

Edward Ellsberg Papers
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019002>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019
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Collection Summary

Title: Edward Ellsberg Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1891-2008

Bulk Dates: 1926-1998

ID No.: MSS86193

Creator: Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983

Extent: 10,000 items

Extent: 43 containers

Extent: 17.2 linear feet

Extent: 125 digital files (3.19 MB)

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2017086193>

Summary: United States Navy officer and author. Notebooks, correspondence, memoranda, lectures, articles, book drafts, short stories, play drafts, radio scripts, patents, military files, newspaper clippings, digital files, and other material relating to Ellsberg's service as an engineer and naval salvage expert. Also included are drafts and research files relating to John Doughty Alden's book entitled *Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy*.

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

Alden, John Doughty, 1921-2014. *Salvage man : Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy*. 1998.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Captain Paul*. 1941.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Far shore*. 1960.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Men under the sea*. 1939.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *No banners, no bugles*. 1949.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *On the bottom*. 1929.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Passport for Jennifer*. 1952.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Pigboats*. 1931.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Thirty fathoms deep*. 1930.

Ellsberg, Edward, 1891-1983. *Under the Red Sea sun*. 1946.

Ellsberg, Lucy Buck, 1893-1978. *Lucy Buck Ellsberg writings*.

Jones, John Paul. 1747-1792--Fiction.

Pollard, Edward Ellsberg, 1945- --Correspondence.

Organizations

Leviathan (Steamship)

New York Naval Shipyard

S-51 (Submarine)

United States. Navy--Officers.

Subjects

Marine engineering--United States.

Marine engineers--United States.

Mulberry harbors.

Salvage--United States.

Submarines (Ships)

Submarines (Ships)--Fiction.

World War, 1914-1918--Fiction.

World War, 1939-1945--Africa.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Africa, North.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Eritrea--Mits'iwa.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France--Normandy.
World War, 1939-1945--Europe.
World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.
World War, 1939-1945.

Occupations

Authors.
Naval officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Edward Ellsberg, United States Navy officer and author, were given to the Library of Congress in 2017 by his grandchildren, Ann Pollard Heilakka and Edward Ellsberg Pollard.

Processing History

Edward Ellsberg Pollard, grandson and one of the donors of the collection, arranged a majority of the items by topic or type of material, placed them in notebooks, and assigned a number to each notebook. This numerical arrangement and the titles for the notebooks were retained by the Library except in a few cases where they were changed to conform to Library of Congress name authorities. The collection was processed in 2019 by Connie L. Cartledge with the assistance of Maria Farmer and Rosa Hernandez.

Digital files were received in the Edward Ellsberg Papers on a variety of digital storage media. Each digital storage media was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files associated with each media. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.digital>.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward Ellsberg in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library if Congress has been dedicated to the public. Edward Ellsberg Pollard, however, reserves all rights that he may own in the published biography of *Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy* by John Doughty Alden.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edward Ellsberg 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. Access to digital content is available onsite only in the Manuscript Reading Room and requires advanced notice. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or Digital ID number, Edward Ellsberg Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1891, Nov. 12	Born, New Haven, Conn.
1910	Student, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
1914	B.S., United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1914-1926	Officer, United States Navy
1918	Married Lucy Knowlton Buck
1920	M.S., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1926-1935	Chief engineer, Tide Water Oil Co., New York, N.Y.
1929	Promoted to commander by a special act of Congress for raising the sunken submarine, <i>S-51</i> Published <i>On the Bottom</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1930	Published <i>Thirty Fathoms Deep</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1935-1941	Self-employed consulting engineer, New York, N.Y.
1938	Published <i>Hell on Ice</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1939	Published <i>Men Under the Sea</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1941-1951	Rejoined, United States Navy, and served as salvage officer in the Red Sea and western Mediterranean areas
1942	Published <i>Captain Paul</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1944	Participated in the Normandy invasion where he was instrumental in setting up artificial harbors off Normandy beach
1946	Published <i>Under the Red Sea Sun</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1949	Published <i>No Banners, No Bugles</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1951	Retired from the United States Navy as a rear admiral
1983, Jan. 24,	Died Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward Ellsberg (1891-1983) span the years from 1891 to 2008, with the bulk of the material dating from 1926 to 1998. Ellsberg earned the reputation as one of the United States Navy's premier experts on salvage operations and deep-sea rescue work. The collection, largely contained in notebooks, documents Ellsberg's career as an officer in the United States Navy, his activities as a consulting engineer, and his authorship of articles and popular books relating to his salvage exploits while in the Navy and fictional writings about maritime topics. Also present are files relating to a 1998 biography about Ellsberg entitled *Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy* by John Doughty Alden, a few writings by Ellsberg's wife, Lucy Buck Ellsberg, and correspondence of Edward Ellsberg Pollard, grandson of Ellsberg, regarding Ellsberg. The collection includes correspondence, memoranda, lectures, articles, book drafts, short stories, play drafts, radio scripts, notes, military papers, patents, notes, digital files, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. The papers are in English and are arranged as follows: notebooks, *Salvage Man* John Doughty Alden file, writings by Edward Ellsberg, and writings by Lucy Buck Ellsberg.

