

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Sidney B. Kramer Papers and Business Records

GEN MSS 2090



by Nora Soto

July 2023

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2090

CREATOR: Kramer, Sidney B. , author

TITLE: Sidney B. Kramer papers and business records

DATES: 1965–2014

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 84.4 linear feet (74 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, business records, artwork, merchandise, audiovisual material, and other personal and professional papers relating to literary agent Sidney B. Kramer and his representation of author and illustrator Richard Scarry.

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

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.skramer>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mark Kramer, 2016, 2020.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 39 (personal correspondence): Restricted until 2059. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Boxes 55, 61, 65-66: In-process material pending housing. For further information, consult Access Services.

Boxes 72-73 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

January 2020 acquisition: Restricted until 2045. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Sidney B. Kramer Papers and Business Records 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

Sidney B. Kramer Papers and Business Records. 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, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

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. 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.

Separated Materials

Printed material received with the collection was removed for separate cataloging and can be accessed by searching the library's online catalog.

Sidney B. Kramer (1915–2014)

Sidney B. Kramer was an American publisher, literary agent and attorney who represented children's book author and illustrator Richard Scarry from 1965 to the 1980s. Born in New York, New York in 1915, Kramer graduated from New York University in 1936 and Brooklyn Law School in 1939. Kramer co-founded Bantam Books with Ian Ballantine, Betty Ballantine, and Walter B. Pitkin, Jr. in 1945, serving as its vice-president and director until 1967. He subsequently worked for Corgi Books and Cassell & Collier MacMillan in London, England and served as president of New American Library from 1967 to 1972.

Kramer established the literary agency MEWS Books Ltd., where he represented children's book authors such as Richard Scarry, Hardie Gramatky, Crockett Johnson, and Ruth Krauss. In addition to his publishing career, Kramer operated the Remarkable Bookshop in Westport, Connecticut with his wife Esther, where

he also founded his own law firm. The couple was married in 1939 and had two children. Kramer died in Westport in 2014.

Content Description

The collection contains correspondence, business records, artwork, merchandise, audiovisual material, and other personal and professional papers relating to literary agent Sidney B. Kramer and his representation of author and illustrator Richard Scarry. Scarry's artwork includes original drawings, watercolors, and bluelines for his children's books. Merchandise includes toys, handkerchiefs, jigsaw puzzles, and party supplies featuring well-known Scarry characters such as Lowly Worm. Other business records pertain to Scarry's wife Patricia M. Scarry and son Huck Scarry, both of whom were also authors, as well as Kramer's other clients at MEWS Books Ltd., including Hardie Gramatky, Crockett Johnson, and Ruth Krauss. The collection also contains legal documents and personal files belonging to Kramer. Correspondents include publisher Ole Risom.

Arrangement

Organized into seven series: I. Chronological Files, 1972–2008. II. Business Records, circa 1965–2013. III. Artwork, 1941–1967. IV. Merchandise, 1971–1978. V. Legal Files, 1965–2014. VI. Personal Papers, 1966–2008. VII. Audiovisual Material, 1979–1984.

Collection Contents

Series I: Chronological Files, 1972–2008

9 linear feet (9 boxes)

This series contains assorted personal and business correspondence, carbon copies of agreements, contracts, memoranda, and other professional papers pertaining to Richard Scarry and Sidney B. Kramer. Included are letters exchanged by Scarry and Kramer, as well as correspondence with publishers, agents, manufacturers, and licensees of Scarry's works.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 1, f. 1-13	Richard Scarry chronological files	1972–1984
b. 2, f. 14-24	Richard Scarry chronological files	1972–1984
b. 3, f. 25-39	Richard Scarry incoming correspondence	1974–2008
b. 4, f. 40-55	Richard Scarry incoming correspondence	1974–2008
b. 5, f. 56-64	Richard Scarry incoming correspondence	1974–2008
b. 5, f. 65-70	Richard Scarry–Sidney B. Kramer correspondence	1977–1983
b. 6, f. 71-74	Richard Scarry–Sidney B. Kramer correspondence	1977–1983
b. 6, f. 75-83	Sidney B. Kramer chronological files	1977–1987
b. 7, f. 84-96	Sidney B. Kramer chronological files	1977–1987
b. 8, f. 97-99	Sidney B. Kramer chronological files	1977–1987
b. 8, f. 100-109	Sidney B. Kramer incoming correspondence	1978–1987
b. 9, f. 110-119	Sidney B. Kramer incoming correspondence	1978–1987

