

Guide to the Wolf Mankowitz Papers

OSB MSS 307



by Brooke McManus

October 2023

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Wolf Mankowitz (1924-1988)	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Writings, 1944-2016, undated	6
Series II: Correspondence, 1947-2011	7
Series III: Personal Papers, 1919-2017, undated	8
Series IV: Printed Material, 1947-2007, undated	9
Series V: Audiovisual and Computer Media, 1960-2009, undated	10
Selected Search Terms	11

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: OSB MSS 307

CREATOR: Mankowitz, Wolf (1924-11-07-1998-05-20) , author

TITLE: Wolf Mankowitz papers

DATES: 1919-2017

BULK DATES: 1950-1990

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 64.8 linear feet (111 boxes + 3 broadside, 1 record album storage)

LANGUAGE: English; Hebrew

SUMMARY: The collection consists of writings, correspondence, personal papers, printed material, audiovisual and computer media, and other papers documenting the career of British author, playwright, and screenwriter Wolf Mankowitz.

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

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.mankowitz>.

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.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Fishburn Books on the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection Fund, 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 107-114 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 115 (computer media): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Wolf Mankowitz 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

Wolf Mankowitz Papers. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn 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 and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Wolf Mankowitz (1924-1988)

Cyril Wolf Mankowitz was a British author, playwright, and screenwriter. He was born in 1924 in London to Rebecca and Solomon Mankowitz and educated at Downing College (University of Cambridge), where one of his tutors was F. R. Leavis. Before beginning his career as an author and playwright, Mankowitz developed a reputation as an authority on and dealer of antique porcelain, leading to the publication of two reference books on Wedgwood.

Mankowitz's novel *A Kid for Two Farthings* (1953) was adapted into a film, for which he wrote the screenplay, in 1955. He also wrote the screenplay for *The Millionairess* (1960), which was nominated for a BAFTA award, and he was one of the screenwriters on the James Bond films *Dr. No* (1962) and *Casino Royale* (1967). Mankowitz's other novels include *Make Me an Offer* (1952) and *My Old Man's a Dustman* (1956). In 1958, he wrote the book for the musical *Expresso Bongo*, as well as the television script for *East End, West End*. His plays include *The Bespoke Overcoat* (1953), *The Irish Hebrew Lesson* (1978, 1980), and *The Samson Riddle* (1972, 1978). Mankowitz also published biographies of Edgar Allen Poe and Charles Dickens. His shorter works appeared in titles such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Playboy*, and the *Evening Standard*. In addition to writing, Mankowitz appeared on television programs and discussion panels on literature and the arts in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mankowitz married psychoanalyst Ann Seligmann in 1944, and they had four sons including Gered, a photographer best known for his portraits of Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones. He moved to Ireland in

1971 and was made honorary consul to the Republic of Panama in Dublin the same year. Mankowitz died in Cork, Ireland in 1988.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of writings, correspondence, personal papers, printed material, audiovisual and computer media, and other papers documenting the career of author, playwright, and screenwriter Wolf Mankowitz. Writings contain drafts of novels, scripts for film, theater, and television projects, and articles and essays. Included are materials relating to *Dickens of London*, *Expresso Bongo*, *A Kid For Two Farthings*, *Make Me an Offer*, *The Millionairess*, and *My Old Man's a Dustman*. Among the correspondents are Lucille Lortel, Lord Beaverbrook (Max Aitken), Art Buchwald, Richard Burton, Peter Cook, Fanny E. Holtzmann, Cecil King, Cecil Madden, Sue Mengers, John Mills, and Laurence Olivier. Personal papers contain biographies, family material, legal documents, photographs, planners and diaries, and scrapbooks relating to works written or adapted for the stage by Mankowitz. Printed material consists of clippings and posters. Also included are film and audio recordings of plays.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Writings, 1944-2016, undated. II. Correspondence, 1947-2011. III. Personal Papers, 1919-2017, undated. IV. Printed Material, 1947-2007, undated. V. Audiovisual and Computer Media, 1960-2009, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1944-2016, undated

