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Scripts, correspondence and photographs documenting the film productions of Mary Ellen Bute and Ted Nemeth. The films represented in this collection include "Passages from James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*," "Skin of Our Teeth," and "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking."

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

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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.bute>.

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  
f.        folder  
■■■■     item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Terry Halladay (1991) and transfer from the Yale Film Study Center (1999, 2007, 2008).

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### Custodial History

Portions of the collection were donated to the Film Study Center by Ted Nemeth in 1985.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Boxes 26 and 35 (audiocassettes): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 35: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Mary Ellen Bute 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

Mary Ellen Bute Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Portions of the collection were discarded due to mold damage. The discarded papers include clippings, routine correspondence and ephemera. Preservation photocopies of selected documents remain in the collection.

Social security cards of Theodore J. Nemeth, James House Bute Nemeth, Margo A. Lion, and Mary [Ellen Bute] Nemeth were discarded.

Portions of the collection were formerly Uncat.MS Vault.865 and Uncat.MS Vault.651.

Folder 402 in Box 27 is unused. The original audiocassette is in Box 35, folder 532.

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## Associated Materials

Related film has been retained by the Yale Film Study Center.

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## Mary Ellen Bute, 1906-1983

Mary Ellen Bute was a film animator, director and producer. She was a pioneer in adopting electronic techniques for film animation. Early in her career she made animated films in the "visual music" style that synchronized abstract images and music. Her later films were live action and included adaptations of works by James Joyce and Thornton Wilder.

Bute was born in Houston, Texas in 1906. She studied painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and lighting design at Yale University. Her early influences included Leon Theremin and Gerald Warburg and she collaborated with Theremin to produce a paper titled "Light as an art material and its possible synchronization with sound" (1932). Most of Bute's films were produced by Ted Nemeth Studios or Expanding Cinema Studios and her collaborators included Norman McLaren and Melville Webber. Later in life Bute was a founding member of the Women's Independent Film Exchange.

Bute's films include: "Synchrony" (1932 or 1933), "Rhythm in Light" (1934), "Synchrony No. 2" (1935), "Dada" (1936), "Parabola" (1937), "Escape" (1937), "Spook Sport" (1939), "Tarantella" (1940), "Polka Graph" (1947), "Color Rhapsody" (1948), "Imagination" (1948), "New Sensations in Sound" (1949),

"Pastorale" (1950), "Abstronic" (1952), "Mood Contrasts" (1953), "The Boy Who Saw Through" (1956, producer), "Passages from James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*" (1965-1967), and "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" (1977-1980, unfinished). Bute's projects also include two adaptations of plays: "Lazarus Laughed" by Eugene O'Neill and "Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder (both unfinished).

In 1940 Bute married camera operator and painter Theodore (Ted) Nemeth and they collaborated on many of her projects. Ted Nemeth Studios focused on commercial films and Nemeth also handled the distribution of Bute's films. Bute and Nemeth had two sons: Theodore Jr. and James.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers document the filmmaking career of Mary Ellen Bute and include papers from Expanding Cinema Studios and Ted Nemeth Studios. The collection contains scripts, notes, correspondence, photographs of film productions and of Mary Ellen Bute, and printed material related to the production of many of Bute's films including "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "Passages from James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*," and "Skin of Our Teeth." Printed material includes newspaper clippings of reviews and background information, files of images which presumably served as inspiration for images in Bute's films, and other ephemera such as brochures and programs.

The papers span the entirety of Bute's career, though the bulk of them document her later film productions. Since she was unable to complete or release some of these (e.g. "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking") the papers are a unique resource on Bute's work to realize her vision of the films. The papers also provide personal and professional context to Bute's career through her correspondence and personal papers.

The papers also document Bute's research, writing and lectures on the topics of film making and animation and her work to support female film makers through forums such as the Women's Independent Film Exchange.

Material from Bute's early abstract films is mostly related to their distribution and promotion. Papers from later live action films include correspondence, scripts and research material in addition to material related to funding, distribution and promotion. Papers from "Skin of Our Teeth" include correspondence with and notes from Thornton Wilder about the adaptation of his play.

