

Donald Friede Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1991

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81047092>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007054>

Prepared by Brad E. Gernand

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Donald Friede Papers

Span Dates: 1919-1980

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1925-1965)

ID No.: MSS47092

Creator: Friede, Donald

Extent: 1,200 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 3 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81047092>

Summary: Literary agent, publisher, and writer. Correspondence, drafts of writings, reports, diaries, photographs, and biographical material pertaining to Friede's career in publishing.

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

Bemelmans, Ludwig, 1898-1962.

Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945.

Friede, Donald.

Friede, Eleanor. Eleanor Friede papers.

Gump, Richard, 1906-

Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961.

Kantor, MacKinlay, 1904-1977.

Lolli, Giorgio, 1905-1979.

Subjects

Authors and publishers.

Publishers and publishing--United States.

Occupations

Literary agents.

Publishers.

Provenance

The papers of Donald Friede, publisher and literary agent, were the gift of Friede's widow, Eleanor Kask Friede, in 1980.

Processing History

The papers of Donald Friede were arranged and described in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

Related Material

Significant material related to Donald Friede is included in the [papers of MacKinlay Kantor](#) available in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Donald Friede is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Donald Friede are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Donald Friede Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1901, May 12	Born, New York, N.Y.
1901-circa 1915	Lived in Europe and Japan
1915	Returned to New York from Russia
circa 1918	Expelled from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1919	Expelled from Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1920	Expelled from Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. Inherited fortune upon death of father
1920-1923	Held positions in the banking, tobacco, retail, locomotive works, and message-exchange industries
1922	Married Grace Abrams (divorced 1923)
1923	Stock clerk, Alfred A. Knopf publishing firm; left Knopf to join Boni and Liveright publishing firm as an assistant
1925	Invested in Boni and Liveright; became first vice-president Married Evelyn Johnson (divorced 1929)
1927	Arrested in Boston, Mass., on charges of selling an obscene book to undercover police agents
1928	Withdrew investment in Boni and Liveright and left the firm Formed the publishing firm of Covici, Friede, Inc., in partnership with Pascal Covici
1930	Married Anna Fleischer (divorced 1936)
1936-1937	Story editor, Zeppo Marx Agency
circa 1937	Covici, Friede, Inc., declared bankrupt in New York
circa 1938	Married Carol Zerbe (divorced 1943)
1940	Authored newspaper column about books for <i>The Hollywood Reporter</i>
1940-1942	Story editor, Myron Selznick and Co.
1942-1943	Served in United States Army in air corps and as intelligence officer
1943-1947	Story editor, A & S Lyons
1945	Married Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher (divorced 1951)

1947	Coauthored with H. Bedford-Jones (pseud. Donald F. Bedford) <i>John Barry</i> , New York: Creative Age Press
1947-1948	Story editor, Ralph Blum Corp.
1948	Published memoir, <i>The Mechanical Angel: His Adventures and Enterprises in the Glittering 1920's</i> , New York: A. A. Knopf
1950-1951	Literary agent for AFG Literary Agency; hosted television show about books
1951	Married Eleanor Kask
1952-1953	Coordinated "Centennial Editions" project for the Literary Guild Editor, World Publishing Co.
1963	Senior editor, Prentice-Hall
1964	Senior editor, Doubleday and Co.
1965, May 30	Died, Bridgehampton, Long Island, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Donald Sergey Friede (1901-1965) span the years 1919-1980, with the bulk from 1925 to 1965. Friede was an insider in the world of publishing for several decades and published, represented, or associated with influential and prize-winning authors. His father was a Russian immigrant who served as Ford Motor Company's representative to Czarist Russia. Because his father's business dealings required his family to move frequently, Friede lived in several of the world's principal cities and toured the globe twice before he was a teenager. As a result of his heritage and places of residence, he was fluent in four languages and was well connected financially.

Friede married six times and divorced five. He was expelled from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton universities and held nine different jobs in the first three years after leaving Princeton in 1920. He cofounded a publishing firm that went bankrupt, and he left numerous places of employment under difficult circumstances. Despite turmoil in his professional and personal associations, Friede published or represented several well-known authors, among them Theodore Dreiser, Ernest Hemingway, MacKinlay Kantor, Richard Gump, Ludwig Bemelmans, and Giorgio Lolli.

