

# Guide to the John Calmann Papers

MS 1857



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

April 2006

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1857

**CREATOR:** Calmann, John, 1935-1980

**TITLE:** John Calmann papers

**DATES:** 1943-1987

**BULK DATES:** 1965-1974

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.5 linear feet (14 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of writings, correspondence, and diaries documenting John Calmann's career and life as a gay man in Britain at a time of changing attitudes towards homosexuality.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1857>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1857>.

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

Gift of Sir John Riddell, 2006. Gift of Christopher Phillips, 2010.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The original accession, Series I and II, is open for research.

Accession 2011-M-016 contains material restricted by the donor. Access to this accession requires the written permission of Christopher Phillips until August 29, 2029, after which access is unrestricted.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

John Calmann Papers (MS 1857). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Calmann (né Hans Rudolf Calmann), was born in Hamburg, Germany, on December 6, 1935. The son of a Jewish father, he emigrated with his family to England in March 1937, first to Horspath and later to London. Calmann was educated at the village school at Horspath, the Dragon School in Oxford, Arnold House School in London, Westminster School, and at Christ Church, University of Oxford. He took his degree in history in 1957 and then studied for a B.Litt. degree at St. Anthony's College, but did not receive it. From 1959 to 1960 John Calmann lived in New York under Benjamin Sonnenberg's (his mentor) aegis and worked as a journalist for *The Wall Street Journal*. During this time he wrote many of the letters published in the book *The Letters of John Calmann, 1951-1980*. He then returned to his parents' home, Perridge House in Pilton, where he completed a novel in 1961. From 1962 to 1963 he worked in Luxembourg as an international civil servant. Back in England, he edited *The Times* supplement *Opera Mundi* — Europe from 1963 to 1965. From 1965 to 1966 he worked for the Institute for Strategic Studies and wrote *A Handbook of Western Europe*. In 1967 he joined the publishing house of Paul Elek, and he became a candidate for the Liberal Party for the Hampstead section of London. In 1969 he joined the Phaidon Press. In 1975 he established his own co-edition publishing firm, Blacker, Calmann & Cooper (later John Calmann & Cooper, John Calmann & King and Calmann & King). On April 26, 1980, Calmann was murdered by a hitchhiker near Bollène, France.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of writings, correspondence, and diaries documenting John Calmann's career and life as a gay man in Britain at a time of changing attitudes towards homosexuality.

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## Arrangement

The material is arranged in two series and one addition: Series 1. Writings, 1945-1973; Series II. Personal and Correspondence, 1943-1987.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, 1945-1973

The series is arranged alphabetically and includes articles, book reviews, editorials, essays, plays, novels, and poetry. It is likely that some of the writings are unpublished.

The materials are open for research.

|                  |  |                  |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1       | Accident   | 1953             |
| b. 1, f. 2       | The Age of Warren Hastings   | 1957             |
| b. 1, f. 3       | Art Market   | 1962             |
| b. 1, f. 4 - 5   | An Artist in Human Affairs [play]  | 1955             |
| b. 1, f. 6       | At the Red Lion  | 1956             |
| b. 1, f. 7       | Attitudes  | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 8       | Baron de Montesquieu and Proust [article; proofs and several drafts]         | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 9       | Bits and Pieces, '63-'66   | 1963-1966        |
| b. 1, f. 10      | Book Reviews [books reviewed dated 1965-1968]                                | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 11      | Business Buys American Art   | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 12      | Caravaggio and Italian Painting in the 17th Century                          | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 13      | C'est Mon Plaisir  | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 14      | The Coast  | undated          |
| b. 1, f. 15      | The Common Market [draft synopses and related materials]                     | 1963, 1964, 1971 |
| b. 1, f. 16      | A Concrete Dream   | undated          |
|                  | The Conference [novel]   |                  |
| b. 1, f. 17 - 18 | Copy 1 (revised version)   | 1967             |
| b. 1, f. 19 - 21 | Copy 2   | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 22 - 24 | Copy 3   | 1966(?)          |
| b. 2, f. 25      | Cooperation in Arms Procurement in Western Europe (Internal I.S.S. Document) | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 26      | The Crowded Village  | undated          |
|                  | Damals [play]  |                  |
| b. 2, f. 27      | Copy 1   | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 28      | Copy 2   | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 29      | Death of Philippe Julian   | undated          |

|                  |   |                  |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| b. 2, f. 30      | Editorial   | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 31      | The Eggshell  | 1958 February    |
| b. 2, f. 32      | The Egoists [volume 2, notebook]  | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 33      | Essays for <i>Opera Mundi</i> [12; also plans for a guide to London]  | 1960-1966        |
| b. 2, f. 34 - 35 | An Eye for the Truth [play]   | undated          |
| b. 2, f. 36      | The First Illustrated History Books [outline]   | undated          |
|                  | The Free Country [play]   |                  |
| b. 2, f. 37      | Copy 1  | 1959             |
| b. 2, f. 38      | Copy 2  | 1966             |
| b. 2, f. 39      | Copy 3  | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 40      | The Funeral [unfinished novel]  | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 41      | Grain Prices [BBC broadcast]  | 1964 December 15 |
| b. 3, f. 42      | Great Palaces   | 1964 November 9  |
| b. 3, f. 43      | The Growth of the Idea of European Unity [synopsis and outline]   | 1965             |
| b. 3, f. 44      | An Inheritance [unfinished]   | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 45      | Juvenilia   | 1949, undated    |
| b. 3, f. 46      | The Langdons [unfinished novel]   | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 47      | Liberal Party [three articles]  | 1968             |
| b. 3, f. 48      | Making Democracy Work   | 1970             |
| b. 3, f. 49      | The Meeting   | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 50 - 51 | Nineteen Years [play]   | Circa 1969       |
| b. 3, f. 52 - 53 | Notes on India  | 1969 December    |
| b. 3, f. 54      | Notes on Pictures, or, A Very Bad Fragment  | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 55      | One Hundred European Drawings in the Metropolitan Museum [article published in <i>Times Literary Supplement</i> ] | 1964 Sep 11      |
| b. 3, f. 56      | The Photographer  | 1973 August 27   |
| b. 3, f. 57      | Poems and Truth from my Life [notebook]   | 1953             |
| b. 3, f. 58      | The President's Wife  | undated          |
| b. 3, f. 59      | The Price He Had to Pay [play]  | undated          |
|                  | Prince Frederick [play]   |                  |

