

Morris Leopold Ernst:

Photography Collection Literary File at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ernst, Morris Leopold, 1888-1976
Title:	Morris Leopold Ernst Literary File
Dates:	Circa 1910s-1970
Extent:	114 items
Abstract:	The Morris Leopold Ernst Literary File consists of 114 photographs, the majority of which are portraits of Ernst and his family.
Call Number:	Photography Collection PH-00281
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Scope and Contents

The Morris Leopold Ernst Literary File consists of 114 photographs, the majority of which are portraits of Ernst and his family, which included his wife Margaret "Maggie" Samuels Ernst; their daughter Constance "Connie" Bessie and her children Nicholas "Nick" and Katherine "Kathy" Bessie; their son Roger, his wife Jean, and their children Debbie and David; and their daughter Joan Dauman and her daughter Stephanie "Steffie" Goldstein. Also pictured are associates of Ernst's law firm, Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst (GW&E), including partner Herbert A. Wolff and Ernst's longtime secretary Paula Gross. Others represented in the file include Louis D. Brandeis, Heywood Broun, Arthur J. Brown, Edna Ferber, Malcolm A. Hoffman, Hubert Humphrey, James Joyce, Louis Lochner, Eugene O'Neill, Ezra Pound, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Andrew R. Tyler. There are also a few snapshots of Ernst at his favorite pastime, sailing, and one of Ernst's birthplace in Uniontown, Alabama. An index at the end of this guide lists commercial photographers whose work is featured in this file. This index only includes works which specifically credit a photographer and thus is not an exhaustive list.

Related Material

The Ransom Center also holds manuscript materials by Morris L. Ernst and artworks related to the Morris L. Ernst collection.

Accession / P Number:: P1 Description:: Color snapshot of Ernst as an older man and his wife Margaret in the cockpit of a sailboat; printed on verso: "MLE and MSE."
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P2A Description:: BW portrait of "Ernest almost 18 years old." (The "Ernest" identified in portrait is not Morris L. Ernst)
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P2B Description:: BW snapshot of Ernst with his grandchildren Kathy and Nick.
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P3 Description:: BW snapshot of a sailboat with four figures visible; printed on verso: "MLE, MSE, Roger and Jean at bow."
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P4 Description:: Color snapshot of Ernst as an older man with Judy Bryant, his stenographer.
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P5 Description:: BW portrait of Margaret as a young woman.
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P6 Description:: BW snapshot of Margaret as an older woman with her granddaughter Steffie as a young girl.
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P7 Description:: Color snapshot of Steffie sitting on the lap of an unidentified man dressed as Santa Claus.
Container
 LA

Accession / P Number:: P8 Description:: BW snapshot of Steffie as a young girl.
Container
 LA

- Accession / P Number::** P9 **Description::** BW portrait of a Nick and Kathy Bessie as children. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P10-P11 **Description::** BW portraits of Nick as a young boy. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P12 **Description::** Color portrait of Kathy as a young girl. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P13 **Description::** Color snapshot of a Debbie and David Ernst as children. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P14 **Description::** BW portrait of Joan as a young woman. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P15 **Description::** BW portrait of Connie as a young woman; inscribed to an unidentified person (Ernst?) and signed (on image) by "Con". **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P16 **Description::** BW portrait of Debbie as a young woman. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P17 **Description::** BW portrait of "Harold L. Johns[?]," signed presentation (below image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P18 **Description::** BW portrait of "Tim Westbrook, Williams [College] '09." **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P19 **Description::** BW portrait of "Catherine [illegible]" (a young woman); signed presentation (on image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P20 **Description::** BW snapshot of a wood-frame house; inscribed by Ernst on image: "MLE Birthplace - Uniontown, Ala. - left 1890 circa." **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P21 **Description::** BW snapshot of a "Playhouse built by MLE for grandchildren" at their summer home in Nantucket, Mass. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P22 **Description::** Color snapshot of "Joan's house," circa 28 September, 1957. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P23 **Description::** Color snapshot of a sailboat; printed on verso: "Family cat boat going toward town." **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P25 **Description::** BW snapshot of a sailboat; printed on verso: "Sloop washed up on marshes in hurricane." **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P26 **Description::** Color snapshot of a sailboat on the water, circa 18 October 1954. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P27A **Description::** Small BW snapshot of Heywood Broun at a microphone. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P27B **Description::** BW portrait of Heywood Broun as a middle-aged man; signed presentation (on image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P28 **Description::** BW portrait of Harry S. Truman; signed presentation (below image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: P33 **Description::** BW portrait of Chief Judge Ishida of Japan; signed presentation (on image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA

- Accession / P Number::** P34-P36 **Description::** BW views of sailboats. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** [P37] **Description::** Typewritten explanatory note by Ernst for P37, which is housed in PH:LF:OV Box, Large. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P38 **Description::** BW portrait of Edna Ferber as an older woman; signed presentation (on image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P40-P41 **Description::** Color snapshots of a sailboat; printed on verso: "Cruising Maine Coast." **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** P42 **Description::** BW portrait of Louis D. Brandeis as a middle-aged man; signed presentation (below image) to Ernst. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0016 **Description::** BW view of a display at Gimbel's of the book *Report on the American Communist* by Ernst and David Loth. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0017 **Description::** BW snapshot of Eleanor Roosevelt at a banquet with Margaret and Joan; inscribed on verso: "Maggie, Mrs. Dauman, Eleanor Roosevelt. I got her to 'talk' at a Deaf Club." **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0018 **Description::** BW group portrait of mostly older men and women in front of the Mill on the Floss Inn, 1959. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0019 **Description::** Original negative of a portrait of Ernst as an older man (with reference print). **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0020 **Description::** BW view of a display case, including a shelf about Ernst, for an exhibit titled "Among Alumni Authors" at Williams College (Williamstown, Mass.); accompanied by a letter to Mrs. Constance E. Bessie from Lawrence E. Wikander, College Librarian. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0022 **Description::** BW portrait of Ernst as a middle-aged man. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0023 **Description::** BW portrait of Ernst as a young man. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0024 **Description::** BW photograph of Ernst's son Roger receiving a medal from President Park Chung Hu, with an unidentified man in the background; signed presentation to Morris Ernst from Roger Ernst, 13 April 1968; signed presentation (on image) from Roger, "to Dad"; inscribed on verso: "President Park Chung Hu bestowing the / National Cultural Merit Medal, Mo-ran class, / on [Roger Ernst] on Thursday April 4." **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0025 **Description::** BW group portrait of Roger Ernst, President Hu, and four unidentified men; taken on the same occasion as 984:0010:0024. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0026 **Description::** BW portrait of the Hon. Andrew R. Tyler; inscribed on verso: "GW&E, 1st Negro in White office in NY City. Now a Judge." **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0027 **Description::** BW group portrait including Ernst at the Overseas Press Club, 27 December [1956?], with an iron chest to be opened on 1 January 1976; accompanied by a typed description and identifications. **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 984:0010:0028 **Description::** BW portrait of Ernst speaking on WNYC radio at the Overseas Press Club; taken in the same room and probably on the same occasion as 984:0010:0027. **Container**
LA

- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0029 **Description::** BW portrait of Dr. Arthur J. Brown, Louis Lochner, and Ernst putting a copy of Ernst's book Utopia 1976 and a letter in an iron chest; taken on the same occasion as 984:0010:0027. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0001 **Description::** BW portrait of Ernst as an older man. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0002-0003 **Description::** BW portrait of Ernst and Margaret as a middle aged couple on a sailboat and of four unidentifiable people on a sailboat. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0004 **Description::** BW group portrait including Ernst as an older man with Kiwanis Club members. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0005 **Description::** BW photograph of Ernst presenting an award at a Greenwich Village Chamber of Commerce event, with printed program. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0006-0008 **Description::** BW photographs of groups including Harry S. Truman and Ernst, with printed captions. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0009 **Description::** BW portrait of Ernst receiving a Brotherhood award from Sister Anthony of St. Vincent's Hospital; includes award certificate. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0010 **Description::** BW photograph of Ernst with Clinton Anderson; signed presentation (on mat) to Ernst. **Container**
LA
- Accession / P Number::** 988:0121:0011-0012 **Description::** BW photographs of Ernst with Paula Gross; 988:0121:0011 signed presentation to Ernst by the "GW&E court jester photographer, January 1, 1970 [RK?]" **Container**
LA