Series II: Business Records, circa 1965–2013*34.2 linear feet (34 boxes)*

This series contains business records related to Sidney B. Kramer's literary agency MEWS Books Ltd. and its clients. Files pertaining to Richard Scarry consist of business correspondence, agreements, contracts, financial papers, royalties, tax records, publicity files, wills, notes, photographs, and other papers. The bulk of material documents Scarry's publishing and merchandising ventures, including foreign publishing contracts, licensing and copyright, and television rights. Notable correspondents include publisher Ole Risom. Present are page proofs for *What Do People Do All Day?*

Files pertaining to Huck Scarry consist of personal and professional correspondence, agreements, publishing contracts, and other business records. Included are watercolors and page proofs for his unpublished picture book "Cerise and Whiskers." The series also contains files related to his father Richard Scarry's estate.

Files pertaining to Patricia M. Scarry include personal letters and postcards exchanged with Kramer. Also present are publishing contracts for her children's books, and professional correspondence with other writers, illustrators, and publishers.

Files pertaining to Kramer's other literary clients document his representation of Hardie Gramatky, Crockett Johnson, Ruth Krauss, and other writers. Files include professional correspondence, typescript drafts, and publishing contracts.

Organized into four subseries: Richard Scarry Files, Huck Scarry Files, Patricia M. Scarry Files, and Other Client Files. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically by folder title, with oversize materials filed at the end of the sequence.

Richard Scarry Files

b. 10, f. 120-147	Richard Scarry files, A – B	circa 1965–2013
b. 11, f. 148-179	Richard Scarry files, B	circa 1965–2013
b. 12, f. 180-207	Richard Scarry files, B	circa 1965–2013
b. 13, f. 208-239	Richard Scarry files, B – C	circa 1965–2013
b. 14, f. 240-272	Richard Scarry files, C	circa 1965–2013
b. 15, f. 273-291	Richard Scarry files, C	circa 1965–2013
b. 16, f. 292-312	Richard Scarry files, C – D	circa 1965–2013
b. 17, f. 313-343	Richard Scarry files, D – E	circa 1965–2013
b. 18, f. 344-358	Richard Scarry files, E – F	circa 1965–2013
b. 19, f. 359-379	Richard Scarry files, F	circa 1965–2013
b. 20, f. 380-410	Richard Scarry files, G – H	circa 1965–2013
b. 21, f. 411-439	Richard Scarry files, H – I	circa 1965–2013
b. 22, f. 440-474	Richard Scarry files, I – L	circa 1965–2013
b. 23, f. 475-494	Richard Scarry files, M	circa 1965–2013
b. 24, f. 495-526	Richard Scarry files, M – P	circa 1965–2013

Richard Scarry Files (continued)

