

# Arthur and Barbara Gelb:

## A Preliminary Inventory of Their Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

---

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator</b>	Gelb, Arthur, and Gelb, Barbara
<b>Title</b>	Arthur and Barbara Gelb Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1954-1986
<b>Extent</b>	31 boxes, 1 oversize box, 12 galley files (15.46 Linear Feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The papers focus primarily on the research and joint authorship of <i>O'Neill</i> , a biography of Eugene O'Neill.
<b>Language</b>	English.
<b>Access</b>	Open for research; 7 reel-to-reel tapes and 8 boxes of <i>O'Neill</i> research material are Restricted

---

### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition</b>	Gift no. 1969 (1968); Reg. nos. 1654, 1790, 2386, 2829, 3081, and 4907 (1963-1966)
<b>Processed by</b>	Liz Murray, 1996
<b>Repository:</b>	Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers of Arthur and Barbara Gelb focus primarily on the research and joint authorship of *O'Neill*, the biography of Eugene O'Neill, published in two editions by Harper and Row in 1962 and 1973. While some research material, including holograph notebooks, interviews, and correspondence, remains restricted and unavailable for research, a substantial portion of O'Neill material is accessible. These papers provide a full range of literary expression from manuscripts to the published versions. Also included are numerous articles written by the Gelbs on O'Neill, as well as other theater-related pieces. In addition, Arthur Gelb's career at *The New York Times*, in various editorial capacities, is well represented in several book-length works, articles, reviews, and associated material.

The collection is divided into four series: Works about Eugene O'Neill, Other Works, Personal, and Works by Others.

Series I, Works about Eugene O'Neill, is subdivided into three sections dealing with *O'Neill*, articles about O'Neill, and research material. Leading this series is material for *O'Neill*, including an early corrected typescript "Life of Eugene O'Neill," the precursor to the 1962 Harper and Row edition. It is followed by typescripts corrected by Brooks Atkinson and others, a second corrected typescript, and the final setting copy. Several versions of page proofs and galley proofs are also present.

The articles on O'Neill in Subseries B are arranged by title and contain works by Arthur and Barbara Gelb, both as joint and individual authors. These include articles written for *The Critic*, *Horizon*, *The New York Times*, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Grolier*, sound recording and theater program notes, and a script for the documentary "The Face of Genius."

Subseries C contains research material for *O'Neill*, including an address book with notes and interview sources, as well as photocopies of O'Neill's correspondence from 1913 to 1953. Other *O'Neill* research material remains restricted.

The non-O'Neill works in Series II provide insight into the Gelb's diverse interests. Subseries A contains book-length works arranged in alphabetical order, beginning with Barbara Gelb's 1954 book on natural childbirth. This work is followed by a series of books edited by A. M. Rosenthal and Arthur Gelb, while serving as editors of the Metropolitan desk at *The Times*. The events of The Great Blackout of November 9, 1965 are captured in *The Night the Lights Went Out*, derived from stories written by *The Times* reporters and wire service reports. "All the news that's fit to print" was composed by candlelight the night of the blackout and went to press in New Jersey where the electricity had not failed. The late city edition published on November 10th--the only New York morning newspaper published that day--is present, in addition to the original typescript of the book, reporter's copy, notes, wire service reports, and newspaper clippings.

*One More Victim: The Life and Death of An American-Jewish Nazi* delivers a chilling account of the life and suicide of Daniel Burros, an anti-semitic New York State grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan of Jewish descent. A considerable amount of research material was gathered for this work, including transcriptions of taped interviews, handwritten notes, documents, pamphlets, correspondence, and background information on the Nazi movement in the United States, as well as activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

Undaunted by a crippling newspaper strike, the staff of *The New York Times* covered the visit of Pope Paul VI to the United States on October 4, 1965 as though their reports would go to press. However the strike was not resolved during the Pope's visit, so the stories were compiled in book format under the direction of Rosenthal and Gelb and published by Herder & Herder as *The Pope's Journey to the United States*. Included in the collection are the original corrected typescript, reporter's and news agency copy, and press releases which cover every angle of the trip from security precautions to the Pope's impact on world peace.

Other, shorter works by the Gelbs included in Subseries B provide a range of topics. These articles, tributes, and reviews are arranged by author. Arthur Gelb's works include articles on Cape Cod, book reviews, and tributes for Irving Spiegel and Sidney Gruson. Barbara Gelb's writings for the Sunday Drama section of *The New York Times* constitute the bulk of the articles included.

Correspondence from 1963-1986 dominates the Personal material in Series III. Both professional and personal correspondence is present, including some of Arthur Gelb's outgoing correspondence. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order by correspondent and, in some cases, by organization. Miscellaneous material follows the correspondence and includes folders on Mayor John V. Lindsay, *The New York Times*, proofs of the journal *The Public Interest*, the Repertory Theater of Lincoln Center, and the World's Fair in New York.

