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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Joan Kahn Papers

YCAL MSS 247



by H. Dean

2007

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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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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 247

CREATOR: Kahn, Joan

TITLE: Joan Kahn papers

DATES: 1945-1994

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.92 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Joan Kahn Papers document her work as a suspense book editor in New York City and largely consist of correspondence and dust jackets spanning from 1945 to 1989. Correspondence includes letters from: Jacques Barzun, Maurice Procter, and Julian Symons. Also included are other papers (such as notes for a business trip) dating from 1964 and 1975.

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

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.kahnjoan>.

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 Olivia Kahn, 1995-1996.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Joan Kahn Papers are 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

Joan Kahn Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Joan Kahn (1914-1994)

Joan Kahn was an editor of suspense novels and worked at firms including Harper and Row, Ticknor and Fields, Dutton, and St. Martin's Press during a career that spanned over forty years. Kahn also wrote two novels (*To Meet Miss Long* and *Open House*) and four children's books as well as edited eleven mystery anthologies.

Born in New York City, Kahn attended the Horace Mann School and pursued post-secondary education at the Yale School of Art, Barnard College and the Art Students' League. In 1946 Kahn began her career at Harper Brothers where she initially edited books about history, art, theater, and travel before starting the Harper Novels of Suspense Department. In the 1960s Kahn had her own imprint ("Joan Kahn Books") and the Mystery Writers of America awarded her the Ellery Queen Award and the Edgar Allan Poe Award in recognition of her distinguished career in publishing. Kahn died in New York City at the age of eighty in 1994.

Scope and Contents

The Joan Kahn Papers document her work as a suspense book editor in New York City and largely consist of correspondence and dust jackets spanning from 1945 to 1989. Also included are Kahn's personal papers dating from 1964 and 1975.

Arrangement

The Joan Kahn Papers are organized into the following three series: Correspondence, Other Papers, and Dust Jackets.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1945-1989

0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

This series contains Kahn's professional correspondence. Among her correspondents are authors she published as well as fans (including Bess and Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy).

The series is organized into two subseries: incoming and outgoing correspondence. Both are arranged alphabetically.

Incoming

b. 1, f. 1	Abrahamsen, David	1973
b. 1, f. 2	"B" General	1964-1982
b. 1, f. 3	Barzun, Jacques	1969-1981
b. 1, f. 4	"C" General	1965, 1968
b. 1, f. 5	Carvic, Heron	1970, 1976
b. 1, f. 6	Cecil, Henry	1960-1975
b. 1, f. 7	Day Lewis, C. (Cecil), Also contains a limited edition typescript copy of "The Newborn" by D.M.B. dated 1957 April 29 (inscribed to Kahn)	1954-1972
b. 1, f. 8	Dickinson, Peter	1969-1987
b. 1, f. 9	Doohey, Brigitte	1988 January 13
b. 1, f. 10	Escott, Jonathan Includes one letter from Peter Escott	1984-1987
b. 1, f. 11	Fordham, Peta	1973
b. 1, f. 12	Francis, Dick	1969-1981
b. 1, f. 13	Freeling, Nicolas	1963-1972
b. 1, f. 14	"G" General	1982, 1984
b. 1, f. 15	Gallie, Menna Includes enclosed letter in Welsh to Menna Gallie from publisher Hughes A'l Fab. Also includes two letters from Gallie's husband Bryce Gallie	1960-1989
b. 1, f. 16	Gilbert, Michael	1953-1989
b. 1, f. 17	Grant, John	1978-1989
b. 1, f. 18	"H" General	1964-1980
b. 1, f. 19	Halls, Geraldine	1965-1970
b. 1, f. 20	Hardinge, George	1973-1978

Incoming (continued)

b. 1, f. 21	Hillerman, Tony	1971, 1989
b. 1, f. 22	Houghton Mifflin Company	1971
b. 1, f. 23	"J" General	1945, 1954
b. 1, f. 24	Jhabvala, Ruth Praver	1979
b. 1, f. 25	Johnson, E. Richard (Emil Richard)	1967-1969
b. 1, f. 26	Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald)	1962-1963
b. 1, f. 27	Kuh, Katharine	1964, 1967
b. 1, f. 28	"L" General	1963, 1973
b. 1, f. 29	Langton, Jane	1978-1989
b. 1, f. 30	Lolos, Kimon	1963-1974
b. 1, f. 31	Maling, Arthur	1978-1979, 1990
b. 1, f. 32	McAdoo, Richard B.	1971
b. 1, f. 33	McClure, James	1973-1982
b. 1, f. 34	McGinley, Patrick	1987, 1989
b. 1, f. 35	Moses, Robert	1965
b. 1, f. 36	"N" General	1979, 1985
b. 1, f. 37	"P" General	1989
b. 1, f. 38	Procter, Maurice	1953, 1960, 1969
b. 1, f. 39	"R" General	1980
b. 1, f. 40	Rawson, Clayton	1970 June 23
b. 1, f. 41	Roosevelt, Eleanor	1962 July 23
b. 2, f. 42	"S" General	1965-1986
b. 2, f. 43	Symons, Julian	1964-1987
b. 2, f. 44	Truman, Bess Wallace	1971-1975
b. 2, f. 45	Truman, Harry	1954-1955
b. 2, f. 46	"V" General	1966 January 25
b. 2, f. 47	"W" General	1967-1970
b. 2, f. 48	Wesker, Arnold	1967-1978
b. 2, f. 49	Winterton, Paul	1960-1971
b. 2, f. 50	Wynd, Oswald	1969-1987