In addition to papers related to Bute's film productions, the collection includes papers from Ted Nemeth Studios. These papers document Nemeth's commercial productions for corporations such as Schlitz, his film "Mobilcolor" (about Charles Dockum, the creator of Mobilcolor projectors) and his work to distribute Bute's films.

The collection also contains personal papers that include family correspondence, photographs and financial and medical records.

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## Arrangement

Organized into five series and one addition: I. Film Production Material, 1935-1982. II. Business Papers, 1941-1983. III. Personal Papers, 1907-1984. IV. Ted Nemeth Studios Papers, 1939-1985. V. Printed Material, 1936-1985. June 2008 Addition, 1908-1983. The papers are largely organized according to their function, with correspondence, scripts and other documentation filed in different series or under the title of the production as appropriate.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Film Production Material, 1935-1982

7.71 linear feet (19 boxes)

Series I contains background and research material, notes, synopses and scripts, correspondence (incoming and outgoing), financial papers, photographs, clippings and ephemera related to the production of Bute's films. The material documents the research, planning, funding, production and promotion of the films.

The most substantive material documents Bute's films "Passages from James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" (an unfinished work on Walt Whitman's early years), and "Skin of Our Teeth" (an unfinished adaptation of Thornton Wilder's play).

Unless otherwise noted, all drafts of scripts are typescripts, some corrected.

Most correspondence in this series documents Bute's efforts to raise funds and promote specific production projects. She attempted to gain the support of prominent figures such as Clare Boothe Luce and Carl Sagan.

Clippings and ephemera in this series relate directly to film productions (e.g. reviews and programs) or to themes associated with a particular film (e.g. biographical information about Walt Whitman).

Series I is arranged alphabetically by title of work. Material from Bute's early abstract films is filed together at the beginning of the list under the heading [Abstract animated films](#).

Abstract animated films		
b. 1, f. 1	Research material	1977-1982
b. 1, f. 2	Synopses	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Contracts and licenses	1952-1953, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Preservation Proposal, fragment	undated
	Graphics cards, cardboard Stored in: Oversize, Box 34 folders 517-519	undated
b. 1, f. 5-9	Publicity and promotional material Also stored in: Oversize, Box 34 folder 520	1953-1985, undated
b. 1, f. 10-15	<a href="#">Photographs</a>	undated
b. 1, f. 16-21	Clippings	1935-1978, undated
"The Boy Who Saw Through"		
b. 1, f. 22-24	Script Includes a television adaptation entitled "Ernie and the Stranger" by Vivian Dorsett and Elizabeth Miele	undated
b. 1, f. 25	Correspondence	1959-1961, undated
b. 1, f. 26	Notes	undated

## "The Boy Who Saw Through" (continued)

b. 1, f. 27	Photographs	undated
b. 1, f. 28	Promotional material	undated
b. 1, f. 29-30	Clippings	1958, undated
	"Ernie and the Stranger" See: <a href="#">The Boy Who Saw Through</a>	
	"Lazarus Laughed"	
b. 2, f. 31-37	Script, several drafts	undated
	"Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"	
b. 2, f. 38-41	Notes and background material	1977, undated
b. 2, f. 42	Synopsis	undated
b. 3, f. 43-58	<a href="#">Script, several drafts</a>	1976-1978, undated
b. 3, f. 59-62	Permits and contracts	1976-1978, undated
b. 4, f. 63-68	<a href="#">Production schedules and reports</a>	1971-1978, undated
b. 4, f. 69-73	<a href="#">Production photographs</a>	1977, undated
b. 4, f. 74-83	<a href="#">Financial records</a>	1973-1982, undated
b. 5, f. 84-88	Financial records	1973-1982, undated
	Correspondence	
b. 5, f. 89	'A' general	1976-1977
b. 5, f. 90	American Film Institute	1975-1981
b. 5, f. 91	'B' - 'E' general	1975-1981, undated
b. 5, f. 92	'F' - 'L' general	1975-1978, undated
b. 5, f. 93	Luce, Clare Boothe	1981
b. 5, f. 94	'M' general	1981
b. 5, f. 95	Moses, Robert	1979
b. 5, f. 96	'N' general	1982
b. 5, f. 97	Nemeth, Ted Jr.	undated
b. 5, f. 98	New York Foundation of the Arts	1976-1982

