

Robert Orben Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086325>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms020005>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2021
Revised 2023 February

Collection Summary

Title: Robert Orben Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1941-2019

ID no.: MSS86325

Creator: Orben, Robert

Extent: 23,800 items

Extent: 52 containers plus 17 oversize

Extent: 35.8 linear feet

Extent: 81 digital files (5.88GB)

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086325>

Summary: Comedy writer and political speechwriter. Correspondence, jokes and other writings, business papers, photographs, printed matter, interviews, and speeches in both physical and digital formats pertaining to Orben's work as a comedy writer and humor consultant for entertainers, public figures, and corporate clients, editor of a topical humor service, writer for television, and speechwriter for President Gerald R. Ford.

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

Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006.

Kupferman, Stanley.

Orben, Robert.

Organizations

Orben Publications.

Subjects

American periodicals.

American wit and humor.

Amusements--Periodicals.

Booksellers and bookselling.

Comedians.

Comedy sketches.

Comedy--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Comedy--Periodicals.

Comedy.

Current events--Humor.

Entertainers.

Magic tricks.

Magicians.

Politics and culture--Humor.

Public speaking.

Publishers and publishing.

Speechwriting.

Television comedies.

Television programs--United States.

Wit and humor--Authorship.

Wit and humor--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Wit and humor.

Places

United States--Humor.

Titles

Orben's current comedy (periodical)

Red Skelton hour (Television program)

Occupations

Comedy writers.

Speechwriters.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Robert Orben were given to the Library of Congress by Orben in 2019.

Processing History

The papers of Robert Orben were arranged and described by Laura J. Kells between 2019 and 2021.

Digital files were received as part of the Robert Orben Papers on a variety of storage media, each of which 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>.

Transfers

Some audio and video tapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Robert Orben Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division in advance of a research visit.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Robert Orben can be found in the Gerald R. Ford Library, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Orben 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 Robert Orben are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Technical Requirements

Digital files are audio files (.wav), PowerPoint 97 and 2016 presentation files (.ppt), and video files (.vob).

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1927, March 4	Born, New York, N.Y.
1945	Married Jean Louise Connelly Served in United States Army, Fort Dix, N.J., and Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark.
1946-1964	Wrote and published a series of books of humor material for performers
1946-1947	Wrote articles for <i>Magic is Fun</i> magazine
1948-1954	Columnist, <i>Genii</i> magazine
circa 1951	Writer, <i>Fun with Felix</i> television program
1958-1968	Founder and owner, Orben Publications with Stanley Kupferman
1958-1968	Published <i>Orben's Current Comedy</i> , a topical humor periodical
1961-circa 1967	Wrote material for comedian Dick Gregory
1962	Editor, <i>From the Back of the Bus</i> by Dick Gregory. N.Y.: Dutton
1962-1964	Writer, <i>The Jack Paar Program</i>
1964-1970	Writer, <i>The Red Skelton Hour</i>
1966	Published <i>The Joke-Teller's Handbook, or 1,999 Belly Laughs</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
1969	Published <i>The Ad-Libber's Handbook: 2000 New Laughs for Speakers</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
1960s-1990s	Consultant, speechwriter for politicians and other public figures
1971	Resumed publishing <i>Orben's Current Comedy</i> Published <i>The Encyclopedia of One-Liner Comedy</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
1971-1973	Founder and owner, The Comedy Center, a company that sold comedy products
1971-1972	Published <i>Orben Comedy Letter</i>
1971-1980	Published <i>Orben's Comedy Fillers</i>
1974	Consultant to Vice President Gerald R. Ford
1974-1975	Speechwriter and associate editor for President Gerald R. Ford
1976-1977	Director, White House Speechwriting Staff Special assistant to the President
1979	Published <i>2500 Jokes to Start 'Em Laughing</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
1970s-1990s	Consultant, speechwriter, and advisor on the use of humor in public speaking for executives and corporations
1983	Published <i>2100 Laughs for All Occasions</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
1984	Published <i>2400 Jokes to Brighten Your Speeches</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
1986	Published <i>2000 Sure-Fire Jokes for Speakers: The Encyclopedia of One-Liner Comedy</i> . N.Y.: Doubleday
2000	Published <i>Speaker's Handbook of Humor</i> . Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster
2007	Published <i>The Speechwriter's Handbook of Humor: A Practical Guide to Getting Laughs in Public Speeches and Presentations</i> . Portland, Oreg.: Marion Street Press
2023, Feb. 2	Died, Alexandria, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Orben (1927-2023) span the dates 1941-2019. The collection documents Orben's career as a comedy writer and humor consultant, and speechwriter for President Gerald R. Ford. The papers are arranged into five series: [General Correspondence](#), [Alphabetical File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

This collection documents Orben's work as a comedy writer and promoter of humor. Orben initially focused on magic and magicians, but over time expanded his reach and wrote material for use by a wide range of performers and public speakers. A strength of this collection is the compilation of jokes and one-liners he wrote over the second half of the twentieth century, that he published under his own name, prepared for other performers, created for *The Red Skelton Hour* television program, and supplied for corporate events. His periodical, *Orben's Current Comedy*, a topical subscription service, contains jokes relating to the public figures, cultural trends, and current events from 1958 to 1989. A smaller amount of similar material from the 1990s that he sent to columnists and others is dispersed throughout collection. Orben's work as a promoter of and advisor on the use of humor in public speaking and his life-long connection to magicians and the magic profession are also documented. The collection complements a larger collection of Robert Orben Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Material pertaining to Orben's time as a speechwriter in the Ford White House includes memorabilia, photographs, an oral history transcript, speeches, and an unpublished memoir.