The final series contains works by others in various formats. Authors include Brooks Atkinson, Simone de Beauvoir, William H. Davenport, August R. Ebel, John V. Lindsay, Norman Mailer, Eugene O'Neill, James O'Neill, Edwin Rosskam, A. L. Rowse, and Jean-Paul Sartre.

---

## Separated Material

Sound recordings were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recording collection and are described individually in a list at the end of this finding aid and in a [searchable database](#).

---

## Series I. Works about Eugene O'Neill

### Subseries A. *O'Neill*

"Life of Eugene O'Neill, "corrected typescript

Chapters 1-25 **box 1**

Chapters 26-48 **box 2**

Chapters 49-64 **box 3**

Uncorrected carbon draft of first six chapters later revised **box 4**

Carbon draft of first six chapters with corrections by Brooks Atkinson

Notes on ms. made by Brooks Atkinson, John Leggett, and Leonard Harris

Uncut (second) version with authors' handwritten corrections

Chapters 1-8

Chapters 9-15

Chapters 16-20

Chapters 21-25 **box 5**

Chapters 26-32

Chapters 33-42

Chapters 43-48 **box 6**

Chapters 49-51

Chapters 52-55

Chapters 56-63

*O'Neill*, 1962 Harper & Row edition

Uncut setting copy **box 7**

Chapters 1-9

Chapters 10-19

Chapters 20-24

Chapters 25-31

Chapters 32-38

**box 8**

Chapters 39-44

Chapters 45-49

Chapters 50-54

Chapters 55-58

**box 9**

Chapters 59-64

Index

Uncorrected unbound page proofs, 3/27/62

Uncorrected bound page proofs

**box 10**

Unbound first edition, 1962

**box 11**

Corrected unbound page proofs, "original abridgment" returned from Delacorte Press, July 1965 [Galley proofs with authors', editor's, and lawyer's corrections, Aug. 28, 1961, Oct. 24-27, 1961, and Dec. 20, 1961 removed to Galley Files]

#### Subseries B. Articles

"The Catholicism of Eugene O'Neill"(AG), *The Critic*, corrected typescript, final draft, and correspondence, April-May 1965 **box 12**

"The Child O'Neill Tore Up"(BG), *The New York Times*, corrected typescript, final draft, printed version, notes, clippings, programs, and other articles related to *More Stately Mansions*, October 29, 1967

"Eugene O'Neill: 1888-1953"(AG & BG) for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, corrected typescript, final draft, correspondence, and printed version of O'Neill entry written by Gelbs for *The New Book of Knowledge*, 1968

"Eugene O'Neill: 1888-1953" (AG & BG) for *Grolier* article on O'Neill, corrected typescript, final draft, and correspondence

*Eugene O'Neill and "Marco Millions"* (AG & BG), for The Repertory Theatre of Lincoln Center *Theatre*, corrected typescript, correspondence, and press release, 1964

"The Face of Genius"(AG & BG), five script versions of documentary for Westinghouse Broadcasting Company on WBZ-TV, correspondence, press clippings, reviews, 1966

"Jason Robards Returns in O'Neill's *Hughie*"(AG & BG), *The New York Times*, corrected typescripts, galley proof, press releases, playbill, and printed article, Dec. 20, 1964

"On Stage He Played the Novelist"(AG), *The New York Times Book Review*, corrected typescript, final version, printed review, and correspondence, Aug. 30, 1964

*O'Neill and "Strange Interlude"*(AG & BG) for program of Columbia Masterworks recording, corrected typescript, galley proofs, and correspondence [ "The Start of a Long Day's Journey,"corrected page proofs of March 1960 *Horizon* article removed to Oversize Box 32]

Subseries C. Research Material

Address book with interview sources and notes re: *O'Neill*

**box**  
13

Correspondence (photocopies) from O'Neill, Mrs. O'Neill, and friends

1913-1921

1922-1924

1925-1926

1927-1928

1929-1931

**box 14**

1932-1953

## Series II. Other Works

### Subseries A. Books

The ABC of Natural Childbirth, Barbara Gelb Corrected typescript, setting copy, 1954 **box**  
[Galleys removed to galley file and page proofs removed to Oversize Box 32] 14

The Night the Lights Went Out, edited by A. M. Rosenthal and Arthur Gelb, 1965

Corrected typescripts

Reporter's copy, carbon typescripts **box** 15-17

Notes and memoranda

Notes, reviews, and photographs

Newspaper clippings [first section of *The New York Times* for Nov. 10, 1965 and  
tearsheet of article on the blackout, Nov. 14, 1965, removed to Oversize Box 32] **box**  
18

Wire service reports

One More Victim, by A. M. Rosenthal and Arthur Gelb, 1967

Original typescript with handwritten corrections by Rosenthal and Gelb **box**  
18

Revised typescript

Uncorrected bound proofs

Research material **box** 19-22

The Pope's Journey to the United States, edited by A. M. Rosenthal and Arthur Gelb, **box**  
1965 23

