

Guide to the Philip Barry Papers

YCAL MSS 414



by Will Baker

2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 414

CREATOR: Barry, Philip, 1896-1949

TITLE: Philip Barry papers

DATES: 1917-1950

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 22.28 linear feet (54 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Philip Barry Papers document Barry's development and career as a playwright, from his earliest production at Yale in 1919 to his final work in 1949. The Papers are composed chiefly of Barry's notes, sketches, and drafts of his plays, materials relating to the production and publication of his plays, and correspondence with friends, family, fans, and colleagues in the worlds of theater and literature. Additional materials are also present, including scripts of plays by other authors, college and workshop notes, press clippings, and pamphlets and photographs relating to professional and social organizations.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from Ellen Barry, 1940-1961 and from unidentified sources.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Philip Barry Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Za Barry.

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory.

Existence and Location of Copies

Portions of the collection are available on microfilm. Consult Access Services for further information.

Philip Barry (1896-1949)

Philip Jerome Quinn Barry (1896-1949) was a 20th-century American playwright most widely known for comedies he authored during the 1920s and 1930s, including *Paris Bound* (1927), *Holiday* (1928), and *The Philadelphia Story* (1939). Born in Rochester, New York, Barry was the third and youngest son of a successful Irish immigrant father and an Irish-American mother from Philadelphia. After graduating from Yale in 1919, Barry attended George Pierce Baker's legendary 47 Workshop at Harvard, where he won the prestigious Richard Herndon Prize in 1922 for *The Jilts*. Subsequently produced by Herndon on Broadway as *You and I*, this script was the first of several composed before 1930 that would establish Barry's reputation for high comedy and repartee. Together with the comedies of manners for which he was most popularly received, Barry authored a number of serious dramas tending toward religious and existential themes, including *Tomorrow and Tomorrow* (1931) and the more experimental *Hotel Universe* (1930) and *Here Come the Clowns* (1938). Barry's career as a playwright peaked in 1939 with the production of *The Philadelphia Story*, starring Katharine Hepburn, which was adapted to the screen the following year in a film featuring Hepburn, James Stewart, and Cary Grant.

Barry married Ellen Semple (1898-1995) in 1922. The two divided their time primarily between their homes in Manhattan and Mount Kisco, New York. They were the parents of two sons, Philip Semple Barry and Jonathan Peter Barry, and a daughter who died in infancy in 1933. Philip Barry died of a heart attack in 1949 at the age of 53.

Scope and Contents

The Philip Barry Papers document Barry's development and career as a playwright, from his earliest production at Yale in 1919 to his final work in 1949. The Papers are composed chiefly of Barry's notes, sketches, and drafts of his plays, materials relating to production and publication, and correspondence with friends, family, fans, and colleagues in the worlds of theater and literature. Additional materials are

also present, including scripts of plays by other authors, college and workshop notes, press clippings, and pamphlets and photographs relating to professional and social organizations.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Writings, 1918 - circa 1949. II. Subject Files, 1921-1949. III. Correspondence, 1921-1949. IV. Other Papers, 1917-1950. V. Plays by Others, 1933-1941.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1918 - circa 1949

17.64 linear feet (42 boxes)

This series contains versions of works by Philip Barry in various stages of completion, including thirty plays, two screenplays, one opera libretto, one novel, and one short story. The material includes notes and sketches (holograph, typescript, and carbon, some corrected), final scripts (carbon), and proofs (some corrected) of these writings.

Arranged alphabetically by title. Within titles, files are arranged in roughly chronological order.

b. 1	<i>The Animal Kingdom</i> 5 Folders	1931
b. 2	<i>The Animal Kingdom</i> 5 Folders	1931
b. 3	<i>The Animal Kingdom</i> 2 Folders	1931
b. 3	<i>Bright Star</i> 6 Folders	1934
b. 4	<i>Bright Star</i> 5 Folders	circa 1934
b. 5	<i>Bright Star</i> 10 Folders	circa 1934
b. 6	<i>Bright Star</i> 7 Folders	circa 1934
b. 6	<i>Cock Robin</i> 2 Folders	circa 1927
b. 7	<i>Cock Robin</i>	circa 1927
	<i>The Dollar</i> See: <i>Holiday</i>	
	<i>The Emperor of China</i> See: <i>My Name Is Aquilon</i>	
	<i>Figure of a Girl</i> See: <i>My Name Is Aquilon</i>	
b. 7	<i>Foolish Notion</i> 6 Folders	circa 1945
b. 8	<i>Foolish Notion</i> 2 Folders	circa 1945
b. 9	<i>Foolish Notion</i> 9 Folders	1945