Accession / P Number:: 988:0121:0013 **Description::** BW formal portrait of Hubert Humphrey; signed presentation (below image) to Ernst, 20 December 1964. Includes typed caption by Ernst with handwritten note, "Property of Nicholas Bessie."
Container
LA

Accession / P Number:: 988:0121:0014 **Description::** BW formal portrait of Ernst's law partner Herbert Wolff; signed presentation (on image) to Ernst, 23 August 1972.
Container
LA

Accession / P Number:: 988:0121:0015 **Description::** BW formal portrait of Judge Andrew R. Tyler.
Container
LA

Accession / P Number:: 988:0121:0016-0019 **Description::** 4 color snapshots of Ernst alone and with unidentified people.
Container
LA

Accession / P Number:: 988:0121:0020-0031 **Description::** 12 4x6" BW snapshots of Ernst and Malcolm A. Hoffman.
Container
LA

Accession / P Number:: 999:0036:0025 **Description::** Photographic reproduction of a drawing by Paul Frehm of J. Edgar Hoover; signed presentation to Ernst from Hoover; 22 May 1944.
Container
LA

Accession / P Number:: P29 **Description::** BW portrait of James Joyce (approximately 13 x 10").
Container
OV Box,
Large

Accession / P Number:: P30 **Description::** BW portrait of Eugene O'Neill as a young man (approximately 16 x 20").
Container
OV Box,
Large

- Accession / P Number::** P31 **Description::** BW portrait of Eugene O'Neill as an older man (approximately 16 x 20"). **Container**
OV Box,
Large
- Accession / P Number::** P32 **Description::** Photographic reproduction of a halftone print of a photographic portrait of Ezra Pound by Man Ray (approximately 11 x 14"). **Container**
OV Box,
Large
- Accession / P Number::** P37 **Description::** BW group portrait of a class of 5 unidentified men and 7 unidentified women; autographed on image by 13 members of the staff of Msgr. Salcedo of Bogotá, Colombia, with whom Ernst worked at a radio station on a "great literacy-by-radio experiment" (approximately 16 x 20", mounted on board); accompanied by Ernst's typewritten explanatory note (housed in document box). **Container**
OV Box,
Large
- Accession / P Number::** P39 **Description::** BW portrait of an unidentified older man in a suit (approximately 12 x 10"). **Container**
OV Box,
Large
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0021 **Description::** BW group portrait of men seated at tables in a banquet hall, including Ernst (on left side, halfway back); printed on image: "Luncheon, Democratic National Finance Committee, Mayflower Hotel Jan. 19, 1949, Washington, D.C." **Container**
OV Box,
Large
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0030-0040 [was P24] **Description::** Large, black, spiral-bound album containing 11 photographic prints of Ernst's office and of Ernst and unidentified women in his office; handwritten note on last page dated 1963. **Container**
Album 1
- Accession / P Number::** 984:0010:0001-0015 **Description::** Small spiral-bound booklet of plastic sleeves containing 15 color photographic prints of interior views of a house (the Ernst residence?); title on cover: "SnapShots." Inscribed inside cover: "46 W. 11th St. NYC." **Container**
Album 2

Index of Photographers

- Allen, William H., Jr.--P20
- Arnold--P2A
- Bachrach--P5, P39
- Bleezarde, T. W.--984:0010:0020
- Drake Studios--988:0121:0005
- Gilbert, James, photographer--984:0010:0026
- Halsman, photographer--P17
- Hammid, Hella, 1921- --P8-11
- Harris & Ewing--P30, P42
- Jafay, Kurt--988:0121:0013
- Lynes, George Platt, 1907-1955--P38
- Medina, Frank, photographer--988:0121:0004
- Merrill, Helen, photographer--P16
- Price Studios (New York, N.Y.)--P27B
- Roehl, Virginia--984:0010:0016
- Rosenfeld, Morris, 1884-1968--P36
- Royal Atelier--984:0010:0023
- Schulman, Sammy--988:0121:0008
- Schutz Group Photographers (Washington, D.C.)--984:0010:0021
- Stoller, Ezra--988:0121:0012
- Studio Iris (Paris, France)--P19
- Volpe--984:0010:0022
- Wide World Photos, Inc.--984:0010:0027-0029