The notebooks are arranged by number and therein by topic or type of material. Documented in the notebooks are Ellsberg's two tours of duty in the navy (1914-1926 and 1941-1951). Topics featured are his endeavors in solving the ventilation problems in 1924 of the steamer *Leviathan* while serving at the New York Naval Shipyard, in New York, New York, his successful salvage of the submarine *S-51* in 1926, and his service during World War II at Mits'iwa in Eritrea, North Africa, and Normandy. During the Normandy invasion, Ellsberg used his expertise to create artificial harbors to facilitate the movement of supplies and troops. Other notebooks include files relating to his work as an engineering consultant, patents relating to his development of salvage equipment, his lectures, and his work as an author. Notebooks one through five, twenty-one, forty-five, and part of number seven, were not received by the Library.

Most of the notebooks, however, pertain to Ellsberg's articles, books, short stories, book reviews, and correspondence about his writings. Books featured are *On the Bottom* (Ellsberg's non-fiction account of the raising of the *S-51*), *Under the Red Sea*, *No Banners, No Bugles*, and *The Far Shore* (three non-fiction books about Ellsberg's World War II service). Also

present in notebooks numbered fifty-nine through sixty-two are drafts and correspondence about John Doughty Alden's biography *Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy*.

Other files complimenting the *Salvage Man* notebooks are paper and digital files of Ellsberg's biographer, John Doughty Alden. Alden gave his paper and digital files to Edward Ellsberg Pollard. Alden's papers include drafts, research files, and digital files that he used to write the biography and are filed under *Salvage Man* John Doughty Alden file. The digital files are word processing files received on five and a quarter inch disks. They include articles by Alden (based on his research for the biography prior to its publication), book drafts, and research material. Research material in the digital files consists mainly of notes, interview transcripts, outlines, and lists. The paper research files are larger and more substantive than the digital research files.

The majority of Ellsberg's book drafts, handwritten and typed, are filed near the end of the collection under writings by Edward Ellsberg. Papers pertaining to his fictional works include: *Captain Paul* (about John Paul Jones), *Thirty Fathoms Deep* (about a sunken submarine), and *Pigboats* (the basis for the movie *Hell Below*). Non-fiction works represented in Ellsberg's writings are *Men Under the Sea* (a collection of salvage stories), *Passport for Jennifer* (Ellsberg's endeavors to bring a young British orphan to the United States), *On the Bottom* (the salvage of the *S-51*), and those relating to his World War II service (previously mentioned in the notebooks). The writings also include drafts of plays, radio scripts, and short stories by Edward Ellsberg. Also included in the collection are a few writings by Ellsberg's wife, Lucy Buck Ellsberg. Pollard's correspondence about his grandfather is scattered throughout the notebooks, although notebook number sixty-three is exclusively such correspondence.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Notebooks
BOX 1	No. 6, correspondence, 1928-2000 (4 folders)
BOX 1	No. 7, publisher, 1935-1980 (2 folders)
BOX 1	No. 8, United States Navy, correspondence, and United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., reunions, 1939-1980 (3 folders)
BOX 1	No. 9, correspondence from divers and officers, 1926-1977, 1998-2003 (3 folders)
BOX 2	No. 10, patents for torch, 1926-1943, 1957-1966 (3 folders)
BOX 2	No. 11, patents for torch, pontoons, and evaporators, 1924-1968 (4 folders)
BOX 2	No. 12, fan letters, 1932-1983, 1998 (2 folders)
BOX 3	No. 13, lectures, 1926-1941 (4 folders)
BOX 3	No. 14, lectures, 1941-1969, 1981 (4 folders)
BOX 4	No. 15, story ideas, early unpublished stories, and Cleveland, Ohio, duty, 1929-1946, 1996 (3 folders)
BOX 4	No. 16, articles, 1911-1930 (4 folders)
BOX 4	No. 17, articles, 1931-1936 (2 folders)
BOX 5	(1 folder)
BOX 5	No. 18, articles, 1936-1955 (3 folders)
BOX 5	No. 19, articles, correspondence, articles about <i>Ocean Gold</i> , 1928-1936, 1954 (3 folders)
BOX 5	No. 20, articles, correspondence, mostly <i>New York Post</i> , 1937-1941, 1955, 2005 (3 folders)
BOX 6	No. 22, <i>Leviathan</i> (steamer), 1924-1926
BOX 6	No. 23, professional engineering, 1935-1947 (3 folders)
BOX 6	No. 24, professional engineering, 1947-1952 (3 folders)
BOX 6	No. 25, professional engineering, 1952-1961 (3 folders)
BOX 7	No. 26, orders, 1914-1940 (3 folders)