	<i>Gentle Reader</i> (circa 1934) See: <i>Bright Star</i>	
	<i>Gentle Reader</i> (circa 1939) See: <i>The Philadelphia Story</i>	
b. 10	<i>Gold for Davy Jones</i>	1935
b. 10	<i>The Gorgeous Hussy</i>	1935
	<i>Hail and Farewell</i> See: <i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i>	
	<i>A Happy Man</i> See: <i>In a Garden</i>	
b. 10	<i>Here Come the Clowns</i> 6 folders	circa 1938
b. 11	<i>Here Come the Clowns</i> 9 folders	circa 1938
b. 12	<i>Here Come the Clowns</i> 4 folders	circa 1938
	<i>The History of Clancy</i> See: <i>Here Come the Clowns</i>	
b. 12	<i>The High Hand</i> 7 Folders	circa 1920-1924
b. 13	<i>The High Hand</i> 13 Folders	circa 1924
b. 14	<i>Holiday</i> 5 Folders	circa 1928
	<i>Homage to Honor</i> See: <i>Bright Star</i>	
b. 14	<i>Hotel Universe</i>	circa 1930
b. 15	<i>Hotel Universe</i> 5 Folders	circa 1930
b. 16	<i>Hotel Universe</i> 9 Folders	circa 1930
b. 17	<i>In a Garden</i> 5 Folders	1924
b. 18	<i>In a Garden</i> 12 Folders	1924
	<i>The Jilts</i> See: <i>You and I</i>	

b. 19	<i>John</i> 9 Folders	circa 1927
b. 20	<i>The Joyous Season</i> 8 folders	circa 1933-1934
b. 21	<i>The Joyous Season</i> 4 Folders	1934
b. 22	<i>The Joyous Season</i> 2 Folders	1934
b. 22	<i>The Joyous Season</i>	1934
	<i>Kingdom Come</i> See: <i>John</i>	
b. 22	<i>Liberty Jones</i> 2 Folders	circa 1941
b. 23	<i>Liberty Jones</i> 6 Folders	circa 1941
b. 24	<i>Liberty Jones</i> 9 Folders	circa 1941
b. 25	<i>Liberty Jones</i> 5 Folders	circa 1941
b. 26	<i>Liberty Jones</i>	circa 1941
	<i>The Man in the Street</i> See: <i>White Wings</i>	
	<i>A Man of Taste</i> See: <i>In a Garden</i>	
b. 26	<i>Meadow's End</i> (short story) 3 Folders	circa 1922
b. 26	<i>My Name Is Aquilon</i> 6 folders	circa 1949
b. 27	<i>My Name Is Aquilon</i> 2 folders	circa 1949
b. 27	<i>Nancy Stair</i> 4 Folders	circa 1934
b. 28	<i>Nancy Stair</i> 3 Folders	circa 1934
b. 28	<i>No Thoroughfare</i>	1918
	<i>Oh Promise Me</i> See: <i>The High Hand</i>	

b. 29	<i>Paris Bound</i> 4 Folders	1927
b. 29	The Philadelphia Story 2 folders	circa 1939
b. 30	<i>The Philadelphia Story</i> 7 folders	1939-1941
b. 30	<i>The Philadelphia Story</i>	1941
b. 30	<i>The Philadelphia Story</i> (screenplay) 1 Folder	1940
	<i>Point of View</i> See: <i>Foolish Notion</i>	
	<i>Poor Richard</i> See: <i>The Youngest</i>	
b. 31	<i>Second Threshold</i> 8 folders	circa 1949
	<i>The Son of One</i> See: <i>Bright Star</i>	
b. 31	<i>Spring Dance</i>	circa 1936
	<i>The Stern Daughter</i> See: <i>Second Threshold</i>	
	<i>Sweet Chariot</i> See: <i>John</i>	
b. 32	<i>The Stagger System</i> 5 Folders	1941
b. 32	<i>Ten Scars Make a Man</i>	1923
	<i>This Time Sadly</i> See: <i>The Animal Kingdom</i>	
	<i>The Tin Bridge</i> See: <i>Liberty Jones</i>	
b. 32	<i>Tom Thumb</i>	undated
b. 32	<i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i> 2 folders	circa 1930
b. 33	<i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i> 6 folders	circa 1930
b. 34	<i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i>	1930
b. 34	<i>Transient</i>	1918