The collection's series are listed and briefly described below. A fuller description of each series and a list of its contents can be accessed in the series descriptions within the container list.

The [General Correspondence](#) series comprises a chronological grouping of letters sent and received by Orben between the years 1963 and 2019.

The [Alphabetical File](#) series touches on all aspects of his career and documents Orben's dealings with colleagues, publishers, publications, organizations, columnists, clients, and friends.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) series contains approximately sixty years of jokes, one-liners, writings, and remarks from Orben's career as a comedy writer and humor consultant for performers, television programs, public figures, and corporate clients.

A small [Miscellany](#) series contains additional material documenting Orben's life and career including press clippings and photographs depicting his work with President Gerald R. Ford.

The remaining series contains [Oversize](#) material.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1963-2019](#)
- [Alphabetical File, 1941-2019](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1945-2018](#)
- [Miscellany, 1945-2019](#)
- [Oversize, 1945-1977](#)

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1-2

Series
General Correspondence, 1963-2019

The General Correspondence series comprises a chronological grouping of letters sent and received by Orben between the years 1963 and 2019. The letters date from the period that Orben moved to California to work as a writer for the television program, *The Red Skelton Hour*, and continue into his retirement years. While some of the correspondence relates to his work, much of it is of a personal nature. Additional correspondence, grouped alphabetically by name of correspondent or topic, is located in the Alphabetical File series. Material types include letters sent and received with related attachments. One attachment is in digital format as a PowerPoint presentation.

Arranged chronologically. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 3-32

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

The Alphabetical File series touches on all aspects of his career and documents Orben's dealings with colleagues, publishers, publications, organizations, columnists, clients, and friends. Files relating to Orben's business partner in the 1960s, Stanley Kupferman, contain their extensive correspondence from when Orben was in California containing details about their business, Orben Publications, and their efforts to promote and sell Orben's books and other comedy products. Orben's letters to Kupferman also describe his experience as a writer for *The Red Skelton Hour* and touch on his work for comedian Dick Gregory. A large portion of this material dates from the years after Orben's work for President Gerald R. Ford. Items relating to Gerald R. Ford include letters from Ford documenting Orben's continued assistance with speeches in the years following his presidency and memorabilia from Orben's time in the Ford White House.

Material types include correspondence, business papers, printed matter, and one-liners and other humorous material Orben sent to individuals and publications.

Arranged alphabetically by name or topic. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 32-49

Speeches and Writings, 1945-2018

The Speeches and Writings series contains approximately sixty years of jokes, one-liners, writings, and remarks from Orben's career as a comedy writer and humor consultant for performers, television programs, public figures, and corporate clients. His earliest material is included in a grouping of small self-published books, such as *The Encyclopedia of Patter* (1946), *Magicdotes* (1948), and *The Working Comedian's Gag File* (1956), that Orben wrote for magicians, emcees, comedians, and other performers. The largest portion of this material relates to his topical humor service, *Orben's Current Comedy*, that he edited from 1958 to 1989 with a small break between 1968 and 1971. This periodical, issued monthly and then bi-monthly, contains jokes and one-liners relating to current events and prominent figures in politics and entertainment. Orben later compiled some of this material into a series of books. Orben's writing for television is documented in an index card file arranged by topic, labeled "Skelton Stockpile," containing jokes he wrote for *The Red Skelton Hour* as well material he wrote for *The Jack Paar Program* in 1962. Another set of index cards contains material Orben wrote for comedian Dick Gregory's book, *From the Back of the Bus* (1962). Additional material relating to this project can be found in the Alphabetical File series. Another group of writings contains material he wrote for International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) corporate events. Orben's articles and essays about the writing, effective delivery, and use of humor in speeches, as well as his speeches and speech material about humor in the presidency are also included in this series. An unpublished memoir offers Orben's account of events in his life until the end of his time in the Gerald R. Ford administration. Additional jokes that he sent to

individuals and publications, particularly topical material written in the 1990s, are located in the Alphabetical File series under the name of the person or publication. Material types include jokes, articles, books, book drafts, periodicals, a memoir, notes, interview transcripts, speeches, and scripts. Arranged alphabetically by title or type of material and therein chronologically. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 50-52

Miscellany, 1945-2019

A small Miscellany series contains additional material documenting Orben's life and career including press clippings about or mentioning him and photographs depicting his work with President Gerald R. Ford. A scrapbook contains Orben's earliest published writings, most of which relate to magic.

Material types include card files, calendars, photographs, press clippings, lists, passports, a scrapbook, and video files from an award ceremony.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX OV 1-OV 17

Oversize, 1945-1977

Card files of jokes, card files of addresses, photographs, a proclamation, and a scrapbook.

Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and arranged by size.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<p>General Correspondence, 1963-2019</p> <p>The General Correspondence series comprises a chronological grouping of letters sent and received by Orben between the years 1963 and 2019. The letters date from the period that Orben moved to California to work as a writer for the television program, <i>The Red Skelton Hour</i>, and continue into his retirement years. While some of the correspondence relates to his work, much of it is of a personal nature. Additional correspondence, grouped alphabetically by name of correspondent or topic, is located in the Alphabetical File series. Material types include letters sent and received with related attachments. One attachment is in digital format as a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.</p>
BOX 1	1963-1979 (15 folders)
BOX 2	1980-2019 (10 folders)
DF	Attachments to correspondence included storage media described below. 2019, Nilsen, Alleen Pace, and Don L. F. Nilsen, <i>The Language of Humor</i> , PowerPoint presentation Digital ID: mss86325_201_001
BOX 2	Undated
BOX 3-32	<p>Alphabetical File, 1941-2019</p> <p>The Alphabetical File series touches on all aspects of his career and documents Orben's dealings with colleagues, publishers, publications, organizations, columnists, clients, and friends. Files relating to Orben's business partner in the 1960s, Stanley Kupferman, contain their extensive correspondence from when Orben was in California containing details about their business, Orben Publications, and their efforts to promote and sell Orben's books and other comedy products. Orben's letters to Kupferman also describe his experience as a writer for <i>The Red Skelton Hour</i> and touch on his work for comedian Dick Gregory. A large portion of this material dates from the years after Orben's work for President Gerald R. Ford. Items relating to Gerald R. Ford include letters from Ford documenting Orben's continued assistance with speeches in the years following his presidency and memorabilia from Orben's time in the Ford White House.</p> <p>Material types include correspondence, business papers, printed matter, and one-liners and other humorous material Orben sent to individuals and publications.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name or topic. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.</p>
BOX 3	<i>50 Plus</i> magazine, 1978-1979
BOX 3	Acocella, Paul, 1993-2006, 2014
BOX 3	<i>Across the Board</i> magazine, 1983-1984, 1992
BOX 3	Adams, Joey, 1972-1976
BOX 3	Adams, Patch, 1987-1988, 1994
BOX 3	Adler & Robin Books, 1978, 1989-1992
BOX 3	American Comedy Arts, circa 1974

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

Container	Contents
BOX 3	<i>American Legion</i> magazine, 1983
BOX 3	American Management Associations, 1977-1978
BOX 3	<i>American Speaker</i> magazine, circa 2000-2004
BOX 3	<i>American Way</i> magazine, 1982-1988
BOX 3	Associated Marketing Enterprises, 1973-1974
BOX 3	<i>Back in the Bronx</i> magazine, 2000
BOX 3	Badler, Mitchell M., 1967-1970, 1981-1983, 1989-1992
BOX 3	Bain, Donald, 1984
BOX 3	Bakshian, Aram, Jr., 1992
BOX 3	Bauer, Joseph C., 1974-1983
BOX 3	Bause, Dave, 1989-1990
BOX 3	<i>Bawl Street Journal</i> , 1958
BOX 3	Bedrosian, Maggie, 1996-2001
BOX 3	Bergeron, Bev, 1996-2000, 2018
BOX 3	Bergstrom, Karl, 2003
BOX 3	Blaney, Walter, 1991-1999, 2010
BOX 4	Blumenfeld, Esther, 1996-2012
BOX 4	Blumenfeld, Esther, and Lynn Alpern, 1980-1990
BOX 4	Book ideas, 1963-1971
BOX 4	Books, miscellaneous information, 1960s-2000 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Booth, John, 1986
BOX 4	Borealis Press, 2006-2012
BOX 4	Boren, James H., 1972, 1986-2010 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Bosc, Joyce, 2001
BOX 4	Branch, Charles, 1997-2002
BOX 4	Brecher, Harold, 1986
BOX 4	Brechtel, Warren R., 1989
BOX 4	Breeskin, Barnee, 1981, 1989-1991, 2003
BOX 4	Brooks, Foster, 1974
BOX 4	Buchwald, Art, 1966, 2007
BOX 5	Budler, Bob, 1990-1992
BOX 5	Butler, Michael, 1981-1984
BOX 5	Butler, Patrick, 1993-1994
BOX 5	Buttons, Red, 1964, 1970-1972, 1982-2006 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Campaign Associates, 1973-1975
BOX 5	<i>Campaign</i> magazine, 1977
BOX 5	<i>Campaigns & Elections</i> magazine, 1989-1990
BOX 5	<i>Capitol Comedy</i> newsletter, 1990
BOX 5	Carlston, Greg, 1993
BOX 5	Carpenter, Liz, circa 1980-1983, 1994-2010
BOX 5	Carter, Diane, 1994
BOX 5	Carver, Ron, undated
BOX 5	Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, 1982