Friede's career is well documented by these papers. The [Subject File](#) contains correspondence and related attachments and reports concerning his associations with various authors and publishing firms. It is a professional file and contains little of a personal nature. The [Writings File](#) contains newspaper columns, short stories, and book-length works by Friede, both published and unpublished, with limited correspondence. The [Miscellany File](#) contains correspondence, daily activities diaries, passports, last wills and testaments, photographs, and other documentation regarding Friede's vital statistics, father, library, and death. This file also contains an appraisal of the Friede Papers. Notes by Friede's widow explaining numerous items have been placed with the materials that they describe.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Subject File, 1925-1965](#)
- [Writings File, undated](#)
- [Miscellany File, 1919-1980](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-3

Subject File, 1925-1965

Correspondence between Donald and Eleanor Friede and business associates and clients, financial reports, newspaper clipping, and other material regarding literary business conducted by Friede on a free-lance basis or when associated with publishing firms. Arranged alphabetically by name of principal person or firm to which the subject relates. Correspondence dated 1942 between Ernest Hemingway and Friede regarding motion picture adaptation of *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is available on microfilm.

BOX 3-4

Writings, undated

Published and unpublished newspaper columns, short stories, and book-length works by Friede. Arranged by type of material and thereunder alphabetically by keyword of title.

BOX 4-7

Miscellany File, 1919-1980

Address and telephone listings, daily activity diaries, photographs, and other documentation regarding Friede's life, death, father, and personal library. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	Subject File, 1925-1965 Correspondence between Donald and Eleanor Friede and business associates and clients, financial reports, newspaper clipping, and other material regarding literary business conducted by Friede on a free-lance basis or when associated with publishing firms. Arranged alphabetically by name of principal person or firm to which the subject relates. Correspondence dated 1942 between Ernest Hemingway and Friede regarding motion picture adaptation of <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> is available on microfilm.
BOX 1	A & S Lyons, 1944-1945
BOX 1	Advertisement for free-lance work, 1953, undated
BOX 1	AFG Literary Agency, 1949-1951
BOX 1	"Ballet Mechanique," 1927, undated
BOX 1	Bemelmans, Ludwig, 1959-1966, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1	Boni & Liveright, 1925-1930
BOX 1	Brown, Ned, 1948-1949
BOX 1	"Centennial Editions," 1952-1954
BOX 1	Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1933-1964
BOX 2	Covici, Friede, Inc., 1929-1938
BOX 2	Doubleday and Co., 1964
BOX 2	Dreiser, Theodore, 1962-1965
BOX 2	Gump, Richard, 1950-1965
BOX 2	Harlow, Jean, 1960-1961
BOX 2	Hemingway, Ernest, 1942-1944, 1965 Correspondence dated 1942 between Hemingway and Friede (typed copies) regarding production of the movie <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> (1942), based on a novel by Hemingway of the same title is available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18142.1
BOX 2	Kantor, MacKinlay, 1944-1965
BOX 2	"Let's Look at Books" (television program), 1950-1951
BOX 2	Lolli, Giorgio, 1958-1964
BOX 2	Maugham, W. Somerset, 1943
BOX 2	Maximilian Becker AFG Literary Agency See AFG Literary Agency
BOX 2	"A Plan for Publishers," 1948-1949
BOX 2	Prentice-Hall, 1963-1964, undated
BOX 2	Ralph Blum Corp., 1947-1949
BOX 3	Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1959
BOX 3	Volkening, Henry, 1946-1950
BOX 3	World Publishing Co., 1953-1964
BOX 3-4	Writings, undated Published and unpublished newspaper columns, short stories, and book-length works by Friede. Arranged by type of material and thereunder alphabetically by keyword of title.

Writings, undated

Container

Contents

BOX 3	Book-length works
BOX 3	<i>John Barry</i>
BOX 3	<i>Life in the Twenties</i>
BOX 3	<i>Mechanical Angel</i>
BOX 3	<i>Yesterday's Rebels</i>
BOX 4	Newspaper column, "Of Books and Writers"
BOX 4	Short stories
BOX 4	"The Answer is Yes"
BOX 4	"The Art of Table-Hopping"
BOX 4	"Fat Boy Series"
BOX 4	"The Rape of Television"
BOX 4	"This, My Country"
BOX 4	"Three Meals a Day"
BOX 4	"Wrinkles in Their Bellies"
BOX 4	Untitled
BOX 4-7	Miscellany File, 1919-1980
	Address and telephone listings, daily activity diaries, photographs, and other documentation regarding Friede's life, death, father, and personal library. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 4	Address and telephone listings, 1949-1965
BOX 4	Daily activity diaries
BOX 4	1949, 1951-1952
BOX 5	1953-1957, 1959
BOX 6	1960-1965
BOX 7	Undated
BOX 7	Death, obituaries and condolences, 1965
BOX 7	Friede, Marcus Sergey (father), including newspaper clippings, biography, passport, and certificate of naturalization, 1919-1921
BOX 7	Gift of papers to the Library of Congress, 1980
BOX 7	Library, personal, 1928
BOX 7	Personal documents, 1901-1965
BOX 7	Photographs, circa 1925-1965