b. 25, f. 527-557	Richard Scarry files, P – R	circa 1965–2013
b. 26, f. 558-588	Richard Scarry files, R	circa 1965–2013
b. 27, f. 589-613	Richard Scarry files, R	circa 1965–2013
b. 28, f. 614-641	Richard Scarry files, R – S	circa 1965–2013
b. 29, f. 642-666	Richard Scarry files, S – T	circa 1965–2013
b. 30, f. 667-685	Richard Scarry files, T – W	circa 1965–2013
b. 31, f. 686-710	Richard Scarry files, W	circa 1965–2013
b. 32, f. 711-735	Richard Scarry files, W	circa 1965–2013
b. 33, f. 736-761	Richard Scarry files, W – Z	circa 1965–2013
b. 34, f. 762-767	Richard Scarry files, unsorted	circa 1965–2013
b. 43 (Oversize), f. 969	Arnoldo Mondadori editore poster	undated
b. 43 (Oversize), f. 970	Collins Hamlyn promotional material	undated
b. 43 (Oversize), f. 971	Cranston Print Works Company: Merchandise	undated
b. 43 (Oversize), f. 972	<i>What Do People Do All Day?</i> , poster	undated
Huck Scarry Files		
b. 35, f. 768-798	Huck Scarry files, A – G	1970s–2000s
b. 36, f. 799-831	Huck Scarry files, G – O	1970s–2000s
b. 37, f. 832-858	Huck Scarry files, O – S	1970s–2000s
b. 38, f. 859-867	Huck Scarry files, S – W	1970s–2000s
Patricia M. Scarry Files		
Box 39: Restricted until 2059. For further informatino consult the appropriate curator.		
b. 38, f. 868-883	Correspondence and other papers	1970–1984
b. 39, f. 884	Restricted correspondence Restricted until 2059. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1968–1984
Other Client Files		
b. 40, f. 885-894	Gramatky, Hardie	1978–2003
b. 40, f. 895-919	Johnson, Crockett	1970–1991
b. 40, f. 920-927	Krauss, Ruth	1977–1990

Other Client Files (continued)

b. 41, f. 928-950	Krauss, Ruth	1977-1990
b. 41, f. 951	Krauss, Ruth and Crockett Johnson	1986-1990
b. 41, f. 952	Krauss, Ruth and Maurice Sendak	1984-1985
b. 41, f. 953	Leokum, Arkady	undated
b. 41, f. 954	Padowicz, Julian	1986
b. 41, f. 955	Pearsall, Thomas P.	1987
b. 41, f. 956	Pincus, Jane	1986-1987
b. 41, f. 957	Pottish, Morris	1981-1988
b. 41, f. 958-962	Rose, Anne K.	1976-1988
b. 42, f. 963-968	Rose, Anne K.	1976-1988

Series III: Artwork, 1941–1967*25.4 linear feet (14 boxes)*

This series contains drawings, watercolors, and paintings by Richard Scarry. Included are bluelines and proofs for several of Scarry's picture books, among them *What Do People Do All Day?* and the *Tinker and Tanker* series. Also present is a watercolor by Huck Scarry.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Richard Scarry artwork		
b. 45 (Oversize), f. 976	<i>Best Story Book Ever</i> , bluelines	undated
b. 46 (Oversize), f. 979-986	<i>The Early Bird</i> , bluelines and related drawings	1960s
b. 47 (Oversize), f. 987-995	<i>The Early Bird</i> , bluelines and related drawings	1960s
b. 48, f. 996	<i>Edward Lear's Nonsense Alphabet</i> , watercolor end sheets	1960s
b. 45 (Oversize), f. 977	<i>The Hickory Dickory Dock Book</i> , watercolor cover proof	undated
b. 44, f. 973	Photographs of artwork	undated
b. 44, f. 974	Portfolio	undated
b. 49 (Oversize), f. 1001-1003	Portfolio	undated
b. 50 (Oversize), f. 1004	"Swing Into Books," poster proof	undated
b. 50 (Oversize), f. 1005	"There Was an Old Man with a Beard" and "There was an Old Man on whose nose..." by Edward Lear, watercolor	undated
b. 45 (Oversize), f. 978	<i>Tinker and Tanker and the Pirates</i> , envelope	1961
b. 51 (Oversize), f. 1009-1018	<i>Tinker and Tanker and the Pirates</i> , proofs and related drawings	1961
b. 52 (Oversize), f. 1019-1026	<i>Tinker and Tanker and Their Space Ship</i> , proofs	1961
b. 52 (Oversize), f. 1027-1030	<i>Tinker and Tanker in Africa</i> , proofs	1963
b. 53 (Oversize), f. 1031-1032	<i>Tinker and Tanker in Africa</i> , proofs	1963
b. 53 (Oversize), f. 1033-1038	<i>Tinker and Tanker: Knights of the Round Table</i> , proofs and related drawings	1963
b. 53 (Oversize), f. 1039-1047	<i>Tinker and Tanker Out West</i> , proofs and related drawings	1961