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

Container	Contents
BOX 5	Chapel, Gage William, 1975-1978 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Cimberg, Alan, 1995-2000
BOX 5	Columnists, 1967-1968
BOX 5	<i>Comedy & Entertainment</i> magazine, 1986-1987
BOX 5	Comedy Center, 1971-1991
BOX 6	Comedy Center, 1971-1991 (6 folders)
BOX 6	<i>Communicator's Journal</i> , 1983
BOX 6	Computer retrieval, 1992
BOX 6	Contributors article, 1977, undated
BOX 6	Coolidge, Calvin, 1981
BOX 7	Copyright information, 1963-1991
BOX 7	Copyrights, 1946-1988 (7 folders)
BOX 8	Copyrights, 1946-1988 (4 folders)
BOX 8	Costello, John, 1977, 1997
BOX 8	Creative Concepts, 1986-1987
BOX 8	Crofts, Peter, 1984-1988
BOX 8	Cummings, Herb, and Barbara Cummings, 2000
BOX 8	<i>Current Comedy</i> , 1964-1991
BOX 9	<i>Current Comedy</i> , 1964-1991 (3 folders)
BOX 9	Daly, John Jay, 1978-1979, 1991-1992, 1998-2009
BOX 9	Dawson, Donald S., 1995
BOX 9	Dechau, Gary, 1992-2000
BOX 9	Dechter & Kornbluth, 1978
BOX 9	Delaney, Mick, 1973-1986, 1994-1996
BOX 9	Dickson, Paul, 1992-1996
BOX 9	Dolphin Enterprises agreement, 1962
BOX 9	Doubleday & Co. <i>2100 Laughs for All Occasions</i> , 1982-1990
BOX 10	<i>2400 Jokes to Brighten Your Speeches</i> , 1980-1989
BOX 10	<i>2500 Jokes to Start 'Em Laughing</i> , 1978-1988
BOX 10	<i>Ad-Libber's Handbook</i> , 1969-1971, 1979 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Book and author talks, 1971-1973
BOX 10	<i>Encyclopedia of One-Liner Comedy</i> , 1971-1985, 1995
BOX 10	Humor division, 1971
BOX 10	<i>Joke-Teller's Handbook</i> , 1964-1968, 1975-1979
BOX 10	Miscellany, 1970, 1983-1993, 1999
BOX 10	Promotion, 1966-1968, 1974
BOX 11	Dunn, Jerry Camarillo, Jr., 1990-1991
BOX 11	Dunn, Joseph R., 1998-1999
BOX 11	Dunn, Ricki, 2006
BOX 11	<i>Dynamic Years</i> magazine, 1979-1984

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

Container	Contents
BOX 11	Eberhart, Elvin (Cy), 1993-2012
BOX 11	Elnicky, Robert N., 1989-2002
DF	Elnicky, Robert N., video files, 2002, undated Digital ID: mss86325_201_007 Digital ID: mss86325_201_008
BOX 11	Emery, Harold, 1966-1969
BOX 11	Erickson, Lou, 1971
BOX 11	Ewald, William Bragg, Jr., and Mary Ewald, 1994-2001
BOX 11	<i>Executive Fitness</i> newsletter, 1989
BOX 11	<i>Executive Speaker</i> newsletter, 1985-1992
BOX 11	<i>Family Circle</i> magazine 1978
BOX 11	<i>Family Weekly</i> , 1971-1979
BOX 11	<i>Farmers' Almanac</i> , 1978-1981, 1990-1994
BOX 12	Fassihi, Theresa, 1990
BOX 12	Fechtner, Leopold, 1976, 1983, 1999-2001
BOX 12	Feinberg, Leonard, and Lilian Feinberg, 1978-1982, 1990-2006
BOX 12	Financial Executives Institute, 1984-1985
BOX 12	Fitzgerald, Peter, 1999
BOX 12	Florentine, Zina, 1973-1980
BOX 12	Ford, Gerald R. Christmas cards, 1976-2006
BOX 12	Correspondence, 1968-2018
BOX 12	Miscellany, 1979-2011 (4 folders)
BOX 13	Miscellany, 2012-2015
BOX 13	White House memorabilia, 1975-1977 See also Oversize (4 folders)
BOX 13	Frank Wright Associates, 1972-1979
BOX 13	Franklin, Ben B., 1980-2000
BOX 14	Fry, William F., 1997-1999
BOX 14	Gardner, Gerald, 1985-1992
BOX 14	Gardner, Martin, 1991-2010 (5 folders)
BOX 14	Gary, Harold, 1974
BOX 14	Geller, Judith, 2006
BOX 14	George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1991-1992
BOX 14	Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 2004-2019 (2 folders)
BOX 15	Gerald R. Ford Library, Ann Arbor, Mich. Dedication, 1981
BOX 15	Robert Orben Papers, 1990, 2005-2006, 2015
BOX 15	Gingras, Angèle de T., 1987-1996
BOX 15	Gliner, Art, 1947-1963, 1991-2011
BOX 15	Glucksman, Ernest D., 1978
BOX 15	Gold, Bill, 1993-2000
BOX 15	Gold, Victor, 1990, 2007
BOX 15	Golomb, Frederick M., 1986

