

# Guide to the James T. Babb Correspondence

GEN MSS 1011



by Karen Spicher

2013 December

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1011

**CREATOR:** Babb, James T. (James Tinkham), 1899-1968

**TITLE:** James T. Babb Correspondence

**DATES:** 1962-1968

**BULK DATES:** 1965-1968

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.18 linear feet (12 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Incoming correspondence and outgoing typescript carbons, most 1965-1968, with some related writings and speeches by Babb, typescript carbon. Some correspondence concerns Yale University Library, Library acquisitions, donors Paul Mellon and the Beinecke family, and the founding of the Yale Center for British Art. Other correspondence relates to Babb's collecting of William Beckford and William McFee, or to his work in assembling a library for the White House, 1962-1967, including correspondence with Jacqueline Kennedy, Arthur M. Schlesinger, and other White House staff of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. A few outgoing carbons, dictated during a trip to London, England, in 1964, are accompanied by dictation machine audio disks.

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

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## 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.babb>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

Bequest of James T. Babb (Yale 1924), 1968. Gift of James T. Babb (Yale 1924), 1967, as indicated in folder notes.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. Previously restricted unless by permission of Beinecke Director or Yale University Librarian; restriction lifted during baseline processing, 2013.

Box 12 (dictation machine audio disks): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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### Preferred Citation

James T. Babb Correspondence. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

This collection consists of materials formerly classed as Uncat MS Vault Babb and Uncat Ms Vault File. In 2013, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. The collection was reclassified under one call number, and containers were renumbered in a single sequence. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donor, while some were assigned by Library staff. Some names were updated to conform to Library of Congress name authorities. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

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## James T. Babb (1899-1968)

James T. Babb (Yale 1924), book and manuscript collector; Yale University Librarian, 1943-1965.

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## Scope and Contents

Incoming correspondence and outgoing typescript carbons, most 1965-1968, with some related writings and speeches by Babb, typescript carbon. Some correspondence concerns Yale University Library, Library acquisitions, donors Paul Mellon and the Beinecke family, and the founding of the Yale Center for British Art. Other correspondence relates to Babb's collecting of William Beckford and William McFee, or to his work in assembling a library for the White House, 1962-1967, including correspondence with Jacqueline Kennedy, Arthur M. Schlesinger, and other White House staff of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. A few outgoing carbons, dictated during a trip to London, England, in 1964, are accompanied by dictation machine audio disks.

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## Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. White House Library, 1962-1967. II. Paul Mellon, 1967-1968. III. Chronological File, 1965-1968. IV. Alphabetical File, 1965-1968. V. Other Correspondence, 1964-1968.

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## Collection Contents

### White House Library, 1962-1967

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

b. 1, f. 1	Library of Congress	1965
b. 1, f. 2	Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy	1962-1964
b. 1, f. 3	Schlesinger, Arthur M. (Arthur Meier)	1962-1964
b. 1, f. 4	Form letter for books wanted	undated
b. 1, f. 5	List of requests and correspondence	1966 August 22
b. 1, f. 6	<i>The White House library: a short-title list.</i> Preface	1966
b. 1, f. 7-12	Other correspondence 6 Folders	1966-1968

**Paul Mellon, 1967-1968**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

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b. 2, f. 13-15	Correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1967-1968
b. 2, f. 16	"The Paul Mellon Gallery of British Art and Center for British Studies." Report	1967 December 11

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**Chronological File, 1965-1968***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 3, f. 17-19	Outgoing carbons <i>3 Folders</i>	1965
b. 3, f. 20	Outgoing carbons	1966 August 22
b. 3, f. 21-24	Outgoing carbons <i>4 Folders</i>	1966
b. 3, f. 25-28	Outgoing carbons <i>4 Folders</i>	1967
b. 3, f. 29-30	Outgoing carbons <i>2 Folders</i>	1968

**Alphabetical File, circa 1965-1968***2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)*

b. 4, f. 31	A-AI	
b. 4, f. 32	Am-Az	
b. 4, f. 33	Anglers' Club of New York	
b. 4, f. 34	B-Bd	
b. 4, f. 35	Be-Bh	
b. 4, f. 36	Bi-Bk	
b. 4, f. 37	Bl-Bq	
b. 4, f. 38	Br-Bz	
b. 4, f. 39	Babb, James T. Fund	
b. 4, f. 40	Babb, James T. List	1968 January 26
b. 4, f. 41	Babb, James T. Spedan Lewis	
b. 4, f. 42	Babb, James T. Speech	1966 April 13
b. 4, f. 43	Beckford collection	
b. 4, f. 44-44a	Beinecke, Edwin J. (Edwin John) <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 4, f. 45	Beinecke, Frederick W.	
b. 4, f. 46	Beinecke, William Sperry	
b. 4, f. 47	Blair, Edwin F.	
b. 4, f. 48	Books and manuscripts, recent offers	
b. 5, f. 49	C-Cg	
b. 5, f. 50	Cha	
b. 5, f. 51	Chi-Cle	
b. 5, f. 52	Cle-Clez	
b. 5, f. 53	Co-Con	
b. 5, f. 54	Coo-Coq	
b. 5, f. 55	Cr-Cz	
b. 5, f. 56	D	
b. 5, f. 57	E-Ek	
b. 5, f. 58	El-Ez	