## "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" &gt; Correspondence (continued)

b. 5, f. 99	'P' - 'R' general	1976-1982
b. 5, f. 100	Rockefeller Foundation	1976-1980
b. 5, f. 101	'S' general	1976-1981, undated
b. 5, f. 102	Sagan, Carl	1980-1981
b. 6, f. 103	<a href="#">Updike, John</a>	1978
b. 6, f. 104	'V' - 'W' general	1977-1981
b. 6, f. 105	Correspondence identified by first name only	1977-1981, undated
b. 6, f. 106	Unidentified correspondent	1977 April 22
Printed material		
b. 6, f. 107-112	Ephemera related to Walt Whitman	1976-1980, undated
b. 6, f. 113-117	Clippings Also stored in: Oversize, Box 34 folders 521-522	1975-1981, undated
b. 6, f. 118-119	Serials <i>Specimen Days</i> (1971 edition), <i>West Hills Review</i> (Fall 1980), and <i>Walt Whitman Review</i> (September 1980)	1971, 1980
b. 6, f. 120	Printed sheet music	1956, undated
b. 7	Prop, 22-caliber CO2-propelled pistol	undated
"Passages from James Joyce's <i>Finnegan's Wake</i> "		
b. 8, f. 121-122	<a href="#">Notes</a>	undated
b. 8, f. 123-126	<a href="#">Script, several drafts</a>	1965, undated
b. 9, f. 127-131	<a href="#">Script, several drafts</a> Includes photocopies of fragmentary damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	1965, undated
Correspondence		
b. 9, f. 132	'A' general	1965-1981
b. 9, f. 133	Arthur Cantor, Inc.	1980-1982
b. 9, f. 134	Astor Cinema	1960-1969, undated
b. 9, f. 135	'B' - 'C' general	1964-1982, undated
b. 9, f. 136	Contemporary Films, Ltd.	1969-1981
b. 9, f. 137	'D' general	1965-1982



"Passages from James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*" > Correspondence (continued)

b. 9, f. 138	<a href="#">De Luxe Laboratories</a>	1967-1981, undated
b. 9, f. 139	'E' - 'F' general	1960-1982
b. 9, f. 140	Fitelson and Mayers	1966-1976, undated
b. 9, f. 141	<a href="#">Grove Press</a>	1968-1981, undated
b. 10, f. 142	'H' - 'J' general	1963-1982
b. 10, f. 143	<a href="#">James Joyce Society</a>	1965-1983, undated
b. 10, f. 144	'K' - 'M' general	1965-1983
b. 10, f. 145	Museum of Modern Art	1981-1982
b. 10, f. 146	'N' - 'R' general	1964-1983, undated
b. 10, f. 147	'S' general	1981-1983, undated
b. 10, f. 148	Society of Authors	1959-1969
b. 10, f. 149	'T' general	1980-1982
b. 10, f. 150	University of Kansas	1980
b. 10, f. 151	University of Minnesota	1965-1968
b. 10, f. 152	Viking Press	1977-1981
b. 10, f. 153	'W' general	1965-1983
b. 10, f. 154	List of names from <i>James Joyce Quarterly</i> mailing list	undated
b. 10, f. 155	First name only	1968-1982
b. 10, f. 156	Unidentified correspondents	undated
b. 10, f. 157-158	<a href="#">Photographs</a>	1963, undated
b. 11, f. 159-161	<a href="#">Photographs</a>	1963, undated
b. 11, f. 162-164	Permits and contracts	1965-66
b. 11, f. 165	<a href="#">Production notes</a>	1961-1982, undated
b. 11, f. 166	Financial papers	1968-1982, undated
b. 11, f. 167	Discussion guide	circa 1965