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

Container	Contents
BOX 15	<i>Good Morning America</i> , television program, 1984-1985
BOX 15	Gordon, Bill, 1983
BOX 15	Gore, James, 1968-1972, 1983
BOX 15	Gove, Bill, 1977-2002
BOX 15	Green, Abel, 1964-1973 (2 folders)
BOX 15	Greene, Mort, 1970-1992
BOX 16	Gregory, Dick
BOX 16	Air spots, 1965
BOX 16	<i>Back of the Bus</i> , 1961-1969
BOX 16	Miscellany, 1965-1970
BOX 16	<i>What's Happening</i> , 1965
BOX 16	Grossman, John, 1978-1995
BOX 16	Haband Company, 1968-1973 (4 folders)
BOX 16	Hall, Floyd, 1972
BOX 16	Halligan, Robert A., 1988-2007 (2 folders)
BOX 17	Harry Byrd Kline Celebrity Service, 1972-1974
BOX 17	Hartmann, Robert Trowbridge, 1978, 1992, 2008
BOX 17	Harvey, Paul, 1983, 1991-2001, 2008-2009
BOX 17	Hawkins, Robert, 1994-1999
BOX 17	Heinz, John F., 1983-2004 (2 folders)
BOX 17	Helitzer, Mel, 1984-1986, 1998-2003 (2 folders)
DF	Helitzer, Mel, audio files, 2002 Digital ID: mss86325_201_002
BOX 17	Henrichs, Garth, 1978-1981, 1990-2002 (2 folders)
BOX 17	Hercer, Edmund R., 1981-1984, 1998-2003, 2012
BOX 17	Hersey, Ross V., 1995-1999
BOX 17	Hill, I. William, and Lou-Lou Hill, 1982-1983, 1989-1998
BOX 18	Hoffmeister, Bruce F., 1991
BOX 18	Hollywood School of Comedy Writing, Hollywood, Calif., 1967-1971
BOX 18	Holst, Art, 1996
BOX 18	House of Humour and Satire, Gabrovo, Bulgaria, 1984
BOX 18	"How-to" topics, 1971-1987 (6 folders)
BOX 19	Hulke, Malcolm, 1972-1975 (2 folders)
BOX 19	<i>Humor News</i> magazine, 1984-1985
BOX 19	Humor schools, 1979-1981
BOX 19	Humor workshops, 1975-1986, undated (2 folders)
BOX 19	Ideas, promotion, 1963, undated
BOX 19	International Brotherhood of Magicians, 1997-1999

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

Container	Contents
BOX 19	IBM United Kingdom Limited, 1985-1986
BOX 19	International Laughter Society, 1984
BOX 19	International Platform Association, 1972-2001
BOX 19	Jacobs, Seaman, 1970-1971, 1983-2006
BOX 19	Jamison, Warren, 1985
BOX 19	Jensen, Norman, 1973, 1984-1999, 2006
BOX 20	John Rain Associates, 1968-1973 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Jones, L. Bevel, III, 1990
BOX 20	Judson Welliver Society, 1985-2011 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Kasman, Louis P., 1979
BOX 20	Kim Dawson Agency, 1974-1980, 1989
BOX 20	King, Llewellyn, 2000-2001
BOX 20	Kiplinger, 1980
BOX 20	Kirk, John, 1976-1979
BOX 20	Klein, Allen, 1988-1992
BOX 20	Koering, Marilyn J., 1988
BOX 20	Kreiling, Ernie, 1968-1970, 1988, 2004-2008
BOX 20	Kupcinet, Irv., 1974, 1983, 1991-2002
BOX 20	Kupferman, Stanley 1964 -1965 (3 folders)
BOX 21	1966-1968 (4 folders)
BOX 21	Kurtz, Frank, 1984
BOX 21	LaGuire, Al, 1967-1968
BOX 21	Landmark Forum, 2001
BOX 21	Lang, Margo Terzian, 1973-1977
BOX 21	<i>Larry King Show</i> , radio program, 1979-1983
BOX 21	Larsen, Erika, <i>Genii</i> magazine, 1994-1998
BOX 21	Larson, Joe, 1979-1984, 1998- 2005
BOX 21	<i>Laugh-Makers</i> magazine, 1982-1983, 1994
BOX 21	Laughter Works, 1990-1991
BOX 21	<i>Leaders</i> magazine, 1988
BOX 21	Levey, Bob, 1994-1996
BOX 21	Lewis, George Q., 1978-1979
BOX 21	Lewis, Shari, 1968-1983, 1990-1999
BOX 21	Libby, Bill "The Champs Speak," book project, 1970
BOX 21	<i>Life in the Pit</i> , 1969-1972
BOX 21	Lindner, Charles, 1980-1981, 1992-2001 (2 folders)
BOX 22	Lindner, Charles, 2002-2013 (2 folders)
BOX 22	<i>Linking Ring</i> magazine, 1995-2005
BOX 22	Long, Carolyn K., 2002