Richard Scarry artwork (continued)

b. 50 (Oversize), f. 1006	Untitled colored pencil drawing, whale and seagull	undated
b. 48, f. 997	Untitled [gouache?] painting on paper, swordfish in boat	undated
b. 50 (Oversize), f. 1007-1008	Untitled marker drawing, soccer players	undated
b. 55	Untitled oil painting on canvas, sailor Box 55: In-process material pending housing. For further information, consult Access Services.	1941
b. 48, f. 998	Untitled watercolor, animals playing checkers	undated
b. 54 (Oversize), f. 1048	Untitled watercolor, boy with dog and telescope	undated
b. 48, f. 999	Untitled watercolor, farmer with hens	undated
b. 54 (Oversize), f. 1049	Untitled watercolor, seaside town	undated
b. 54 (Oversize), f. 1050	Untitled watercolor, stork delivery	undated
b. 48, f. 1000	Untitled watercolor, whale and seagull	undated
b. 44, f. 975	Various original drawings	circa 1978
b. 56 (Oversize), f. 1052-1063	<i>What Do People Do All Day?</i> , bluelines	1960s
b. 57 (Oversize), f. 1064-1077	<i>What Do People Do All Day?</i> , bluelines	1960s
Huck Scarry artwork		
b. 54 (Oversize), f. 1051	Untitled watercolor	1967

Series IV: Merchandise, 1971–1978*12.4 linear feet (11 boxes)*

This series contains merchandise related to Richard Scarry's children's books, including character toys for Lowly Worm and others, handkerchiefs, jigsaw puzzles, party supplies and stationary sets. Merchandise was produced for the United States, Italy, and Japan.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 58, f. 1078-1079	Busytown puzzles by Milton Bradley	[1977]
b. 58, f. 1080	"Down on the Farm" paper plates by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 58, f. 1081	"Down on the Farm" party invitations by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 59, f. 1082	"Down on the Farm" party napkins by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 59, f. 1083	Lowly Worm nut cups by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 59, f. 1084-1086	Richard Scarry's Box Up stationary by Kutsuwa, Japan	undated
b. 59, f. 1087	Stickers and seals by Hallmark	[1977–1978]
b. 60	Metal coin bank by Auguri di Mondadori, Italy	undated
b. 61	Children's briefcase by Auguri di Mondadori, Italy Box 61: In-process material pending housing. For further information, consult Access Services.	undated
b. 62	Playskool Puzzletown People toys; metal coin bank; chopstick cases; "Down on the Farm" party supplies by Hallmark	circa 1970s
b. 63	Metal lunchbox, Italy	undated
b. 64, f. 1088	"Down on the Farm" centerpiece by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 64, f. 1089	"Down on the Farm" party decoration by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 64, f. 1090-1091	"Down on the Farm" party hats by Hallmark	[1977]
b. 65	Golden Book Preschool Frame-Tray Puzzle Box 65: In-process material pending housing. For further information, consult Access Services.	[1976]
b. 66	Golden Book <i>Best Word Book Ever</i> frame-tray puzzles Box 66: In-process material pending housing. For further information, consult Access Services.	[1971]
b. 67 (Oversize), f. 1092-1095	Handkerchiefs, Japan	undated
b. 67 (Oversize), f. 1096	Fabric squares	undated

b. 68 (Oversize), Handkerchiefs, Japan
f. 1097-1098

undated

b. 68 (Oversize), Fabric
f. 1099

undated

Series V: Legal Files, 1965–2014*1 linear foot (1 box)*

This series contains estate administration records, wills, and other legal documents generated during Sidney B. Kramer's legal practice. Included are files pertaining to the estate of Hardie Gramatky.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 69, f. 1100	DeHuff, Doris	1965–1971
b. 69, f. 1101-1102	Ehrlich, Doris	1969–1991
b. 69, f. 1103-1105	Einsel, Ethel	1966–1988
b. 69, f. 1106-1108	Gramatky, Dorothea Cooke	1979–1987
b. 69, f. 1109-1110	Gramatky, Hardie estate	1978–1981
b. 69, f. 1111	Gramatky, Linda	1987–1991
b. 69, f. 1112-1115	Greenwald, Bernice and estate	1977–1991
b. 69, f. 1116-1122	Tamaki, Ryoko	1991–2014

