

**Toni Frissell Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79003983>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012195>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012  
Revised 2023 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Toni Frissell Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1931-1975

**Bulk Dates:** 1941-1970

**ID No.:** MSS3983

**Creator:** Frissell, Toni, 1907-1988

**Extent:** 4,500 items

**Extent:** 15 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79003983>

**Summary:** Photographer. Correspondence, daybooks, notes, lists, printed matter, photographs, and other papers relating to Frissell's career as a photographer.

## 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

Astor family.

Churchill family.

Churchill, Clementine, 1885-1977--Correspondence.

Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965.

Frissell, Toni, 1907-1988.

Kennedy family.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963.

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994--Correspondence.

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994.

Snow, Carmel, 1890-1961--Correspondence.

Vanderbilt family.

Vanderbilt, Gloria, 1924-2019--Correspondence.

Vreeland, Diana--Correspondence.

### Organizations

American National Red Cross.

United States. Office of War Information.

### Subjects

Fashion photography.

Fashion--Periodicals.

Outdoor photography.

Photography of sports.

Photography.

Photojournalism.

Sports--Periodicals.

War photography.

Wedding photography.

World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief.

World War, 1939-1945--Photography.

World War, 1939-1945--Propaganda.

### Places

United States--Armed Forces.

### **Titles**

*Harper's bazaar.*

*Life.*

*Sports illustrated.*

*Vogue.*

### **Occupations**

Photographers.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Toni Frissell, photographer, were given to the Library of Congress by Frissell as part of her photographic archive in 1970 and were transferred from the Prints and Photographs Division in 2012.

## **Processing History**

The papers of Toni Frissell were arranged and described by Laura J. Kells with the assistance of Alan Houke and Karen Stuart in 2012. A letter from Jacqueline Kennedy to Frissell, circa 1953, in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection was incorporated into the papers in 2012. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## **Related Material**

Toni Frissell's photographic collection is located in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress.

## **Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Toni Frissell in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Toni Frissell 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.

## **Preferred Citation**

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

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1907, March 10	Born, New York, N.Y.
1925	Graduated from Miss Porter's School, Farmington, Conn.
1927-1930	Actress, toured with Max Reinhardt's companies in United States and Europe
1930-1931	Caption writer, <i>Vogue</i> magazine, New York, N.Y.
1931	First published photographs appear in <i>Town and Country</i> magazine

1931-1942	Fashion photographer, <i>Vogue</i> magazine
1932	Married Francis McNeill Bacon III
1941-1945	Photographer for the American Red Cross, Women's Army Corps, U.S. Air Force, and the Office of War Information, United States and Europe
1942-1967	Freelance photographer, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i> , <i>Life</i> , <i>Look</i> , <i>Vogue</i> , and <i>Sports Illustrated</i> magazines
1944	Photo illustrations published in <i>A Child's Garden of Verses</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson. New York: U. S. Camera Publishing Corp.
1946	Photo illustrations published in <i>The Happy Island</i> by Sally Woodall Lee. New York: T. J. Maloney
1948	Published <i>Toni Frissell's Mother Goose</i> . New York: Harper
1953	First woman photographer hired by <i>Sports Illustrated</i>
1970	Donated photographic archive to the Library of Congress
1975	Published <i>King Ranch 1939-1944: A Photographic Essay</i> . Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Morgan & Morgan
1988, April 17	Died, Saint James, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Antoinette Montgomery Frissell Bacon (1907-1988) span the years 1931-1975, with the bulk of the material dating from 1941 to 1947. They document her work as a professional photographer, her photojournalism during World War II, and the activities of her photography office. The papers are organized into three series: [Professional File](#), [Personal File](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Professional File](#) series comprises the major portion of the Toni Frissell papers. It contains information about the creation, use, and exhibition of her photographs and the administrative and financial aspects of her photographic career. There are files pertaining to photographic assignments for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Vogue* magazines dating from the 1940s through the 1960s. Among the material documenting her work for the fashion magazines *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* is correspondence with editors Carmel Snow and Diana Vreeland. As a fashion photographer, Frissell was the first to photograph models in outdoor settings. Items relating to Frissell's photographic documentation of civilian and military activities in the United States and Europe during World War II include caption lists and control books, travel and identification documents, a diary, correspondence, and background material on military personnel. The wartime material covers her work with the American National Red Cross, the United States army forces, and the Office of War Information, as well as freelance work for various publications. Frissell's sports photography and her contacts with prominent individuals and families in the United States and Great Britain are additional features of her career that are documented in this series. Files relating to her portraits of Winston Churchill cover arrangements for photo shoots and the use of the photos; and those about photographing members of the Astor, Churchill, Kennedy, and Vanderbilt families contain letters from Clementine Churchill and Gloria Vanderbilt. Material concerning Frissell's photographs of the wedding of John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier include a letter from Jacqueline Kennedy expressing her pleasure with the photographs. Additional letters from Jacqueline Kennedy are in the correspondence in the [Personal File](#) series. A series of daybooks chronicles the daily activities in Frissell's photography office from 1953-1970.