"Passages from James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*" (continued)

b. 11, f. 168-174	Promotional material Also stored in: Oversize Box 34 folders 523-524 Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	1965-1966, undated
Printed material		
b. 12, f. 175-178	Ephemera	1978-1982, undated
b. 12, f. 179-189	Clippings Also stored in: Oversize Box 34 folders 525-526	1965-1983, undated
"The Skin of Our Teeth"		
b. 13, f. 190-192	Notes Includes handwritten suggestions from Thornton Wilder	1975-1977, undated
b. 13, f. 193	Scene sketches	undated
b. 13, f. 194-195	Outline	undated
b. 13, f. 196-203	Script, several drafts	1966-1969, undated
b. 14, f. 204-211	Script, several drafts	1970-1971
b. 15, f. 212-218	Script, several drafts	1972-1973
b. 16, f. 219-227	Script, several drafts	1973-1975
b. 17, f. 228-234	Script, several drafts	1975-1976
b. 18, f. 235-239	Script, several drafts	undated
Correspondence		
b. 18, f. 240	'C' general	1970-1974
b. 18, f. 241-242	Fitelson and Mayers	1966-1971
b. 18, f. 243	'H' - 'W' general	1967-1976
b. 18a, f. 244a-o	Wilder, Isabel and Thornton	1960-1981, undated
b. 18, f. 245	First name only	1967-1974
b. 18, f. 246	Unidentified correspondents	1967-1974
b. 19, f. 247-249	Photographs	1972, undated
b. 19, f. 250-252	Contracts	1971-1974
b. 19, f. 253-256	Production notes	1969-1973, undated
b. 19, f. 257-258	Promotional material	1970s
Printed material		

## "The Skin of Our Teeth" &gt; Printed material (continued)

b. 19, f. 259	Ephemera	1970s
b. 19, f. 260-264	Clippings Includes clippings related to a memorial service for Thornton Wilder	1970s
b. 19, f. 265	Unidentified script, draft Formerly in a folder labeled "School -- Bute"	undated

**Series II: Business Papers, 1941-1983***1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Series II consists of papers created during the course of Mary Ellen Bute's career which do not pertain to a specific film production. The papers include general correspondence (incoming and outgoing), Bute's writings, lectures and appearances and writings of others. Writings of Others include scripts sent to Bute by third parties and poems and scripts by James Nemeth and Theodore Nemeth, Jr.

Material related to specific film productions is filed in Series I.

Series II consists of three subseries: Correspondence, Writings and lectures, and Other Papers.

Correspondence		
b. 20, f. 266	'A' general	1951-1983
b. 20, f. 267	Arlan Pictures Inc. Includes correspondence from Leopold Stokowski	1950-1953
b. 20, f. 268	'B' general	1972-1982
b. 20, f. 269	Basquin, Kit	1980-1981
b. 20, f. 270	'C' - 'N' general	1952-1983
b. 20, f. 271	Nemeth, Theodore, III	1979, undated
b. 20, f. 272	'P' - 'S' general	1966-1982, undated
b. 20, f. 273	Starr, Cecile	1975-1984, undated
b. 20, f. 273a	Stokowski, Leopold	1957-1974
b. 20, f. 274	'T' - 'W' general	1941-1982, undated
b. 20, f. 275	Women's Independent Film Exchange	1977-1984, undated
b. 20, f. 276	'Y' general	1974-1981
b. 20, f. 277	Third party correspondence	1939-1978
b. 20, f. 278	First name only	1958-1980, undated
b. 20, f. 279	Unidentified correspondents	1975-1980, undated
b. 20, f. 280-283	Notes and lists of addresses Includes handwritten drafts of outgoing letters	1968-1982, undated
b. 20, f. 284-285	Labels and letterhead	undated
b. 20, f. 286	Empty envelopes	1967-1985