Alphabetical File, 1941-2019

Container	Contents
BOX 22	Lowell, Juliet, 1979-1980
BOX 22	Lufkin, Dan, 1974-1976
BOX 22	Lund, Robert, 1978, 1991-1996
BOX 22	Mack, Ferris, 1989-1992
BOX 22	<i>Magic</i> magazine, 2000-2004
BOX 22	Maher Studios, 1995-2000
BOX 22	Malone, Paul, 1994
BOX 22	Maloney, Stephen R., 1992-1993
BOX 22	Marcantonio, Veda Ward, 1976-1979
BOX 22	Marriott Corp., 1971-1977
BOX 22	Marshall, Jay, and Frances Marshall, 1982-1986, 1995-2005
BOX 22	Martin, Steve, 2000, 2007
BOX 22	Marvin Josephson Associates, 1964-1978 (2 folders)
BOX 23	Marvin Josephson Associates, 1964-1978 (2 folders)
BOX 23	Massabny, Rich, 1993
BOX 23	Matheson, Sally, 1989
BOX 23	Mathias, Barbara, 1983
BOX 23	McCaffrey, Joseph F., 1983-1996
BOX 23	McGinnis, Mack, undated
BOX 23	McManus, Ed, 1990-1991
BOX 23	Medhurst, Martin J., 1984
BOX 23	<i>Meetings & Conventions</i> magazine, 1970-1985
BOX 23	Merriam-Webster, <i>Speaker's Handbook of Humor</i> , 1999-2001 (3 folders)
BOX 23	Meyers, Hal, circa 2013
BOX 23	Mihalec, John, 1978, 2007-2008
BOX 23	Mitchell, Greg, 1981
BOX 23	Mocerino, Gus, 1981
BOX 23	<i>Modern Maturity</i> magazine, 1986-1987
BOX 23	Monroe, Doug, 1990-1991, 2004
BOX 24	Moran, Susan, 1982-1984, 1992-1995
BOX 24	Morrison, Samuel D., Jr., 1986-1988
BOX 24	Mott, Robert L., 1971, 1999-2000
BOX 24	Murphey, Bob, 1992-1995
BOX 24	National Association for Corporate Speaker Activities, 1983-1987
BOX 24	National Association of Government Communicators, 1977
BOX 24	National Association of Mature People, 1983
BOX 24	National Comedy Hall of Fame, proposed, 1993-1998
BOX 24	<i>National Enquirer</i> , 1974-1977
BOX 24	National Press Club, 1977, 2001, 2008
BOX 24	National Speakers Association, 1977-1984
BOX 24	<i>Nation's Business</i> magazine, 1990
BOX 24	Nebel, Long John, 1970, 1978
BOX 24	New books, 1972-1977
BOX 24	<i>New Satirist</i> magazine, 1981

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BOX 25	Nilsen, Don L. F., 1980-1987, 2000-2008
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BOX 25	Orben Productions, circa 1960-circa 1967
BOX 25	Orleans, Anne, undated
BOX 25	Outlet Book Co., 1978
BOX 25	Parvin, Landon, 1980, 1987, 1993
BOX 25	Pattis, S. William, 1978, 1984-1999
BOX 25	Peet, Richard George Clayton, 1994-2000
BOX 25	Pendleton, Winston K., 1980-1984
BOX 25	Perret, Gene, 1981-1984, 1992-2001
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BOX 25	<i>Playboy</i> magazine, 1966-1976
BOX 25	Portnor, Ralph, 1967, 1984, 2000-2008
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BOX 25	Prentice Hall, 1990
BOX 26	Presidential Speechwriters Roundtable, 1995
BOX 26	Preston, Charles, 1984-1999, 2006
BOX 26	Pritzker, Robert A., 1994
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BOX 26	<i>Psychology Today</i> magazine, 1978-1979
BOX 26	Pullen, Kaye, 1996-2002
BOX 26	<i>Pulse of Broadcasting</i> magazine, 1987
BOX 26	<i>Quote</i> magazine, 1973-1991
BOX 26	Ragaway, Martin A., 1971-1976
BOX 26	Random House, 2010-2012
BOX 26	Raniello, John, 1977-1983
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BOX 26	<i>Reader's Digest</i> magazine, 1969-1971, 1981-1998, 2008-2009
BOX 26	<i>Real People</i> , television program, 1979
BOX 26	<i>Red Skelton Hour</i> , television program, 1965-1977 (3 folders)
BOX 27	<i>Red Skelton Hour</i> , television program, 1980-1984, 1990 (2 folders)
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BOX 27	Rhine, Larry, 1970-1976, 1992
BOX 27	Riordan, Gene, 1992-1994
BOX 27	Rogers, Robert B., 1976, 1994-1996, 2003
BOX 27	Ross, Stanley Ralph, 1992-1993
BOX 27	Rushford, Greg, 1982-1983
BOX 27	Russell, Pat, 2001

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BOX 27	Schlesinger, Robert, 2006-2007
BOX 27	Scott, Mike, and Sheila Scott, 1979, 1989-1992, 2000-2002
BOX 27	<i>Seattle Post-Intelligencer</i> , 1981-1983
BOX 27	Seplin, Amy, 1996
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BOX 28	Shapiro, Irv, 1978-1979
BOX 28	Shearer, Lloyd, 1971, 1993-2001
BOX 28	Shell Oil Co., 1976
BOX 28	Shields, Mark, 1981-1982
BOX 28	Sidey, Hugh, 1995-1997
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BOX 28	Skelton, Red, 1965, 1971, 1983, 1990-1991, 1998
BOX 28	Speakers bureaus, miscellaneous, 1977-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 28	Speaking, correspondence, 1973-1981 (2 folders)
BOX 28	Speaking and writing fee quotes, 1977-1985 (3 folders)
BOX 29	Speaking and writing fee quotes, 1986-1994 (3 folders)
BOX 29	Speaking possibilities, 1971-1981
BOX 29	Speech book, undated
BOX 29	Speech Communications Association, 1981
BOX 29	<i>Speechwriter's Newsletter</i> , 1980-1989, 1995
BOX 29	Stalter, J. Neil, 1997
BOX 29	Steiner, Paul, 1985
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BOX 29	<i>Success Unlimited</i> magazine, 1979
BOX 29	Sweet, Cody, 1972-1978
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BOX 30	Technique book, 1956-1977 (2 folders)
BOX 30	Teller, Sanford, 1975-1976, 1990
BOX 30	Theis, Paul A., 1971-1974, 1981, 1992, 2004
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BOX 30	Trachtenberg, Stephen Joel, 1987-1988, 1999
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BOX 31	Turner, Morrie, 1965, 2000, undated
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BOX 31	University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo. 1981-1988
BOX 31	Vallée, Rudy, 1964, 1971-1975, 1982-1986
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BOX 31	Walker & Associates, 1988-1993
BOX 31	Wall, Thomas J., 1993-1995
BOX 31	Walters, Dottie, 1981-1988, 1994, 2000
BOX 31	Ward, Tom, 1971
BOX 31	Washington Press Club Foundation, 1988
BOX 31	We the People 200, Philadelphia, Pa., 1987
BOX 31	White, Daniel R., 1991-1993
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BOX 31	Williams, Pat, 1984, 1995, 2002-2003 (2 folders)
BOX 32	Wiltshire Book Co., 1990-1995, 2006
BOX 32	Woloshin, Douglas, 1980-1981, 1993
BOX 32	Workman, Peter, 1966, 1977-1982, 1989, 2002-2005
BOX 32	Workshop Library on World Humour, 1973, 1987
BOX 32	<i>Writer's Digest</i> magazine, 1970, 1981
BOX 32	Writers Guild of America, 1962-1975, 1985, 1997