b. 34	<i>War in Heaven</i> (novel) 5 Folders	circa 1938
b. 35	<i>War in Heaven</i> (novel) 3 Folders	circa 1938
	<i>Westminster Abbey</i> See: <i>The High Hand</i>	
b. 35	<i>White Wings</i> 3 Folders	circa 1926
b. 36	<i>White Wings</i> 8 Folders	circa 1926
b. 36	<i>White Wings</i> (opera libretto) 2 Folders	circa 1935
	<i>The Wild Harps Playing</i> See: <i>Liberty Jones</i>	
b. 37	<i>Without Love</i> 9 Folders	circa 1942
b. 38	<i>Without Love</i> 12 Folders	circa 1942
b. 38	<i>Without Love</i>	circa 1942
b. 39	<i>Without Love</i> (screenplay)	1944
b. 39	<i>You and I</i> 3 Folders	circa 1922
b. 39	<i>The Youngest</i> 3 Folders	circa 1922-1924
b. 40	<i>The Youngest</i> 8 Folders	1922 - circa 1924
b. 41	<i>The Youngest</i> 8 Folders	circa 1924
b. 42	<i>The Youngest</i> 7 Folders	circa 1924

Series II: Subject Files, 1921-1949*1.68 linear feet (4 boxes)*

This series contains files relating to the production and publication of Barry's plays and other writings. Materials include contracts, box office and royalty statements, budgets, bills, receipts, theater ephemera, and correspondence relating to specific works.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 43	<i>The Animal Kingdom</i> 3 folders	1931-1947
b. 43	<i>Bright Star</i>	1934-1935
b. 43	<i>Cock Robin</i>	1928-1948
b. 43	<i>Foolish Notion</i>	1945
	<i>Hail and Farewell</i> See: <i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i>	
b. 43	<i>Here Come the Clowns</i>	1935-1943
b. 43	<i>The High Hand</i>	1921-1922
b. 43	<i>Holiday</i>	1928-1947
b. 44	<i>Hotel Universe</i> 2 Folders	1930-1938
b. 44	<i>In a Garden</i>	1925
	<i>The Jilts</i> See: <i>You and I</i>	
b. 44	<i>John</i>	1946
b. 44	<i>The Joyous Season</i> 5 folders	1929-1935
b. 44	<i>Liberty Jones</i>	1931-1935
b. 45	<i>Liberty Jones</i>	1940-1942
b. 45	<i>Meadow's End</i> (short story)	1922
b. 45	<i>Nancy Stair</i>	1934
b. 45	<i>No Thoroughfare</i>	1919
b. 45	<i>Paris Bound</i>	1928-1938
b. 45	<i>The Philadelphia Story</i> 3 folders	1939-1941
	<i>Poor Richard</i> See: <i>The Youngest</i>	

	<i>A Punch for Judy</i> See: <i>The High Hand</i>	
b. 45	<i>Spring Dance</i>	1938-1949
b. 45	<i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i>	1930-1939, 1948
b. 46	<i>Tomorrow and Tomorrow</i> 2 folders	1931-1933
b. 46	<i>War in Heaven</i> (novel)	1938
b. 46	<i>White Wings</i>	1930-1946
b. 46	<i>Without Love</i>	1943-1944
b. 46	<i>You and I</i>	1922-1925
b. 46	<i>The Youngest</i>	1923-1925, 1940

Series III: Correspondence, 1921-1949*1.26 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series consists of personal and business correspondence to and from Philip Barry in the form of holograph and typescript letters (mostly signed), telegrams, and holograph drafts of telegrams. The correspondence relates chiefly to the writing, publication, and productions of Barry's plays. Much of this content is from writers, actors, publishers, and producers sending notes of encouragement and congratulations to Barry, and it extends to letters of appreciation from audiences, discussions of published reviews, and requests for work. Most of the remaining correspondence is of a more personal nature, primarily from Barry's immediate family members and close friends.

Incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically. Outgoing correspondence and telegrams to and from Barry are grouped separately at the end of the series, each arranged alphabetically.

b. 47	"A" General	1923-1949
b. 47	Adams, Samuel Hopkins	1935
b. 47	Author's League	1944-1949
b. 47	"B" General	1932-1944
b. 47	Baker, George Pierce	1922-1923
b. 47	Barry, Agnes M. (sister)	1935-1949?
b. 47	Barry, James (brother)	1935-1944
b. 47	Barry, Philip, Jr. (son)	1935-1944
b. 47	Barry Family (miscellaneous)	1923-1944, undated
b. 47	Benét Family	1936-1944, undated
b. 47	Boyle, Kay	1932
b. 47	Brandt and Brandt	1935-1943
b. 47	"C" General	1933-1948
b. 47	Canby, Henry S.	1922-1934
b. 47	Carroll, Madeleine	undated
b. 47	Charles Scribner's Sons	1922
b. 47	Cornell, Katharine	1935
b. 47	Coward-McCann	1934-1939
b. 47	Cronyn, Hume	1934
b. 47	"D" General	1922-1942
b. 47	Daly, James	1943-1944
b. 47	DeMille, Agnes	1935

b. 47	Dowling, Eddie	1938-1939
b. 47	"E" General	1934-1944
b. 47	Erskine, John	1934
b. 47	Essex, Harry	1942
b. 47	"F" General	1922-1944
b. 47	Fadiman, Clifton	1934
b. 47	Farrar, John	1942-1944
b. 47	Forrestal, James	1944
b. 47	French, Samuel	1926-1949
b. 47	"G" General	1925-1939
b. 47	Gallagher, William Francis	1933-1948
b. 47	Gassner, John	1934
b. 47	Gill, Brendan M.	1935
b. 47	Gish, Lillian	undated
b. 48	Griffith, Edward H.	1934-1935
b. 48	"H" General	1931-1944
b. 48	Helburn, Theresa	1922-1949
b. 48	Hepburn, Katharine	1938, undated
b. 48	Hopkins, Arthur	1925-1943
b. 48	Hopkins, Harry L.	1944
b. 48	Howard, Sidney	1935, undated
b. 48	Huston, Walter	1934
b. 48	"I" General	1934-1935, undated
b. 48	"J" General	1934, undated
b. 48	James, Alice	1932
b. 48	Joyce-Selznick Productions	1935
b. 48	"K" General	1922-1935
b. 48	Kahn, Otto H.	1931-1932
b. 48	Kaufman, George S.	1940
b. 48	Kirstein, Lincoln	1935

b. 48	Knollenberg, Bernhard	1940
b. 48	"L" General	1932-1947, undated
b. 48	Langner, Lawrence	1939-1945
b. 48	Lovett, Robert A.	1934-1947
b. 48	Luce, Henry R.	1935
b. 48	"M" General	1919-1949
b. 48	MacLeish, Archibald	1932-1944
b. 48	Marshall, Armina	1943
b. 48	Maugham, W. Somerset	1948
b. 48	Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer	1935
b. 48	Moore, Douglas	1949, undated
b. 48	"N" General	1922-1944
b. 48	"O" General	1935-1949
b. 48	Odets, Clifford	1935
b. 48	Oenslager, Donald	1933
b. 48	O'Hara, John	undated
b. 48	"P" General	1933-1947, undated
b. 48	Pemberton, Bruce	1921, undated
b. 48	Phelps, William Lyon	1922-1943
b. 48	Priestly, J.B.	1940
b. 48	"Q" General	1933-1944
b. 48	"R" General	1933-1943
b. 48	Reynolds, Quentin	1922, undated
b. 48	Rice, Elmer	1934
b. 48	Rodgers, Richard	1944
b. 48	Ross, Harold Wallace	1942
b. 48	"S" General	1922-1948
b. 49	Shubert, Lee	1942
b. 49	Strudwick, Sheppherd	undated

b. 49	"T" General	1935-1944, undated
b. 49	Thalberg, Irving G.	1934
b. 49	Theatre Guild	1939-1942
b. 49	Untermeyer, Louis	1943
b. 49	"V" General	1934-1935, undated
b. 49	Van Druten, John	1942
b. 49	"W" General	1925-1944, undated
b. 49	Wanger, Walter F.	1934
b. 49	Wilder, Thornton and Isabel Wilder	1942-1945
b. 49	Williams, Wayland Wells	undated
b. 49	"Y" General	undated
b. 49	Yale University organizations	1922-1935, undated
b. 49	Unidentified	1935-1949, undated
b. 49	Outgoing correspondence (original)	1940
b. 49	Outgoing correspondence (carbons and drafts) <i>2 Folders</i>	1923-1947
b. 49	Incoming telegrams <i>4 Folders</i>	1923-1949, undated
b. 49	Outgoing telegrams and drafts <i>3 Folders</i>	1923-1947