Writings, talks, appearances and screenings

## Writings, talks, appearances and screenings (continued)

b. 21, f. 287-292	Appearances and screenings Includes ephemera, announcements and notes	1963-1980s
b. 21, f. 293-298	<a href="#">Speeches and lectures</a>	1932-1970s
b. 21, f. 299-301	Writings of Mary Ellen Bute	1932-1967, undated
b. 21, f. 302-316	Writings of Others (B-N)	1957-1981, undated
b. 22, f. 317-326	Writings of Others (N continued - W)	1957-1981, undated
Other papers		
b. 22, f. 327	Filmography	undated
b. 22, f. 328-329	Resume and biography	undated
b. 22, f. 330-339	Legal Papers Includes release forms and contracts  Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	1952-1973, undated
b. 23, f. 340-343	Financial Papers	1964-1982, undated
b. 23, f. 344-345	General notes and "to-do" lists	undated
b. 23, f. 346	American Film Institute logo	undated
b. 23, f. 347-350	<a href="#">Photographs</a> Also stored in: Oversize Box 34 folder 527 Includes photographs from unidentified film productions	1969, undated

**Series III: Personal Papers, 1907-1984***1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)*



Series III includes family correspondence of Mary Ellen Bute and Ted Nemeth, photographs and legal and financial records. The series also includes ephemera from Bute's memorial service.

Series III is arranged by format.

## Correspondence

Arranged alphabetically. [Letters of condolence for Mary Ellen Bute's death](#) and [postcards, greeting cards and invitations](#) are filed together after the alphabetic sequence.

b. 24, f. 351	'B' general	1977-1980
b. 24, f. 352	<a href="#">Bute, Mary Ellen to Ted Nemeth</a>	1964, undated
b. 24, f. 353	'C' - 'M' general	1907-1982, undated
b. 24, f. 354	Nemeth, James	1967-1968, undated
b. 24, f. 355-356	Nemeth, Theodore, Jr.	1952-1984, undated
b. 24, f. 357	Nemeth, Theodore, III	undated
b. 24, f. 358	'S' - 'W' general	1977, undated
b. 24, f. 359	Letters of condolence for Mary Ellen Bute's death	1982-1984
b. 24, f. 360-362	Postcards, greeting cards and invitations	1959-1982, undated
b. 24, f. 363	First name only	1953-1981
b. 24, f. 364	Unidentified correspondents	1977-1981
b. 24, f. 365	Notes, including calendars and address books	1980, undated
b. 25, f. 366-368	Notes, including calendars and address books	1980, undated
b. 25, f. 369	Copies of poems by various authors	undated
b. 25, f. 370-374	Financial papers	1952-1981
b. 25, f. 375	Medical papers	1977
b. 25, f. 376-380	Legal papers	1924, undated
b. 25, f. 381-387	Family photographs	1920s-1980s
b. 25, f. 387a-b	Personal and professional photographs	1930s-1980s
b. 25, f. 388	Painting, unsigned on paper	undated
b. 25, f. 389-391	Mary Ellen Bute memorial service	1983

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|--|---|---------|
| b. 26, f. 392, <br>39002137164308 | <p>"Pajama Game"<br/><i>1 Audiocassette 00:53:06 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i><br/>Program is distorted at times. Static and a high amount of buzz are present. High background noise is present. Audio levels decrease from 00:30:00 until the end of the tape. High amounts of hiss are present.<br/><a href="#">[Aviary] genmss060339002137164308a.u.mp3</a></p> <p>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br/>Consult Access Services for further information.</p>                                  | undated |
| <hr/>  |   |         |
| b. 26, f. 393, <br>39002137164316 | <p>"Parkside Evangeline Party"<br/><i>1 Audiocassette 00:57:38 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i><br/>Silence is present from 11:50-12:22. The program is distorted at times. Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. High background noise is present. Cross talk can be heard. Silence is present from 53:23-54:15 and 56:45-57:19.<br/><a href="#">[Aviary] genmss060339002137164316a.u.mp3</a></p> <p>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br/>Consult Access Services for further information.</p> | undated |

**Series IV: Ted Nemeth Studios Papers, 1939-1985***2.09 linear feet (5 boxes)*

The series documents the work of the Ted Nemeth Studios. This studio was engaged primarily in commercial contract work but Ted Nemeth also collaborated closely with Mary Ellen Bute on her films.

