

# Guide to the Decision Magazine Papers

MS 176



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

March 1984

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 176

**CREATOR:** Decision

**TITLE:** Decision Magazine papers

**DATES:** 1940-1942

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.3 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, drafts of articles and poems, legal documents, press releases, clippings and other papers of the magazine which was published in New York from January 1941 to February 1942 under the editorship of Klaus Mann. Correspondents and writers include W.H. Auden, André Gide, Sir Julian Huxley, Christopher Isherwood, Heinrich Mann, Thomas Mann, William Carlos Williams and Stefan Zweig. Also in the papers is the proof for an unpublished article by Vladimir Nabokov, "Soviet Literature 1940."

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0176>

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To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Klaus Mann in 1942.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Decision Magazine Papers (MS 176). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Correspondence to Klaus Mann available on microfilm (164 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM30.

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## Biographical / Historical

*Decision: A review of free culture* was founded in New York in December 1940 by Klaus Mann (1906-1949), a refugee writer and son of Thomas Mann. Conceived as an anti-fascist organ as well as a literary review, the magazine, from its very first issue in January 1941, was for the most part an American forum for exiled European artists and intellectuals. In addition to Thomas Mann, who contributed articles without a fee, the magazine published Stefan Zweig, Heinrich Mann, Julien Green, Vladimir Nabokov, Marc Chagall, Fernand Léger and anti-Nazi English writers such as W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood and Stephen Spender.

Yet a number of American writers, artists and educators also took an interest in *Decision*. In the issue of September 1941, William Carlos Williams contributed a strong attack on Ezra Pound, who was then making broadcasts for Mussolini. Max Lerner wrote several articles, and for a brief period Muriel Rukeyser was an associate editor. The correspondence contains letters from many others expressing support for the magazine. On the permanent editorial board of directors were Stephen Vincent Benét, Louis Adamic, Horace Gregory, Robert Nathan, Ernest Boyd, Vincent Sheehan and Robert E. Sherwood. At the end of 1941, *Decision* found itself in grave financial difficulties and was forced to cease publication with the issue of January/February 1942.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains both business and literary documentation of the history of the magazine. On the business side are legal and financial papers, photographs of art work printed in the magazine, clippings, press releases and advertising circulars. The literary history is recorded in the correspondence and in an incomplete set of drafts of articles and poems. Among those whose drafts (holograph or typescript) have survived are W.H. Auden, Stefan Zweig, Heinrich Mann and Muriel Rukeyser. Particularly interesting are the drafts by William Carlos Williams for an article on Pound and by Sir Julian Huxley for "The redefinition of freedom." Klaus Mann's editorials are almost all concerned with the dangers of Nazism to America and to western culture. Also in the papers is the proof for an unpublished article by Vladimir Nabokov, "Soviet Literature 1940."

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**Collection Contents****Inventory, 1940-1942***.75 linear feet (2 boxes)*Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Huxley, Aldous This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 October 21
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Isherwood, Christopher This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 November 16
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	MacLeish, Archibald This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 June 10
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Mann, Heinrich This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 December 1
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Paley, William S. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 August 12
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Sherwood, Robert E. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 October 31
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Tully, Jim This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 October 16
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Van Loon, Hendrik Willem This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 December 1
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Wells, H.G. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1940 October 11
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Adamic, Louis This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 April 21
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Aldanov, M. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 January 8
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Childs, S. Lawford This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 April 3

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Connelly, Cyril This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 April 3
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Connelly, Cyril, Matson, Peter and Spender, Stephen This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 April 23
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Fisher, Peter Thomas This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 January 10
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Fletcher, Angus This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 April 22
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Gide, André This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 March 15
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Mann, Klaus This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 March 5
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Thompson, Dorothy This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 January 6
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Ascoli, Max This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 May 23
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Einstein, Albert This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 June 24, July 7
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Farrell, James T. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 May 19
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Field, Marshall This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 June 16
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Frank, Bruno This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 August 29
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	<i>Free World</i> English This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 May 27

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Green, Julien This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 August 19
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	McCullers, Carson This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 July 1
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Mann, Thomas This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 May 16
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Spender, Stephen This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 August 21
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Zweig, Stefan This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 August 15
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Unidentified This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 August 13
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Adamic, Louis This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 October 6
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Breuer, Bessie This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 November 3
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Clough, T. Gardner This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 October 30
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Green, Julien This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 October 12, October 29
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Lerner, Max This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 November 6
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Mann, Thomas This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 September 20
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	O'Brien, Justin This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 September 26

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Prokosch, Frederic This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 September 27
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Singsen, F.M. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 November 10
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Rosenbloom, Charles J. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 November 11
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Zweig, Stefan This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 October 14
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Heller, Gesine This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 9
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Mann, Klaus This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 13
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Pound, Ezra This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 5
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Prokosch, Frederic This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 30
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Quinn, Ker Ker This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 31
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Young, Stanley This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 12
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Zweig, Stefan This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1941 December 8
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Benét, Stephen Vincent This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Breuer, Bessie This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated



## Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Chagall, Marc This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1942 February
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Isherwood, Christopher This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Kaplan, Percy This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1942 March 25
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Kaufmann, Edgar This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	La Touche, John Treville This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Lerner, Max This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1942 February 5
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	McCullers, Carson This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Rukeyser, Muriel and Mann, Klaus This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1942 January
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Stroheim, Erich von This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1942 January 8
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Tully, Jim This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	1942 March 12
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Unidentified This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 30 instead of the originals.	undated
<u>Drafts and lists of contributors' fees</u>		
b. 1, f. 7	1941 January	1941 January
b. 1, f. 7	Auden, W.H.	
b. 1, f. 7	Isherwood, Christopher	
b. 1, f. 7	Mann, Heinrich	
b. 1, f. 7	Mann, Klaus	

## Drafts and lists of contributors' fees (continued)

b. 1, f. 7	Zweig, Stefan	
b. 1, f. 8	1941 February	1941 February
b. 1, f. 8	Auden, W.H.	
b. 1, f. 8	Mann, Golo	
b. 1, f. 8	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 9	1941 March	1941 March
b. 1, f. 9	Auden, W.H.	
b. 1, f. 9	Bishop, John Peale	
b. 1, f. 9	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 9	Muni, Paul	
b. 1, f. 10	1941 April	1941 April
b. 1, f. 10	Auden, W.H.	
b. 1, f. 10	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 11	1941 May	1941 May
b. 1, f. 11	Auden, W.H.	
b. 1, f. 11	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 12	1941 June	1941 June
b. 1, f. 12	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 13	1941 July-August	1941 July-August
b. 1, f. 13	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 14	1941 September	1941 September
b. 1, f. 14	Huxley, Julian	
b. 1, f. 14	Pound, Ezra	
b. 1, f. 14	Williams, William Carlos	
b. 1, f. 15	1941 October	1941 October
b. 1, f. 15	Mann, Heinrich	
b. 1, f. 15	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 16	1941 November-December	1941 November-December
b. 1, f. 16	Mann, Klaus	
b. 1, f. 16	Spender, Stephen	

## Drafts and lists of contributors' fees (continued)

	undated	undated
b. 1, f. 17	Isherwood, Christopher A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 1, f. 18	Mann, Thomas A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	
<u>Business papers</u>		
b. 1, f. 19	Proofs A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1941 April
b. 1, f. 20	Circulars and press releases A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1940-1942
b. 2, f. 21	Photographs	
b. 2, f. 21	Adamic, Louis	
b. 2, f. 21	Benés, Edward	
b. 2, f. 21	Benét, Stephen Vincent	
b. 2, f. 21	Frank, Bruno	
b. 2, f. 21	Gregory, Horace	
b. 2, f. 21	Kingdon, Frank	
b. 2, f. 21	Kirchwey, Freda	
b. 2, f. 21	Maugham, W. Somerset	
b. 2, f. 21	Nathan, Robert	
b. 2, f. 21	Sheehan, Vincent	
b. 2, f. 21	Sherwood, Robert E.	
b. 2, f. 21	van Paassen, Pierre	
b. 2, f. 21	Zweig, Stefan	
b. 2, f. 21	Unidentified	
b. 2, f. 21	Photographs of pictures reproduced in <i>Decision</i>	

## Business papers (continued)

b. 2, f. 22	Clippings A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	undated
b. 2, f. 23	Legal documents A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1940-1942
b. 2, f. 24	Miscellaneous papers A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1941
b. 3	Galleys and formats Includes galleys and proofs for the magazine, including the proof for an unpublished article by Vladimir Nabokov, "Soviet Literature 1940." A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1941

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## 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.

### Preferred Titles

*Decision*

### Subjects

Journalism  
Periodicals  
Political refugees  
Radicalism  
World War, 1939-1945

### Geographic Names

United States -- Intellectual life

McCullers, Carson, 1917-1967  
Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977  
O'Brien, Justin, 1906-1968  
Paley, William S. (William Samuel), 1901-1990  
Prokosch, Frederic, 1908-1989  
Quinn, Kerker  
Rosenbloom, Charles J., 1898-1973  
Sherwood, Robert E. (Robert Emmet), 1896-1955  
Singsen, F. M.  
Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995  
Thompson, Dorothy, 1893-1961  
Tully, Jim, 1886-1947  
Van Loon, Hendrik Willem, 1882-1944  
Von Stroheim, Erich, 1885-1957  
Wells, H. G. (Herbert George), 1866-1946  
Young, Stanley, 1906-1975  
Zweig, Stefan, 1881-1942

### Names

Adamic, Louis, 1899-1951  
Ascoli, Max, 1898-1978  
Benét, Stephen Vincent, 1898-1943  
Breuer, Bessie, 1893-1975  
Chagall, Marc, 1887-1985  
Childs, Stephen Lawford, 1896-1943  
Clough, T. Gardner  
Connolly, Cyril, 1903-1974  
Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955  
Farrell, James T. (James Thomas), 1904-1979  
Field, Marshall, 1893-1956  
Fisher, Peter Thomas  
Fletcher, Angus, 1883-  
Frank, Bruno, 1887-1945  
Gide, André, 1869-1951  
Green, Julien, 1900-1998  
Hartman, A. (Alan)  
Heller, Gesine  
Huxley, Aldous, 1894-1963  
Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986  
Kaplan, Percy  
Kaufmann, Edgar, 1910-1989  
Landau, M. A. (Mikhail Aleksandrovich)  
La Touche, John Treville, 1917-  
Lerner, Max, 1902-1992  
MacLeish, Archibald, 1892-1982  
Mann, Heinrich, 1871-1950  
Mann, Klaus, 1906-1949  
Mann, Thomas, 1875-1955