Series IV: Other Papers, 1917-1950*1.34 linear feet (4 boxes)*

This series consists of professional and personal papers existing in a variety of formats. The professional papers include statements and agreements with theaters and professional associations, legal literature pertaining to the taxation of authors' income, and notes, drafts, and clippings relating to Barry's plays. Personal papers include college class notes in notebooks and index cards, family correspondence, pamphlets, photographs, deposited checks, and other related material.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 50	Agreement draft, Authors' Corporation, Play Producing Department	circa 1935
b. 50	Bills, price lists, and other papers relating chiefly to personal purchases	1932-1939, undated
b. 50	Production cost statements, Theatre Guild	1939-1941
b. 50	Signed agreement, Dramatists' Guild	1934
b. 50	Royalty schedules, Dramatists' Guild	1944
b. 50	Royalty statements <i>6 Folders</i>	1933-1944
b. 50	Membership dues statement, Authors League of America	1949
b. 50	Academic records and other school-related papers, Philip Barry Jr. and Jonathan Barry	1934-1936, undated
b. 50	Miscellaneous notes and drafts	undated
b. 50	Miscellaneous clippings, photographs, and ephemera	1934, 1944, undated
b. 51	Letters to and drawings by Marian White	1917-1918, undated
b. 51	Correspondence and other papers relating mostly to employment at the U.S. Embassy in London	1918-1920
b. 51	Class notes	1919?
b. 51	Miscellaneous notes, drafts, and clippings	circa 1920-1944
b. 51	Correspondence and other papers relating to plays by Barry	1922-1930
b. 51	Ephemera and photographs relating to social organizations in the arts	1930-1942
b. 51	Notebook inscribed with notes and ideas	1931
b. 51	Miscellaneous correspondence	1932-1950
b. 51	Financial papers	1934-1935
b. 51	Miscellaneous correspondence	circa 1934-1942
b. 51	Speech on playwriting	circa 1936

b. 51	Correspondence relating to plays by Barry	1936-1940
b. 51	Miscellaneous photographs, notes, and sketches	1943, undated
b. 51	Legal papers relating to taxation of authors (Goldsmith Case)	1944
b. 51	<i>L'Empereur de Chine</i> (2 editions), <i>Fernand Léger</i>	1929, 1948
b. 52	Notes for 2 comedies	undated
b. 52	Index cards inscribed with notes relating to playwriting	undated
b. 52	Notebooks and loose leaves inscribed with notes and ideas	undated
b. 52	Loose manuscript and typescript leaves of various scripts	undated
b. 53	Blank folio scrapbook, titled in gilt on the cover, " <i>P. B. Without Love</i> "	circa 1944

Series V: Plays by Others, 1933-1941, undated*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series consists of a collection of nine carbon scripts of plays by authors other than Philip Barry.

Arranged alphabetically by author's name.

b. 54	Bus-Fakete, Laszlo. <i>Reunion</i>	1941
b. 54	Cushing, Tom. <i>The Laughter of the Gods</i>	undated
b. 54	Cushing, Tom. <i>The Old Adam</i>	undated
b. 54	Garrett, Oliver H. P., and Fritz Lang. <i>Hell Afloat</i>	1935
b. 54	Grant, James Edward. <i>A Lady Comes to Burkburnett</i>	1938
b. 54	Karr, Geoffrey. <i>In a Green Garden</i> (parody of <i>In a Garden</i>)	undated
b. 54	Langner, Lawrence. <i>The Pursuit of Happiness</i>	1933
b. 54	Winter, Keith. <i>Ringmaster</i>	1935
b. 54	Wylie, Max, and Milton Geiger. <i>Bed Rock</i>	1941

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

American drama -- 20th Century
American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Dramatists
Dramatists, American -- 20th Century
Playwriting
Theater -- Production and direction -- United States
Theater -- United States

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints
Theater scripts

Occupations

Authors

Names

Barry, Philip, 1896-1949