Incoming (continued)

b. 2, f. 51	"Z" General	1978 June 23
b. 2, f. 52	Unidentified	1964-1984, undated
b. 2, f. 53	Outgoing Correspondence	1980

Series II: Other Papers, 1964-1994*4 Folders*

The series contains material relating to Kahn's work as an editor dating from roughly 1964 to 1975. Also included is the Program for Joan Kahn's memorial service in 1994.

The series is arranged in chronological order.

b. 2, f. 54	Business trip materials	1964
b. 2, f. 55	Publicity materials for Patrick McGinley's <i>Bogmail</i>	1978
b. 2, f. 56	Net sales list	1975
b. 2, f. 57	Program for Joan Kahn's memorial service	1994

Series III: Dust Jackets, 1946-1990*2.29 linear feet (6 boxes)*

The series contains dust jackets from a number of books Kahn published dating largely from the late 1940s to the 1980s. The dust jackets are of particular interest because Kahn found her own jacket artists (including her sister Olivia Kahn) and wrote her own jacket copy.

The series is arranged alphabetically by author and book title. Book jackets are filed under authors' published name, with pseudonyms cross-referenced where applicable.

b. 3, f. 58	Alding, Peter See also: Ashford, Jeffrey	circa 1967
b. 3, f. 59	Ashford, Jeffrey See also: Alding, Peter	1960-1964
b. 3, f. 60	Atiyah, Edward Selim	1951
b. 3, f. 61	Atkins, Meg Elizabeth	1977
b. 3, f. 62	Audemars, Pierre	1961, 1963
b. 3, f. 63	Ballinger, Bill S. (Bill Sanborn)	1955, 1963
b. 3, f. 64	Bax, Roger See also: Garve, Andrew See also: Somers, Paul	1948-1951
b. 3, f. 65	Black, Gavin	1966-1975
b. 3, f. 66	Blaisdell, Anne See also: Egan, Lesley See also: Linington, Elizabeth See also: Shannon, Dell	1962
b. 3, f. 67	Blake, Nicholas	1949, 1961
b. 3, f. 68	Bodelsen, Anders	1969-1976
b. 3, f. 69	Borgenicht, Miriam	1952
b. 3, f. 70	Borneman, Ernest	1948
b. 4, f. 71	Boston, Robert	1973
b. 4, f. 72	Brock, Rose	1974
b. 4, f. 73	Browne, Courtney	1967
b. 4, f. 74	Burke, J.F.	1976
b. 4, f. 75	Calvin, Henry	1969
b. 4, f. 76	Carr, John Dickson	1952, 1971

b. 4, f. 77	Carvic, Heron	1975
b. 4, f. 78	Cashman, John	1974
b. 4, f. 79	Cleife, Philip	1971
b. 4, f. 80	Colton, Jennifer	1953
b. 4, f. 81	Cores, Lucy Michaela	1951, 1964
b. 4, f. 82	Creasey, John	1948-1954
b. 4, f. 83	Dessart, Gina	1947-1959
b. 4, f. 84	Dickinson, Peter	1970, 1971
b. 4, f. 85	Dobyns, Stephen	1983
b. 4, f. 86	Douglass, Donald McNutt	1961
b. 4, f. 87	Downey, Bridgitte	1984
b. 4, f. 88	Dunn, Dorothy	1950
b. 4, f. 89	Dwight, Olivia	1961
b. 4, f. 90	Egan, Lesley See also: Blaisdell, Anne See also: Linington, Elizabeth See also: Shannon, Dell	1961-1972
b. 4, f. 91	Erlich, May	1952, 1955
b. 4, f. 92	Eustis, Helen	1946
b. 4, f. 93	Femling, Jean	1975
b. 4, f. 94	Fenwick, Elizabeth	1957, 1958, 1961
b. 5, f. 95	Fisher, Hope	1951
b. 5, f. 96	Fitt, Mary	1950
b. 5, f. 97	Fordham, Peta	1972
b. 5, f. 98	Freeling, Nicholas	1971
b. 5, f. 99	Friedman, Mickey	1983
b. 5, f. 100	Gallie, Menna	1986
b. 5, f. 101	Garve, Andrew See also: Bax, Roger See also: Somers, Paul	1951-1971
b. 5, f. 102	Gash, Jonathon	1983-1990