## Prince Frederick [play] (continued)

|                        |   |            |
|------------------------|---|------------|
| b. 3, f. 60 - 62       | Copy 1  | Circa 1958 |
| b. 3, f. 63 - 66       | Copy 2  | undated    |
| b. 4, f. 67 - 72       | Copy 3  | undated    |
| b. 4, f. 73 - 76       | Copy 4  | undated    |
| b. 4, f. 77 - 78       | Copy 5 ["the original"]                         | undated    |
| b. 5, f. 79 - 82       | Copy 6 [Mutti's copies]                         | undated    |
| b. 5, f. 83 - 84       | Copy 7  | undated    |
| b. 5, f. 85 - 89       | Copy 8 [edits]                                  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 90            | Problem Children                                | undated    |
| The Protagonist [play] |   |            |
| b. 6, f. 91            | Notes   | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 92 - 93       | Copy 1  | 1958       |
| b. 6, f. 94            | Copy 2  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 95            | Copy 3  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 96            | Copy 4  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 97            | Copy 5  | undated    |
| Ruins [play]           |   |            |
| b. 6, f. 98            | Copy 1  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 99            | Copy 2  | undated    |
| Sixteen Years [play]   |   |            |
| b. 6, f. 100           | Notes   | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 101           | Copy 1  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 102 - 103     | Copy 2  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 104 - 105     | Copy 3  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 106           | Some New York Interiors                         | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 107           | Things Seen: Opera Tableaux and the Old Masters | undated    |
| b. 7                   | This Strange Disease [novel]                    |            |
| b. 6, f. 108 - 114     | Copy 1  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 115 - 118     | Copy 2  | undated    |
| b. 6, f. 119           | Three Duets                                     | undated    |

|                    |  |           |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| b. 6, f. 120       | Unity of Europe [synopsis]   | undated   |
| b. 6, f. 121       | Verbatim Report of Interview between Mr. Heath...and M. Charles Ronsac | 4/28/1964 |
|                    | Waters of Babylon [novel]  |           |
| b. 8, f. 122 - 123 | Copy 1   | undated   |
| b. 8, f. 124 - 128 | Copy 2   | undated   |
| b. 8, f. 129       | Copy 3 [incomplete]  | undated   |
| b. 8, f. 130       | Wren House Westminster School notebook                                 | undated   |
| b. 9, f. 131 - 132 | Miscellaneous [notes, poems, fragments of writings]                    | 1945-     |
| b. 9, f. 133 - 135 | Untitled   | undated   |



**Series II: Personal and Correspondence, 1943-1987**

The materials are open for research.

|                   |  |                       |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 10, f. 1 - 3   | Personal [includes drawings]                                 | 1943-1985,<br>undated |
| Correspondence    |  |                       |
| b. 10, f. 4 - 5   | <i>The Letters of John Calmann, 1951-1980</i> , proofs       | 1949-1980             |
| b. 10, f. 6 - 10  | Transcript manuscript for <i>The Letters of John Calmann</i> | 1951-1980             |
| b. 11, f. 11      | Letters to his parents                                       | 1943-1977             |
| Outgoing          |  |                       |
| b. 11, f. 12 - 13 | 1956-1959  |                       |
| b. 11, f. 14 - 18 | 1960<br>English  |                       |
| b. 11, f. 19 - 24 | 1961-1965  |                       |
| b. 11, f. 25 - 29 | 1966-1970  |                       |
| b. 12, f. 30 - 31 | 1971-1974  |                       |
| b. 12, f. 32      | 1975-1980  |                       |
| b. 12, f. 33      | n.d.   |                       |
| b. 12, f. 34      | Incoming from others   | 1958-1987,<br>undated |

**Accession 2011-M-016: Additional Material, 1954-1980**

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|            |  |                                   |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Diary      |  |                                   |
| b. 1, f. 1 | Notebook #1  | 1955 October<br>31-1957 April 11  |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Notebook #2  | 1957 April<br>11-1958 March<br>23 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Notebook #4<br>There is no extant notebook #3 for the period covering March 24, 1958-<br>October 11, 1959. | 1959 October<br>12-1963 May 16    |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Notebook #5  | 1963 June 2-1965<br>April 4       |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Notebook #6  | 1965 April<br>11-1973 May 17      |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Notebook #7  | 1973 May<br>27-1978 April 9       |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Notebook #8  | 1978 April<br>30-1980 April 13    |
| Novels     |  |                                   |
| b. 2, f. 1 | Fragment   | 1954                              |
| b. 2, f. 2 | <i>The Egotists</i> , volume 1   | Undated                           |

## **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**

Gay men -- Great Britain  
Journalists -- Great Britain  
LGBTQ resource  
Publishers and publishing -- Great Britain

### **Names**

Calmann, John, 1935-1980