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Speeches and Writings, 1945-2018

The Speeches and Writings series contains approximately sixty years of jokes, one-liners, writings, and remarks from Orben's career as a comedy writer and humor consultant for performers, television programs, public figures, and corporate clients. His earliest material is included in a grouping of small self-published books, such as *The Encyclopedia of Patter* (1946), *Magicedotes* (1948), and *The Working Comedian's Gag File* (1956), that Orben wrote for magicians, emcees, comedians, and other performers. The largest portion of this material relates to his topical humor service, *Orben's Current Comedy*, that he edited from 1958 to 1989 with a small break between 1968 and 1971. This periodical, issued monthly and then bi-monthly, contains jokes and one-liners relating to current events and prominent figures in politics and entertainment. Orben later compiled some of this material into a series of books. Orben's writing for television is documented in an index card file arranged by topic, labeled "Skelton Stockpile," containing jokes he wrote for *The Red Skelton Hour* as well material he wrote for *The Jack Paar Program* in 1962. Another set of index cards contains material Orben wrote for comedian Dick Gregory's book, *From the Back of the Bus* (1962). Additional material relating to this project can be found in the Alphabetical File series. Another group of writings contains material he wrote for International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) corporate events. Orben's articles and essays about the writing, effective delivery, and use of humor in speeches, as well as his speeches and speech material about humor in the presidency are also included in this series. An unpublished memoir offers Orben's account of events in his life until the end of his time in the Gerald R. Ford administration. Additional jokes that he sent to

Speeches and Writings, 1945-2018

Container

Contents

individuals and publications, particularly topical material written in the 1990s, are located in the Alphabetical File series under the name of the person or publication. Material types include jokes, articles, books, book drafts, periodicals, a memoir, notes, interview transcripts, speeches, and scripts. Arranged alphabetically by title or type of material and therein chronologically. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 32	Articles and essays, 1945-1946, 1968-1972, 1978-2002 (3 folders)
BOX 32	"Bob Orben's Current Comedy for Speakers," <i>American Speaker</i> magazine, 1994-2006 (3 folders)
BOX 33	"Bob Orben's Current Comedy for Speakers," <i>American Speaker</i> magazine, 2007-2009
BOX 33	Book drafts, 1990-circa 2000 (2 folders)
BOX 33	Book drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 34	Book drafts, undated (3 folders)
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BOX 38	Books, 1957-1964 (7 folders)
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BOX 39	Humorous quotes in print, 1995-2018
BOX 39	International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) material, 1977-1980 (11 folders)
BOX 40	International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) material, 1981-1984 (10 folders)
BOX 41	International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) material, 1985-1986 (7 folders)
BOX 41	International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) material, undated
BOX 42	International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) material, undated (3 folders)
BOX 42	Interviews with Orben
BOX 42	Gerald R. Ford Oral History Project, 2008-2009
BOX 42	Miscellaneous, 1973-1983, 1999-2013
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DF	Miscellaneous, video file, 2012 Digital ID: mss86325_201_003
BOX 42	<i>Jack Paar Program</i> material, 1962