b. 5, f. 103	Gethin, David	1983, 1984
b. 5, f. 104	Gilbert, Harriett	1976, 1979
b. 5, f. 105	Gilbert, Michael Francis	1973
b. 5, f. 106	Greenbaum, Leonard	1969
b. 5, f. 107	Gulik, Robert Hans van	1960
b. 5, f. 108	Haddad, C.A.	1975-1978
b. 5, f. 109	Hamilton, Bruce	1948
b. 5, f. 110	Hardin, Peter	1955
b. 5, f. 111	Hardy, Lindsay	1959
b. 5, f. 112	Hildick, Wallace	1975, 1976
b. 5, f. 113	Holden, Anne	1971
b. 5, f. 114	Hough, Richard Alexander	1963
b. 5, f. 115	Innes, Hammond	1947-1950
b. 5, f. 116	Jackson, Clarence J.L.	1973
b. 5, f. 117	Jay, Charlotte	1961, 1964
b. 5, f. 118	Jepson, Selwyn	1968
b. 5, f. 119	Johnson, E. Richard	1968-1971
b. 6, f. 120	Kahn, E. J. (Ely Jacques)	1973
b. 6, f. 121-122	Kahn, Joan	1946-1987
b. 6, f. 123	Kapralov, Yuri	1982
b. 6, f. 124	Krasner, William	1950, 1954
b. 6, f. 125	Kuttner, Henry	1952
b. 6, f. 126-127	Lacy, Ed	1956-1966
b. 6, f. 128	Langton, Jane	1975
b. 6, f. 129	Leonard, Frank	1972
b. 6, f. 130	Linington, Elizabeth See also: Blaisdell, Anne See also: Egan, Lesley See also: Shannon, Dell	1968
b. 6, f. 131	Lobell, N. D. (Nathan D.)	1949
b. 6, f. 132	Lolos, Kimon	1961

b. 6, f. 133	Longrigg, Roger	1963
b. 6, f. 134	Lyon, Mabel Dana	1950-1958
b. 6, f. 135-136	Maling, Arthur	1970-1979
b. 6, f. 137	Mallet, Jacqueline	1974
b. 6, f. 138	Marble, M. S. (Margaret Sharp)	1947
b. 6, f. 139	Marric, J. J.	1971, 1973
b. 6, f. 140	Maxfield, Henry S.	1958
b. 6, f. 141	McGinley, Patrick	1987
b. 7, f. 142	McMullen, Mary	1951
b. 7, f. 143	Mornell, Pierre	1974
b. 7, f. 144	Mosley, Leonard	1958
b. 7, f. 145	Olmstead, Alan H.	1975
b. 7, f. 146	Pace, Tom	1969-1971
b. 7, f. 147	Perowne, Barry	1974
b. 7, f. 148	Pettit, Paul	1953
b. 7, f. 149	Piper, Evelyn	1956, 1957
b. 7, f. 150	Player, Robert	1972
b. 7, f. 151-152	Procter, Maurice	1951-1968
b. 7, f. 153	Prou, Suzanne	1974
b. 7, f. 154	Reno, Marie R.	1976
b. 7, f. 155	Resnicow, Herbert	1983
b. 7, f. 156	Rieman, Terry	1954
b. 7, f. 157	Roman, Howard	1960
b. 7, f. 157	Roueché, Berton	1949
b. 7, f. 158-159	Scott, Jack S.	1976-1985
b. 7, f. 160	Shannon, Dell See also: Blaisdell, Anne See also: Egan, Lesley See also: Linnington, Elizabeth	1960
b. 7, f. 161	Shimer, R. H. (Ruth H.)	1972
b. 7, f. 162	Smith, Bridget A.	1988

b. 8, f. 163-165	Smith, Shelley	1947-1962
b. 8, f. 166	Somers, Paul See also: Bax, Roger See also: Garve, Andrew	1958-1961
b. 8, f. 167	Symons, Julian	1965
b. 8, f. 168	Tallant, Robert	1952
b. 8, f. 169	Tate, Sylvia	1947
b. 8, f. 170	Thompson, Jim	1949
b. 8, f. 171	Thomson, June	1971
b. 8, f. 172	Travers, Hugh	1966
b. 8, f. 173	Trevor, Elleston	1952
b. 8, f. 174	Warren, Joyce	1957, 1960
b. 8, f. 175	White, Reginald James	1961-1971
b. 8, f. 176	Williams, Alan	1963, 1965
b. 8, f. 177	Williams, Vinnie	1957
b. 8, f. 178	Wise, Arthur	1970
b. 8, f. 179	Wolfe, Michael	1973-1976
b. 8, f. 180	Wolfe, Winifred	1955
b. 8, f. 181	Woodfin, Henry	1968
b. 8, f. 182	Woods, Sara	1965-1968
b. 8, f. 183	Youd, Samuel	1955
b. 8, f. 184	Young, Edward Preston	1963

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

Book editors
Editors
Suspense fiction
Women editors -- United States

Genres / Formats

Book jackets

Names

Barzun, Jacques, 1907-2012
Kahn, Joan
Procter, Maurice, 1906-
Symons, Julian, 1912-1994

Corporate Body

Harper & Row, Publishers