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Container	Contents
BOX 7	No. 27, orders, 1941-1954 (3 folders)
BOX 7	No. 28, <i>Squalus</i> (submarine) and sunken submarines, 1939-1940 (3 folders)
BOX 7	No. 29, <i>S-51</i> (submarine), salvage, 1925-1926 (1 folder)
BOX 8	(2 folders)
BOX 8	No. 30, <i>S-51</i> (submarine), salvage, 1925-1938, 1986, 2008 (4 folders)
BOX 8	No. 31, <i>On the Bottom</i> , business, 1926-1931, 1973, 1985, 2000 (4 folders)
BOX 9	No. 32, <i>On the Bottom</i> , business, divers reunion party on <i>Leviathan</i> (steamer), and reception at Ambassador Hotel, New York, N.Y., 1929-1959, 1973, 1982 (4 folders)
BOX 9	No. 33, <i>On the Bottom</i> , business, correspondence, and fan letters, 1928-1931, 1955, 1996 (3 folders)
BOX 9	No. 34, <i>On the Bottom</i> , fan letters and reviews, 1925-1961, 1972-1976, 2004 (4 folders)
BOX 10	No. 35, promotion, 1926-1929 (2 folders)
BOX 10	No. 36, proposed books and stories and reviews, 1928-1973 (3 folders)
BOX 10	No. 37, salvage proposals, diving and treasure, 1927-1967 (3 folders)
BOX 10	No. 38, <i>S-4</i> (submarine), 1927-1939, 1949-1954, 2005 (1 folder)
BOX 11	(3 folders)
BOX 11	No. 39, North Africa and Normandy, 1942-1945, 2000 (3 folders)
BOX 11	No. 40, Mits'iwa, Eritrea, 1940-1946 (3 folders)
BOX 11	No. 41, Mits'iwa, Eritrea, 1940-1942 (3 folders)
BOX 12	No. 42, Mits'iwa, Eritrea, 1942-1959, 1992-2004 (5 folders)
BOX 12	No. 43, <i>Thirty Fathoms Deep</i> , <i>Ocean Gold</i> , <i>Spanish Ingots</i> , and <i>Treasure Below</i> , 1929-1961 (4 folders)
BOX 12	No. 44, <i>Pigboats</i> and <i>S-54</i> , 1929-1936, 1949-1952, 1978, 2005 (2 folders)
BOX 13	(1 folder)
BOX 13	No. 46, <i>Hell on Ice: the Saga of the "Jeannette,"</i> business correspondence, 1935-1950, 1969-1971 (3 folders)
BOX 13	No. 47, <i>Hell on Ice: the Saga of the "Jeannette,"</i> fan letters and correspondence, 1937-1953, 1961, 1969-1972, 2002 (4 folders)
BOX 13	No. 48, <i>Hell on Ice: the Saga of the "Jeannette,"</i> reviews, 1938-1940 (2 folders)
BOX 14	(1 folder)