b. 5, f. 59	Eberstadt, Lindley	
b. 5, f. 60-60a	Elizabethan Club (Yale University) <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 6, f. 61	F-Fk	
b. 6, f. 62	Fl-Fz	
b. 6, f. 63	First National Bank and Trust Company of New Haven	
b. 6, f. 64	Fishing	
b. 6, f. 65	Forest History Society	
b. 6, f. 66	G-Gj	
b. 6, f. 67	Gk-Gz	
b. 6, f. 68	Grolier Club	
b. 6, f. 69	H-Hn	
b. 6, f. 70	Ho-Hz	
b. 6, f. 71	I	
b. 6, f. 72	J-Jl	
b. 6, f. 73	Jm-Jz	
b. 6, f. 74	Josephy, Alvin M. Gift of James T. Babb (Yale 1924), 1967.	1965 November 26
b. 6, f. 75	Judaica Fund	
b. 6, f. 76	K-Kd	
b. 6, f. 77	Ke-Keq	
b. 6, f. 78	Ker-Kz	
b. 7, f. 79	L-Ld	
b. 7, f. 80	Le-Lz	
b. 7, f. 81	Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon)	
b. 7, f. 82	Lindsay, John V. (John Vliet) Gift of James T. Babb (Yale 1924), 1967.	
b. 7, f. 83	M-Me	
b. 7, f. 84	Mf-Mz	
b. 7, f. 85	Mc	
b. 7, f. 86	Maggs Bros.	

b. 7, f. 87	Motels
b. 7, f. 88	N-New
b. 7, f. 89	Ni-Nz
b. 7, f. 90	New York. State University at Purchase
b. 7, f. 91	O
b. 7, f. 92	P-Pe
b. 7, f. 93	Pf-Pz
b. 7, f. 94	Pforzheimer Library
b. 8, f. 95	Q
b. 8, f. 96	R-Rn
b. 8, f. 97	Ro-Rof
b. 8, f. 98	Rog-Rz
b. 8, f. 99	Radcliffe College
b. 8, f. 100	S-Sh
b. 8, f. 101	Si-Ss
b. 8, f. 102	St
b. 8, f. 103	Su-Sz
b. 8, f. 104	Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
b. 8, f. 105	Scranton, Charles W., and Company
b. 8, f. 106	Seven Gables Bookshop
b. 8, f. 107	Speech. James T. Babb
b. 8, f. 108	T-Te
b. 8, f. 109	Tf-Tz
b. 8, f. 110	Tulsa City-County Library Commission
b. 9, f. 111	U
b. 9, f. 112-112c	United States Information Agency <i>4 Folders</i>
b. 9, f. 113	V
b. 9, f. 114	Van Devanter, Willis
b. 10, f. 115	W-Wh
b. 10, f. 116	Wi-Wz

b. 10, f. 117      White, Milton  
                         Gift of James T. Babb (Yale 1924), 1967.

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b. 10, f. 118      X-Y

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b. 10, f. 119-119d   Yale University  
                         *5 Folders*

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b. 10, f. 120      Yale University. Art Gallery

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b. 10, f. 121      Yale University Press

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b. 10, f. 122      Z

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**Other Correspondence, 1964-1968, undated***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 11, f. 123	"Acknowledged letters"	1965 February
b. 11, f. 124	Cambridge University Library	1964
b. 11, f. 125-125a	Letters dictated during trip to London, England <i>2 Folders</i>	1964 October- December
b. 12	Letters dictated during trip to England. Dictation machine audio disks	1964
b. 11, f. 126	"Mr. Babb's speech"	1968 January 22
b. 11, f. 127	"To be done"	undated
b. 11, f. 128	Unsorted	1968, 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

Academic libraries -- Administration  
Book collecting -- United States  
Book collectors -- United States  
Librarians -- United States -- Archives  
Manuscripts -- Collectors and collecting --  
United States  
Rare book libraries -- United States

### Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials -- United States -- 20th  
Century  
Sound recordings -- United States -- 20th  
Century

### Occupations

Book collectors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Librarians -- United States -- 20th Century

### Names

Babb, James T. (James Tinkham), 1899-1968  
Beckford, William, 1760-1844  
Beinecke, Edwin J. (Edwin John), 1886-1970  
Beinecke, Frederick W.  
Beinecke, William Sperry  
McFee, William, 1881-1966  
Mellon, Paul  
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994  
Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. (Arthur Meier),  
1917-2007

### Corporate Bodies

Library of Congress  
United States. President (1961-1963 : Kennedy)  
United States. President (1963-1969 : Johnson)  
Yale Center for British Art  
Yale University. Library