The [Personal File](#) series contains correspondence, biographical material, and items relating to family members. Photographs of Frissell at work are included among the correspondence.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Professional File, 1931-1975](#)
- [Personal File, 1938-1974](#)
- [Oversize, 1945-1962](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-14	<p><b><u>Professional File, 1931-1975</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, a diary, notes, daybooks, petty cash books, caption lists, photographs, printed matter, and other papers.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 14-15	<p><b><u>Personal File, 1938-1974</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, family papers, writings, photographs, biographical information, and other papers.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1945-1962</u></b></p> <p>Newspapers and sketches.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-14	<b>Professional File, 1931-1975</b> Correspondence, a diary, notes, daybooks, petty cash books, caption lists, photographs, printed matter, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 1	Antigua, British West Indies (present-day Antigua and Barbuda)
BOX 1	<i>Sports Illustrated</i> , 1960-1963
BOX 1	<i>Vogue</i> , 1969
BOX 1	Armstrong, Tobin and Anne, 1950, 1967-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Astor family, 1953
BOX 1	Awards, 1969
BOX 1	Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, England, photo shoot, 1959-1962
BOX 1	Bookboards, 1970
BOX 1	Books, 1948-1951, 1955 (2 folders)
BOX 1	British Broadcasting Corp., 1958, 1965
BOX 1	Business correspondence, 1958-1963 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Churchill, Randolph S., 1954-1955
BOX 1	Churchill, Winston
BOX 1	<i>Life</i> , 1964-1965
BOX 1	<i>Vogue</i> , 1953-1964
BOX 2	Churchill, Winston and Clementine, 1950-1973 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Churchill, Winston S., (1940-2010), 1969
BOX 2	Copyrights, 1959
BOX 2	Daybooks, 1953-1970 (5 folders)
BOX 3	(7 folders)
BOX 4	(6 folders)
BOX 4	Denver, Colo., <i>Vogue</i> , 1966-1969
BOX 4	Eastman Kodak Co., 1948-1950
BOX 4	Equipment, 1954-1960
BOX 5	Exhibits
BOX 5	Hallmark exhibition, 1966-1969 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Heckscher Museum, Huntington, N.Y., 1974
BOX 5	IBM, "A Number of Things," 1961-1963 (3 folders)
BOX 5	King Ranch, Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Tex., 1975
BOX 5	"Man in Sport," 1967-1969
BOX 5	(1 folder)