Series VI: Personal Papers, 1966–2008

1.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

This series consists of Sidney B. Kramer's personal correspondence unrelated to Richard Scarry, as well as files pertaining to investments, leases, and other papers for the Remarkable Bookshop.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 70, f. 1123-1139	Personal papers, A – M	1966–2008
b. 71, f. 1140-1148	Personal papers, M – U	1966–2008

Series VII: Audiovisual Material, 1979–1984*0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series contains audiocassettes, digital data pack cassettes, and Super 8 film related to Richard Scarry.

Boxes 72-73 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Arranged by format.

Audiocassettes

Box 72: Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 72, f. 1149	Caedmon Records: <i>The Great Pie Robbery</i> , Carol Channing 1 Audiocassette	undated
b. 72, f. 1150	Copy of original 1 Audiocassette	undated
b. 72, f. 1151	<i>Richard Scarry's Animal Nursery Tales: Read-Alongs</i> . Side A: <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> ; Side B: <i>The Gingerbread Man</i> 1 Audiocassette	1979
b. 72, f. 1152	<i>Richard Scarry's Animal Nursery Tales: Read-Alongs</i> . Side A: <i>The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Wishes</i> ; Side B: <i>The Teeny-Tiny Woman, Five Little Pigs, The Little Red Hen</i> 1 Audiocassette	1979
b. 72, f. 1153	<i>Richard Scarry's Animal Nursery Tales: Read-Alongs</i> . Side A: <i>The Three Little Pigs</i> ; Side B: <i>Goldilocks and the Three Bears</i> 1 Audiocassette	1979
b. 72, f. 1154	<i>Richard Scarry's Animal Nursery Tales: Read-Alongs</i> . Side A: <i>The Wolf and the Kids</i> ; Side B: <i>The Musicians of Bremen</i> 1 Audiocassette	1979
b. 72, f. 1155	Ron White, <i>Knickerbocker</i> 1 Audiocassette	undated

Coleco ADAM digital data pack

Box 73: Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 73, f. 1156	Scarry RV26 9/6 D2 1 Audiocassette	[1984]
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Super 8

Box 73: Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 73, f. 1157	Ben Posner 1 Film Cartridge (Super 8)	undated
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January 2020 acquisition, 1969–1976*.25 linear feet (1 box)*

This acquisition consists of correspondence between Sidney B. Kramer and Richard and Patsy Scarry.

Gift of Mark Kramer, 2020.

Restricted until 2045. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 74, f. 1158	Scarrys confidential and personal correspondence Restricted until 2045. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1976
b. 74, f. 1159	Scarrys multi-subject correspondence Restricted until 2045. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1971–1975
b. 74, f. 1160	Richard Scarry general correspondence Restricted until 2045. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1969–1971

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

Authors and publishers -- United States
Business records
Character merchandising
Children's literature -- 20th Century
Children's literature -- Illustrations
Children's literature -- Publishing -- United States
Children -- Books and reading
Illustrators, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Literary agents
Picture books for children -- United States
Publishers and publishing
Publishers and publishing -- United States -- 20th Century

Corporate Body

MEWS Books Ltd.

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Bluelines (proofs)
Character toys
Drawings (visual works)
Handkerchiefs
Jigsaw puzzles
Watercolors (paintings)

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Illustrators -- United States -- 20th Century
Literary agents -- United States -- 20th Century
Publishers -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Gramatky, Hardie, 1907-1979
Johnson, Crockett, 1906-1975
Kramer, Sidney B.
Krauss, Ruth
Lowly Worm (Fictitious character)
Risom, Ole
Scarry, Huck
Scarry, Patricia M., 1924-1995
Scarry, Richard