29.4 linear feet (66 boxes)

This series consists of books, playscripts, screenplays, television scripts, short stories, poetry, and articles by Wolf Mankowitz. Included are drafts of his novels *Make Me an Offer*, *A Kid for Two Farthings*, and *My Old Man's a Dustman*, his reference works on Wedgwood, drafts of the musical *Expresso Bongo*, screenplays for *The Millionairess* and *Black Beauty*, and scripts for the television program *East End, West End*. Files often contain correspondence, research material, photographs, ephemera, notes, and publicity materials.

Writings can also be found in Series II. Correspondence and Series III. Personal Papers.

Arranged in three subseries: Books; Theater, Film, and Television; and Shorter Works.

Series II: Correspondence, 1947–2011

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

This series consists of correspondence with editors, agents, actors, fellow writers, and other associates, primarily regarding professional matters, such as production of plays and publication of works by Wolf Mankowitz. Among the correspondents are Chesney Allen, Leslie Bricusse, Betty E. Box, Nat Cohen, Barry Cryer, Everett Greenbaum, Hugh Hefner, Sterling Lord, Lucille Lortel, Cecil Madden, Cyril Ornadel, Harold Prince, Bertrand Russell, and Norman Thaddeus Vane. The series also contains correspondence described by Mankowitz as "important letters" from public figures including Lord Beaverbrook (Max Aitken), Art Buchwald, Richard Burton, Michael Caine, Peter Cook, Frank Cousins, Milton H. Greene, Fanny E. Holtzmann, Cecil King, Frank Loesser, Sue Mengers, John Mills, Anthony Newley, Nanette Newman, Laurence Olivier, and Kenneth Tynan. Files sometimes include writings and ephemera.

Correspondence can also be found in Series I. Writings and Series II. Personal Papers.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title, with first name only letters filed at the end of the sequence.

Series III: Personal Papers, 1919-2017, undated

17.1 linear feet (29 boxes)

This series contains biographical information, personal financial and legal records, agreements and related material for professional projects, ephemera, photographs, planners and diaries, and scrapbooks documenting books, films, and plays by Mankowitz.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series IV: Printed Material, 1947-2007, undated

9.83 linear feet (7 boxes + 3 broadside)

This series consists of clippings and serials containing articles by or about Wolf Mankowitz, a small amount of ephemera related to his work, catalogs and booklets, and posters advertising plays and musicals written or produced by Mankowitz.

Arranged by format.

Series V: Audiovisual and Computer Media, 1960-2009, undated

8 linear feet (8 boxes + 1 record album storage)

This series includes of audiotapes, videotapes, long-playing records, and floppy disks by or relating to Wolf Mankowitz and stage productions of *Expresso Bongo*, *Belle; or the Ballad of Dr. Crippen*, *The Hebrew Lesson*, and *My Old Man's a Dustman*.

Arranged in two subseries: Audiovisual Media and Computer Media.

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.

Occupations

Authors -- Great Britain -- 20th Century
Playwrights

Subjects

Authors, English -- 20th Century -- Archives
English literature -- 20th Century
Motion pictures -- Production and direction
Musical theater -- Production and direction
Playwriting
Screenwriters
Television plays
Theater -- Great Britain

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Born digital
Photographs
Scripts (documents)

Names

Beaverbrook, Max Aitken, Baron, 1879-1964
Buchwald, Art, 1925-
Burton, Richard, 1925-1984
Cook, Peter, 1943-2005
Holtzmann, Fanny E. (Fanny Ellen), 1903-1980
King, Cecil Harmsworth
Madden, Cecil, 1902-1987
Mankowitz, Wolf (1924-11-07-1998-05-20)
Mengers, Sue, 1932-2011
Olivier, Laurence, 1907-1989