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BOX 14	No. 49, <i>Men Under the Sea</i> and <i>Cruise of the Jeannette</i> , 1938-1957 (4 folders)
BOX 14	No. 50, <i>Under the Red Sea</i> , 1945-1947 (4 folders)
BOX 14	No. 51, <i>Under the Red Sea</i> , 1946-1970, 1980-1982, 1998 (2 folders)
BOX 15	(1 folder)
BOX 15	No. 52, <i>No Banners, No Bugles</i> , 1943-1955 (4 folders)
BOX 15	No. 53, <i>No Banners, No Bugles</i> , 1949-1959, 1980 (3 folders)
BOX 15	No. 54, <i>Mid Watch: A Novel</i> , 1951-1964, 1977, 1996 (3 folders)
BOX 16	No. 55, <i>Captain Paul</i> , 1939-1960, 1970 (4 folders)
BOX 16	No. 56, <i>Captain Paul</i> and " <i>I have just begun to fight!</i> " <i>The Story of John Paul Jones</i> , 1940-1958, 1981, 1990 (3 folders)
BOX 16	No. 57, <i>Passport for Jennifer</i> , 1948-1956, 1972-1980, 1991 (5 folders)
BOX 17	No. 58, <i>The Far Shore</i> , 1954-1968, 1977-1982 (3 folders)
BOX 17	No. 59, <i>Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy</i> by John Doughty Alden, draft, 1996 (4 folders)
BOX 17	No. 60, <i>Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy</i> by John Doughty Alden, draft, 1996 (2 folders)
BOX 18	(2 folders)
BOX 18	No. 61, <i>Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy</i> by John Doughty Alden, final draft, undated (4 folders)
BOX 18	No. 62, fan letters and letters about Alden's biography, 1981-2004 (2 folders)
BOX 19	(1 folder)
BOX 19	No. 63, Edward Ellsberg Pollard, correspondence about Ellsberg, 1978-2003 (3 folders)
BOX 19	<i>Salvage Man: Edward Ellsberg and the U.S. Navy</i> , John Doughty Alden file
BOX 19	Articles
BOX 19	Paper files, 1997-1998
DF	Digital files, 1996 Digital ID: mss86193_139_002
BOX 19	Drafts
BOX 19	Paper files
BOX 19	Original, 1996 (2 folders)
BOX 20	(4 folders)
BOX 20	Revised, undated (3 folders)
BOX 21	(2 folders)

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DF	Digital files, 1994-1996 Digital ID: mss86193_139_001 Digital ID: mss86193_139_002 Digital ID: mss86193_139_003 Digital ID: mss86193_139_004 Digital ID: mss86193_139_005 Digital ID: mss86193_139_006 Digital ID: mss86193_139_007 Digital ID: mss86193_139_008 Digital ID: mss86193_139_009 Digital ID: mss86193_139_010
BOX 21	Fan letters, 1997-1998
BOX 21	General, 1995-2006 (2 folders)
BOX 21	Grant, 1993-1996
BOX 21	Publicity, 1997-2004 (2 folders)
BOX 21	Research file
BOX 21	Bibliography, 1998, undated
BOX 21	Biographies, 1947-1959, 1987, 1994-1995
BOX 22	Boston, Mass., Navy Yard, 1920-1924, 1996-1998
BOX 22	Christley, Jim, maps, 1996-1997
BOX 22	Contemporaries, 1929-1940, 1994-1997 (2 folders)
DF	Digital files: disparate files of outlines, notes and chronologies, interview transcripts, and lists, 1994-1996 Digital ID: mss86193_139_002 Digital ID: mss86193_139_006 Digital ID: mss86193_139_007 Digital ID: mss86193_139_011
BOX 22	Genealogy and early life, 1891-1996
BOX 22	General, 1944, 1979, 1992-1997 (2 folders)
BOX 22	Index to book and related material, 1996
BOX 22	King, Ernest J., and the Bureau of Aeronautics, 1933, 1995
BOX 22	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 1914-1936, 1969, 1995
BOX 23	Mits'iwa, Eritrea
BOX 23	General, 1942-1946, 1975-1981, 1992-1996 (2 folders)
BOX 23	Letters, 1942 (2 folders)
BOX 23	McCloskey, Bruce B., and C. Monroe Hart, 1987, 1995
BOX 23	"Midshipman cruise," 1911, 1995 (2 folders)
BOX 23	"Mulberry" harbors, 1944, 1995, 2007 (2 folders)
BOX 24	(1 folder)
BOX 24	New York Naval Shipyard, New York, N.Y.