Production material include notes and background research material, photographs and correspondence.

The Series consists of three subseries: Film and audio production material; Correspondence; Business papers.

Film and audio production material

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by title or topic of work. Material from unidentified productions is filed at the end up the subseries under the heading [Other film and audio productions](#).

b. 27, f. 394	"Boxes"	undated
b. 27, f. 395	"Communicating in Symbols"	undated
b. 27, f. 396	"Holy Father's World-wide Missions"	1962
b. 27, f. 397	"Ice Follies" Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	undated
b. 27, f. 398	James Joyce Society meetings	1961-1962
b. 27, f. 399-401	"Man to Man in Photography," a speech by Edward Steichen Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold  There is an audiocassette related to this material that can be found in <a href="#">Box 35</a> .	1962
b. 27, f. 403-408	"Mobilcolor" Also stored in: Oversize, Box 34, folder 528	1981-1982, undated
b. 27, f. 409-411	"Nightwatch"	1954-1956, undated
b. 27, f. 412	<a href="#">"Rama"</a>	1968
b. 27, f. 413	Royal Greek Legation	1945
b. 27, f. 414-417	"Schlitz 40-Horse Hitch" Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	1972
b. 27, f. 418	"Take a Giant Step"	1971
b. 27, f. 419	"The War Between Men and Women"	1971
b. 28, f. 420-430	Other film and audio productions	undated
Correspondence		
b. 29, f. 431	'A' -'B' general	1957-1983
b. 29, f. 432	Basquin, Kit	1984-1985, undated



## Correspondence (continued)

b. 29, f. 433	'C' - 'D' general	1957, 1971, undated
b. 29, f. 434	Dockum, Greta	1982-1985, undated
b. 29, f. 435	Dockum, Gretchen	1980-1982, undated
b. 29, f. 436	Dockum Research Laboratory	1981-1982
b. 29, f. 437	'G' - 'S' general	1948-1982, undated
b. 29, f. 438	Starr, Cecile	1981-1985, undated
b. 29, f. 439	<a href="#">'U' - 'Y' general, Unidentified correspondent</a>	1944-1983
b. 29, f. 440	List of names and addresses	undated
b. 29, f. 441	Letterhead	undated
Business papers		
b. 29, f. 442-445	Contracts and licenses Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	1942-1985, undated
b. 29, f. 446-448	Financial records Includes photocopies of damaged originals that were discarded due to mold	1936-1985, undated
b. 29, f. 449-452	Promotional material Also stored in: Oversize, Box 34 folder 529	undated
b. 30, f. 453-468	Notebooks and address books	1970s
b. 31, f. 469-475	Photographs	1950s-1981, undated
b. 31, f. 476-483	<a href="#">Printed material</a>	1939-1972, undated

**Series V: Printed Material, 1936-1985***0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The printed material in Series V relates to Mary Ellen Bute and her work and to topics related to film, theater and culture, especially of New York City in the 1970s. Clippings include newspaper and journal articles. Ephemera includes theater programs, conference brochures and leaflets.

Series V is organized under two headings: Clippings and Ephemera. Printed material that relates directly to a particular film production is filed in [Series I](#) under the title of the film.

Clippings		
b. 32, f. 484-496	Mary Ellen Bute	1936-1983
b. 32, f. 497	James Bute	1983
b. 32, f. 498	Margo Lyon	1971-1980
b. 32, f. 499-506	Other topics Also stored in: Oversize box 34 folders 530-531	1953-1985, undated
b. 32, f. 507-510	Ephemera	1958-1982, undated
b. 33, f. 511-516	Ephemera	1958-1982, undated

**June 2008 Addition, circa 1908-1983***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The June 2008 addition consists of papers that Cecile Starr removed from the Mary Ellen Bute Papers during the time they were stored at the Yale Film Study Center (prior to their transfer to the Beinecke Library). In 2008 they were returned to the Film Study Center and subsequently transferred to the Beinecke Library.