Corrected typescript, setting copy

Notes and memorandum

Reporter's copy

News agency copy

News agency copy **box** 24-25

Press releases

Subseries B. Articles, Tributes, and Reviews

Arthur Gelb

Holograph notebook for article on Jerome Robbins and on culture in California

**box**  
26

*New York Times* article on Cape Cod, galley proofs, notes, and carbon typescript

"A Party for Pat," tribute for Irving Spiegel, correspondence, notes, typescripts, and program, June 6, 1967

"Theater: Gruson's Art," honoring Sidney Gruson, 1966

Reviews read on Channel 13 during the newspaper strike of 1962-1963

Book reviews for *The New York Times*

Experimental column for *The New York Times* carbon typescript (never published)

Barbara Gelb

"... And Some Roses for Ulu," *The New York Times*, corrected typescript, final draft, printed version, and advance proofs of Frank Gilroy's *The Subject Was Roses*, May 9, 1965

**box**  
26

"Question: Am I My Brother's Keeper?" *The New York Times*, Sunday Drama section, Nov. 29, 1964 [tearsheet of article removed to Oversize Box 32]

"Quintero in the Square," *The New York Times*, holograph notes, corrected typescripts, galley proofs, and tearsheet, Feb. 16, 1964,

"Robbins: He Kicks Up a Temperamental Storm," *The New York Times*, corrected typescripts, galleys, and tearsheet, Nov. 1, 1964,

Article on Peter Shaffer and *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *The New York Times*, Nov. 14, 1965

**box**  
27

"6th graders find politicking is fun," *The New York Times*, corrected typescript and article, Sept. 18, 1964

Newspaper and magazine reviews of AG & BG works



### Series III. Personal

#### Correspondence, 1963-1986

A-B **box 27**

C-D

E-F

G-H **box 28**

I-K

L-M

N-O

P-Q

R

Sa-Sh **box 29**

Si-Sz

T-Z

Unidentified

Invitations

#### Miscellaneous

John V. Lindsay, candidacy for mayor **box 29**

*The New York Times*, various subjects [tearsheet from *The New York Times*, featuring reporters assigned to the Metropolitan desk; and souvenir program of testimonial dinner for *The New York Times* circulation manager Nathan Goldstein, removed to Oversize Box 32]

*The Public Interest*, first issue press proofs, 10/24/65

Repertory Theater of Lincoln Center, 1963-1965 **box 30**

Theater brochures, re: O'Neill

Gelb, Arthur, and Gelb, Barbara

World's Fair, 1964-1965 [tearsheets from *The New York Times*, 1965 reopening of the World's Fair removed to Oversize Box 32]

Miscellany [galley proofs of *New York Times* article giving complete list of books selected for Presidential Library in the White House (including *O'Neill*) removed to Galley Files]

## Series IV. Works by Others

Atkinson, Brooks. Corrected typescript re: death of Van Wyck Brooks for *The New York Times* column **box 31**

Beauvoir, Simone de. *Force of Circumstance*, publisher's advance announcement of final section

Davenport, William H. "The Published and Unpublished Poems of Eugene O'Neill"

Ebel, August R. "I Knew O'Neill When..." unpublished typescripts 3 versions

Lindsay, John V. *Journey Into Politics*, galley proofs [removed to Galley Files]

Mailer, Norman. *The Armies of the Dead*, galley proofs [removed to Galley Files]

O'Neill, Eugene.

*More Stately Mansions*, galley proofs of "Prefatory Note" and correspondence [Galley proofs of abridged version removed to Galley Files]

*Ten "Lost" Plays*, uncorrected advance proofs

O'Neill, James. "History of the San Francisco Theatre, Volume XX," typescript, 1942

Roskam, Edwin. *The Alien*, promotional excerpt

Rowse, A. L. *William Shakespeare: A Biography*, uncorrected proof with correspondence and publicity material

Sartre, Jean-Paul. [ "Why I Will Not Go to the United States," page proofs of article in *The Nation*, April 1965, removed to Oversize Box 32]

Oversize material **box 32**

## Sound Recordings List

- D 9302 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 1
- D 9303 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 2
- D 9304 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 3
- D 9305 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 4
- D 9306 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 5
- D 9307 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 6
- D 9308 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 7
- D 9309 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 8
- D 9310 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 9
- D 9311 : phonograph records : Tribute to E. O'Neil [sic], disc 10
- R 0212.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Radio programs partly based on material from "O'Neill", Tape 1 of 2
- R 0212.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Radio programs partly based on material from "O'Neill", Tape 2 of 2
- R 0943 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview - John Tucker; Patrol, John Snow; Art McGinley
- R 0944 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : George C. Tyler's letters from O'Neill (part I) and other Princeton material
- R 0945 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Slim Martin
- R 0946 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : George C. Tyler's letters from O'Neill (part II); Continuation of O'Neill scrapbook
- R 0947 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : O'Neill - Yale library scrapbook
- R 0948 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : O'Neill - Yale library scrapbook; Gene to George C. Tyler letters (part I)
- R 0949 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Letters to M. Eleanor Fitzgerald