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BOX 42	Lewis, Shari, material, 1968
BOX 42	Magic periodicals, 1946
BOX 42	Memoir, circa 1993-circa 1994 (3 folders)
BOX 43	Miscellaneous jokes, 1960s-1998, undated (7 folders)
BOX OV 4	Miscellaneous jokes, undated See Oversize
BOX OV 5	Miscellaneous jokes, undated See Oversize
BOX 44	Miscellaneous writings, 2011-2014, undated
BOX 44	Notes and jottings, 1972-2017, undated (4 folders)
BOX 44	<i>Orben Comedy Letter</i> , 1971-1972
BOX 44	<i>Orben's Comedy Fillers</i> , 1971-1980 (2 folders)
BOX 45	<i>Orben's Current Comedy</i>
BOX 45	Issues, bound
BOX 45	Vol. 1, 1958, Nov.-1959, Oct.
BOX 45	Vol. 2, 1959, Nov.-1960, Oct.
BOX 45	Vol. 3, 1960, Nov.-1961, Oct.
BOX 45	Vol. 4, 1961, Nov.-1962, Oct.
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BOX 45	Vol. 6, 1963, Nov.-1964, Oct.
BOX 45	Vol. 7, 1964, Nov.-1965, Oct.
BOX 45	Vol. 8, 1965, Nov.-1966, Oct.
BOX 46	Vol. 9, 1966, Nov.-1967, Sept.
BOX 46	Vol. 10, 1967, Oct.-1968, Apr.
BOX 46	Issues, unbound
BOX 46	Nos. 190-242, 1971-1972
BOX 46	Nos. 243-292, 1973-1974
BOX 46	Nos. 293-340, 1975-1976
BOX 46	Nos. 341-388, 1977-1978
BOX 47	Nos. 389-436, 1979-1980
BOX 47	Nos. 437-484, 1981-1982
BOX 47	Nos. 485-532, 1983-1984
BOX 47	Nos. 533-580, 1985-1986
BOX 47	Nos. 581-628, 1987-1988
BOX 47	Nos. 629-630, 1989
BOX OV 6	Material by contributors, undated See Oversize
BOX OV 7	Unpublished, new material, undated See Oversize
BOX OV 8	Unpublished, new material, undated See Oversize
BOX OV 9	Unpublished, new material, undated See Oversize
BOX OV 10	Unpublished, new material, undated See Oversize
BOX OV 11- OV 14	<i>Red Skelton Hour</i>
BOX OV 11	Miscellaneous material, 1964-1968, 1977 See Oversize
BOX OV 12	"Skelton Stockpile" topical file, circa 1964-1969 See Oversize
BOX OV 13	"Skelton Stockpile" topical file, circa 1964-1969 See Oversize
BOX OV 14	"Skelton Stockpile" topical file, circa 1964-1969 See Oversize

Speeches and Writings, 1945-2018

Container	Contents
BOX 48	Speech pages, 1970s-2000s (3 folders)
BOX 48	Speeches, 1970s (4 folders)
BOX 49	Speeches, 1970s (2 folders)
BOX 49	Speeches, 1980s-2013 (5 folders)
DF	Speeches, video file, 2013 Digital ID: mss86325_201_006
BOX 50-52	Miscellany, 1945-2019 A small Miscellany series contains additional material documenting Orben's life and career including press clippings about or mentioning him and photographs depicting his work with President Gerald R. Ford. A scrapbook contains Orben's earliest published writings, most of which relate to magic. Material types include card files, calendars, photographs, press clippings, lists, passports, a scrapbook, and video files from an award ceremony. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.
BOX OV 15 - OV 16	Address file
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BOX 50	Biographical information, circa 1970s, 1990, circa 2007, 2015
BOX 50	Calendars, 1976-1977
BOX 50	Christmas cards, 2007, undated
BOX 50	Drawing of Orben, 1987
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DF	Honors and awards, video file, 2013 Digital ID: mss86325_201_005
BOX 50	Lists, 1969-2013 (2 folders)
BOX 50	Orben, Jean
BOX 50	Notes, 1995-2016, undated
BOX 50	Passports, 1964-1985
BOX 51	Passports, 1964-1985
BOX 51	Photographs
BOX 51	Portraits, 1950s-1980s (2 folders)
BOX 51	Various events, 1973-1986, 2004, undated
BOX 51	White House, 1974-1976 See also Oversize (4 folders)
BOX 52	Press clippings, 1954-1957, 1963-2019 (3 folders)
BOX 52	Printed matter, 1972-2016

Miscellany, 1945-2019

Container	Contents
BOX OV 17	Scrapbook, 1945-1947 See Oversize
BOX OV 1-OV 17	Oversize, 1945-1977 Card files of jokes, card files of addresses, photographs, a proclamation, and a scrapbook. Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and arranged by size.
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BOX OV 1	Bicentennial proclamation and photo collage, 1976 (Container 13, White House memorabilia)
	Speeches and Writings
BOX OV 2	Card file, material written for Dick Gregory's books, circa 1962
BOX OV 3	Card file, "Hot Lines" column material, circa 1968
BOX OV 4	Card file, miscellaneous jokes, undated
BOX OV 5	Card file, miscellaneous jokes, undated <i>Orben's Current Comedy</i>
BOX OV 6	Card file, material by contributors, undated
BOX OV 7	Card file, unpublished, new material, undated
BOX OV 8	Card file, unpublished, new material, undated
BOX OV 9	Card file, unpublished, new material, undated
BOX OV 10	Card file, unpublished, new material, undated <i>Red Skelton Hour</i>
BOX OV 11	Card file, miscellaneous material, 1964-1968, 1977
BOX OV 12	Card file, "Skelton Stockpile" topical file, circa 1964-1969
BOX OV 13	Card file, "Skelton Stockpile" topical file, circa 1964-1969
BOX OV 14	Card file, "Skelton Stockpile" topical file, circa 1964-1969
	Miscellany
BOX OV 15	Card file, address file, A-L, undated
BOX OV 16	Card file, address file, M-Y, undated
BOX OV 1	Photographs, White House, 1974-1976 (Container 51, same heading)
BOX OV 17	Scrapbook, clippings by and about Robert Orben and Jean Orben, 1945-1947