Transfer from the Film Study Center, 2008.

The June 2008 Addition is arranged as received by the Beinecke Library.

b. 36, f. 534	<a href="#">Bute booklets</a>	undated
b. 36, f. 535	University around the world. Postcards	circa 1926
b. 36, f. 536	University around the world. Ephemera	1926
b. 36, f. 537	<i>Passages from James Joyce's Finnegans Wake</i> , script, typescript	1965
b. 36, f. 538	<i>Passages from James Joyce's Finnegans Wake</i> , story boards	undated
b. 36, f. 539	<i>Lazarus Laughed</i> , Act 2, script, draft, typescript, corrected	undated
b. 36, f. 540	Photographs (family photographs, most in Texas)	1920s, undated
b. 36, f. 541	Photographs of Mary Ellen Bute	circa 1908-1983
b. 36, f. 542	Photographs and film fragments, possibly from <i>Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking</i>	1970s
b. 36, f. 543	Program for the annual debutante Ball, Houston, Texas	1927
b. 36, f. 544	Notes on unidentified film productions	undated
b. 36, f. 545	"Abstract films," typescript	undated
b. 36, f. 546	"A Texas girl trips around the world," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 36, f. 547	"The boy who saw through," commentary, typescript	undated
b. 36, f. 548	Press release on <i>Tarantella</i> , typescript	undated
b. 36, f. 549	Press release on <i>Rhythm in Light</i> , typescript	undated
b. 36, f. 550	"Abstronics," reprint	1954
b. 36, f. 551	"Film music: New film music for new films," printed version	1952
b. 36, f. 552	"Philosophy of the kinetic art forms," typescript carbon	undated
b. 36, f. 553	"Plan for study IX: Requirements of an instrument for the free playing of kinetic color with form," typescript carbon	undated
b. 36, f. 554	Promotional material	undated
b. 36, f. 555	Review of <i>Color Rhapsody</i> , printed version	1976


**Oversize***1.17 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 34, f. 517-519	Graphics cards (Series I)	undated
b. 34, f. 520	Abstract films, publicity and promotional material (Series I)	1953-1985, undated
b. 34, f. 521	"Out of the Cradle ...," clippings (Series I)	1975-1981, undated
b. 34, f. 522	"Out of the Cradle ...," clippings (Series I)	undated
b. 34, f. 523-524	"Passages ...," promotional material (Series I)	1965-1966, undated
b. 34, f. 525-526	<a href="#">"Passages ...," clippings (Series I)</a>	1965-1983, undated
b. 34, f. 527	Photographs (Series II)	1969, undated
b. 34, f. 528	"Mobilcolor" (Series IV)	1981-1982, undated
b. 34, f. 529	Promotional material (Series IV)	undated
b. 34, f. 530-531	Clippings (Series V)	undated

**Restricted Fragile***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Box 35 contains fragile originals. Photocopies are provided for reference use. The material may be seen only with the permission of the appropriate curator.

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 35, f. 532,  39002137165636	Edward Steichen, "Man to Man in Photography" <i>1 Audiocassette</i> Tape damaged and beyond the ability to play back properly. It has not been digitized. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1962 May 30
This audiocassette is related to three folders of material titled " <a href="#">Man to Man in Photography, a speech by Edward Steichen</a> " in Box 27, reference number 228.		
b. 35, f. 533	Box 18a	1975-1977

## **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**

Animation (Cinematography)  
Animators  
Animators  
Cinematographers  
Cinematographers  
Independent filmmakers  
Motion picture producers and directors  
Motion pictures  
Women motion picture producers and directors

### **Genres / Formats**

Adaptations (derivative objects)  
Photographs  
Screenplays  
Sound recordings

### **Occupations**

Directors  
Filmmakers

### **Names**

Bute, Mary Ellen  
Dockum, Charles  
Joyce, James, 1882-1941  
Nemeth, Ted, 1911-1986  
Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892  
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975