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BOX 24	General, 1916-1920, 1980-1981
BOX 24	<i>Leviathan</i> (steamer), 1924-1926, 1939, 1980, 1995
BOX 24	Niedermair, John C., interview, 1925-1926, 1975-1977, 1995
BOX 24	Notes and related material, 1994-1996
BOX 24	North Africa
BOX 24	General, 1942-1946, 1981, 1993-1994
BOX 24	Letters, 1942-1943
BOX 24	Orders, notes about, undated
BOX 24	Phoenix caissons and "NavEu" (Navy in Europe), 1944-1960, 1980-1981, 1991-1997
BOX 25	Photographs
BOX 25	General, 1906-1920, 1933-1944, 1993-1998, undated (4 folders)
BOX 25	Not used, 1911-1942, undated
BOX 25	Public Record Office, Great Britain, 1992-1995
BOX 25	Resignation, 1926, undated
BOX 25	Retirement, 1945-1980, 1994 (2 folders)
BOX 25	<i>S-4</i> (submarine) and Congress, 1926-1929, 1939, 1972, 1993-1997 (2 folders)
BOX 26	<i>S-51</i> (submarine)
BOX 26	General, 1925-1926, 1979, 1993-1998 (2 folders)
BOX 26	Technical bulletin 2-27, 1927
BOX 26	Searle, W. F., Jr., 1964, 1994-1999 (2 folders)
BOX 26	Service record and related biographical information, 1917-1924, 1938-1954, 1994, undated
BOX 26	Slides, circa 2004
BOX 26	Sullivan, William A., 1947, 1954, undated
BOX 26	Supervisor of shipbuilding
BOX 26	Cleveland, Ohio, 1944-1945, 1994, undated
BOX 26	New York, N.Y., 1943-1950, 1980, 1995, undated
BOX 26	Tapes (audio) and notes, 1942, 1981-1982, 1994-1996, undated
BOX 26	Tide Water Oil Co. and other projects, 1929-1942, 1961, 1980, 1994-1996, undated (1 folder)
BOX 27	(1 folder)
BOX 27	"To the Red Sea," 1941-1942, 1975, undated
BOX 27	United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1910-1914, 1938, 1979, 1994-1995, undated
BOX 27	Writings by Edward Ellsberg
BOX 27	Books
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BOX 28	(6 folders)
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BOX 29	<i>The Far Shore</i> (1960)
BOX 29	First draft, 1958-1959 (4 folders)
BOX 30	(1 folder)

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BOX 30	Revised draft, set A, undated (3 folders)
BOX 30	Revised draft, set B, undated (5 folders)
BOX 31	<i>Hell on Ice: The Saga of the "Jeannette"</i> (1938), circa 1937
BOX 31	<i>Men Under the Sea</i> (1939), 1938 (8 folders)
BOX 32	<i>Mid Watch: A Novel</i> (1954)
BOX 32	First draft, 1952-1953 (4 folders)
BOX 32	Revised draft, undated (3 folders)
BOX 33	<i>No Banners, No Bugles</i> (1949), 1948-1949 (6 folders)
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BOX 34	<i>Ocean Gold</i> (1935), 1934-1935 (3 folders)
BOX 35	(3 folders)
BOX 35	<i>On the Bottom</i> (1929), 1926 (5 folders)
BOX 36	(2 folders)
BOX 36	<i>Passport for Jennifer</i> (1952)
BOX 36	Ankers, Jennifer, 1948-1963
BOX 36	First draft, 1952 (4 folders)
BOX 36	Revised draft, 1952 (2 folders)
BOX 37	<i>Pigboats</i> (1931), undated (7 folders)
BOX 38	<i>Spanish Ingots</i> (1936), 1935 (5 folders)
BOX 38	<i>Thirty Fathoms Deep</i> (1930), 1929 (2 folders)
BOX 39	(4 folders)
BOX 39	<i>Treasure Below</i> (1940)
BOX 39	Drafts, 1939 (3 folders)
BOX 40	(3 folders)
BOX 40	Outline, notes, and other material, circa 1939-1940
BOX 40	<i>Under the Red Sea</i> (1946), 1946 (4 folders)
BOX 41	(6 folders)
BOX 42	Play, <i>S-54</i>
BOX 42	Handwritten draft, set A, undated (5 folders)
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BOX 42	Various drafts, undated (3 folders)
BOX 43	(1 folder)
BOX 43	Radio scripts, 1931-1936
BOX 43	Short stories, 1935, undated (2 folders)
BOX 43	Writings by Lucy Buck Ellsberg, 1932, 1942, undated (6 folders)