## Professional File, 1931-1975

Container	Contents
BOX 6	(2 folders)
BOX 6	Young and Rubicam, 1971
BOX 6	Foreign publications, 1964-1969
	(2 folders)
BOX 6	<i>Fortune</i> , 1967-1968
BOX 6	"Great Ladies," <i>Life</i> , 1967-1969
	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Hallmark calendars, 1968-1969
BOX 7	<i>Harper's Bazaar</i> , 1941-1952
	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Ismay, Hastings Lionel Ismay, Baron, 1953
BOX 7	Kennedy, John F. and Jacqueline Bouvier, wedding
BOX 7	General, circa 1953, 1960-1966
BOX 7	Random House, 1964-1965
BOX 7	Viking Press, 1965
BOX 7	Kennedy, Robert F., 1968
BOX 7	King Ranch, Kingsville, Tex., 1931-1951
	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Liechtenstein, 1962-1963
BOX 8	<i>Life</i> , 1951-1970
	(2 folders)
BOX 8	Lindsay, John V., Republican National Convention, <i>Vogue</i> , 1968
BOX 8	Lindsay, Mary (Mrs. John V.), <i>Vogue</i> , 1968-1969
	(2 folders)
BOX 8	Lloyd, Eliza Mellon, <i>Vogue</i> , 1966
BOX 8	London, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i> , 1950-1951
BOX 8	Martin, Mary, 1956-1962
BOX 8	<i>McCall's</i> , 1947-1950
BOX 8	McClellan, Clare (Mrs. Robert) and Charles Symington, 1962-1963
BOX 9	Mellon, Bunny (Mrs. Paul), 1958-1963
BOX 9	Metropolitan Opera, New York, N.Y., <i>Life</i> , 1966
	(2 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1945-1970
BOX 9	Newport, R.I., 1962
BOX 9	Nixon, Richard M., <i>Vogue</i> , 1968-1969
BOX 9	Ogilvy, Benson and Mather, Inc., 1955-1963
BOX 9	Oxenbergh, Elizabeth (Mrs. Howard), <i>Look</i> , 1964-1965
BOX 9	Paley, Amanda, and Shirley Carter Burden, Jr., wedding, 1964-1965
BOX 9	<i>Panorama</i> , 1959
BOX 9	Personalities, 1947-1948
BOX 9	Petty cash books, 1953-1967
	(3 folders)
BOX 9	Pix, Inc., 1947-1949
BOX 9	Portugal, 1946
BOX 9	Publicity, 1940-1949
BOX 10	Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus, 1941
BOX 10	Scotland, 1950

## Professional File, 1931-1975

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Ski houses in the West, <i>Vogue</i> , 1968-1969 (2 folders)
BOX 10	<i>Show Magazine</i> , 1961
BOX 10	<i>Sound of Music</i> , 1959
BOX 10	<i>Sports Illustrated</i> , 1953-1959 (5 folders)
BOX 11	(3 folders)
BOX 11	Styron, William, <i>Vogue</i> , 1968
BOX 11	Switzerland, 1946-1949
BOX 11	Taylor, Elizabeth, and Michael Todd, 1952-1964
BOX 11	Taylor, Vernon and Ann, 1964-1967
BOX 11	Thank-you notes, 1947-1952, 1961-1964
BOX 11	United States Air Force, 1950-1951
BOX 11	Vanderbilt, Gloria (Mrs. Wyatt Cooper), <i>Vogue</i> , 1964-1969
BOX 11	Vanderbilt family
BOX 11	Family story, <i>Life</i> , 1963-1970
BOX 11	Women in costume, 1963
BOX 12	<i>Vogue</i>
BOX 12	General, 1944, 1953-1962 (2 folders)
BOX 12	Personalities, 1965-1966
BOX 12	White, Stanford, <i>Life</i> , 1965-1968
BOX 12	Windsor, Edward, Duke of, and Wallis Warfield, Duchess of Windsor, <i>Vogue</i> , 1968-1969
BOX 12	World War II, 1941-1947 <i>See also Oversize</i> (7 folders)
BOX 13	(10 folders)
BOX 14	(7 folders)
BOX 14-15	<b>Personal File, 1938-1974</b> Correspondence, family papers, writings, photographs, biographical information, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 14	Bacon, Francis M. (husband), 1962 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 14	Bacon, Sidney (daughter), 1954-1956
BOX 14	Bacon, Varick (son), circa. 1941
BOX 14	Biographical information, 1938, 1944-1949, 1961-1962, 1971-1974 (3 folders)
BOX 15	Correspondence, 1943-1961 (5 folders)
BOX 15	Montgomery, Mary Ann Phelps (grandmother), 1967
BOX 15	Physicians, 1968-1970
BOX OV 1	<b>Oversize, 1945-1962</b> Newspapers and sketches. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.



## Oversize, 1945-1962

### Container

### Contents

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BOX OV 1

Professional File

BOX OV 1

World War II, 1945 (Container 14)

BOX OV 1

Personal File

BOX OV 1

Bacon, Francis M. (husband), 1962 (Container 14)