

Frank Seeley collection



**National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/mbrsrs.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019615400>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/eadmbrs.rs019001>

Author: David Jackson, with contributions by Thomas H. Pease

Finding aid encoded by David Jackson, 2019
Revised 2023-03

Collection Summary

Title: Frank Seeley collection

Inclusive Dates: 1973

Creator: Seeley, Frank, 1917-2001

Textual materials: .15 linear feet (10 items)

Sound recordings: 6 sound cassettes

Language: Collection materials are in English

Location: Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019615400>

Summary: The Frank Seeley collection consists of interviews, transcripts, and other documents that were created in conjunction with Frank Seeley's Master of Arts in Telecommunications thesis for California State University, San Diego.

Location of textual materials: RPA 02972 (box 1)

Location of sound recordings: RYQ 2975-2980

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Henning, Paul, 1911-2005--Interviews.

Jacobs, Seaman--Interviews.

Josefsberg, Milt, 1911-1987--Interviews.

Kanter, Hal--Interviews.

Lear, Norman--Interviews.

Marshall, Garry--Interviews.

Schwartz, Sherwood--Correspondence.

Schwartz, Sherwood--Interviews.

Seeley, Frank, 1917-2001, interviewer, collector.

Seeley, Frank, 1917-2001--Archives.

Seeley, Frank, 1917-2001--Correspondence.

Seeley, Frank, 1917-2001.

Subjects

Television comedy writers--United States.

Form/Genre

Correspondence.

Interviews.

Tables (documents)

Transcripts.

Collection Acquisition

The collection was acquired by the Library of Congress in 2013.

Additions

No further additions to the collection are expected.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Thom Pease and David Jackson in 2018.

Use Restrictions

Restrictions may exist on copying, quoting, or publishing materials included in the collection. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Access Restrictions

The Frank Seeley Collection is open for research. Advance notice is required; contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Digital Content

A digital version of the sound recordings is available for listening in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number, eg., Box 3], or [Audio tape number, eg., RYB 2480], Frank Seeley Collection, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Biographical information on Frank Seeley is available in the finding aid for the Frank Seeley Papers at Harry S. Truman presidential Library and Museum [Frank Seeley Papers](#).

Scope and Content Note

The Frank Seeley collection consists of interviews, transcripts, and other documents that were created in conjunction with Frank Seeley's Master of Arts in Telecommunications thesis for California State University, San Diego. The proposed title for the thesis, as recorded in collection documentation, was *Television Comedy: Its Creation, Its Creators*.

The papers consist of correspondence describing the purpose and scope of the project, interviews with 7 television comedy writers, and a table recording data points derived from the interviews.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 3 series:

- [Series 1: Thesis documentation, 1973, and undated](#)
- [Series 2: Interview transcripts, 1973](#)
- [Series 3: Sound recordings, 1973](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series 1. Thesis documentation, 1973, and undated

Documentation that records the purpose, scope, and results of Frank Seeley's thesis project, including correspondence describing the purpose and scope of the project, a list of interviewees, and a table recording data points derived from the interviews

Series 2. Interview transcripts, 1973

Transcripts of interviews conducted by Frank Seeley between February 15, 1973 and March 26, 1973 with television comedy writers Paul Henning, Seaman Jacobs, Milt Josefsberg, Hal Kanter, Norman Lear, Garry Marshall, and Sherwood Schwartz.

The transcripts are arranged chronologically by date.

Series 3. Sound recordings, 1973

Sound recordings of interviews conducted by Frank Seeley between February 23, 1973 and March 26, 1973 with television comedy writers Paul Henning, Seaman Jacobs, Milt Josefsberg, Hal Kanter, Norman Lear, and Garry Marshall.

The recordings are arranged chronologically by date.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Series 1. Thesis documentation, 1973, and undated
	.05 linear feet RPA 02792 (box 1) Documentation that records the purpose, scope, and results of Frank Seeley's thesis project, including correspondence describing the purpose and scope of the project, a list of interviewees, and a table recording data points derived from the interviews
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Correspondence with Sherwood Schwartz from Frank Seeley, 1973-01-20 This letter describes the purpose and scope of Seeley's thesis.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	List of interviewees and the television programs represented by the writers
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Table of information taken from the interviews Data points recorded in the table include interviewees' age, birthplace, religion, nationality, education, favorite [school] subjects, extracurricular activities, hobbies, military service, prerequisites, comedy writing experience, psychology of humor, definition of comedy or humor, dissection of humor, audience prerequisite, suggestions for would-be comedy writers, formula, and other thoughts and philosophies regarding comedy writing.
	Series 2. Interview transcripts, 1973
	.10 linear feet RPA 02792 (box 1) Transcripts of interviews conducted by Frank Seeley between February 15, 1973 and March 26, 1973 with television comedy writers Paul Henning, Seaman Jacobs, Milt Josefsberg, Hal Kanter, Norman Lear, Garry Marshall, and Sherwood Schwartz. The transcripts are arranged chronologically by date.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Interview with Sherwood Schwartz at Paramount Pictures, 1973-02-15
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Interview with Hal Kanter in Encino, California, 1973-02-23 Sound recording available
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Interview with Milt Josefsberg in Encino, California, 1973-02-23 Sound recordings available
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Interview with Paul Henning at General Services Studios, Hollywood, California, 1973-03-16 Sound recording available
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Interview with Garry Marshall at Burbank, opposite Warner Brothers Studios, 1973-03-22 Sound recording available
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Interview with Seaman Jacobs in Beverly Hills, 1973-03-24 Sound recording available
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Interview with Norman Lear at Century City, 1973-03-26 Sound recording available
	Series 3. Sound recordings, 1973
	6 sound cassettes RYQ 2975-2980 Sound recordings of interviews conducted by Frank Seeley between February 23, 1973 and March 26, 1973 with television comedy writers Paul Henning, Seaman Jacobs, Milt Josefsberg, Hal Kanter, Norman Lear, and Garry Marshall. The recordings are arranged chronologically by date.
CASS RYQ 2979	Interview with Hal Kanter, 1973-02-23 ; Interview with Milt Josefsberg, part 1, 1973-02-23 Transcripts available 1 sound cassette

Series 3. Sound recordings, 1973

Container	Contents
CASS RYQ 2980	<p>Local ID number: 2515838</p> <p>Interview with Milt Josefberg, part 2, 1973-02-23 Transcript available</p> <p>1 sound cassette</p>
CASS RYQ 2977	<p>Local ID number: 2515842</p> <p>Transcript available in box RPA 02792.</p> <p>Interview with Paul Henning, 1973-03-16 Transcript available</p> <p>1 sound cassette</p>
CASS RYQ 2978	<p>Local ID number: 2515836</p> <p>Transcript available in box RPA 02792.</p> <p>Interview with Garry Marshall, 1973-03-22 Transcript available</p> <p>1 sound cassette</p>
CASS RYQ 2976	<p>Local ID number: 2515837</p> <p>Transcript available in box RPA 02792.</p> <p>Interview with Seaman Jacobs, 1973-03-24 Transcript available</p> <p>1 sound cassette</p>
CASS RYQ 2975	<p>Local ID number: 2515826</p> <p>Interview with Norman Lear, part 1, 1973-03-26 Transcript available</p> <p>1 sound cassette</p>
	<p>Local ID number: 2515822</p>