Edward Jablonski Papers

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2012562123

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu012011

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress
Revised 2017 April
Collection Summary
Title: Edward Jablonski Papers
Span Dates: 1942-2003
Bulk Dates: 1950-2000
Call No.: ML31.J25
Creator: Jablonski, Edward
Extent: 21,050 items
Extent: 77 containers
Extent: 36 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2012562123
Summary: Edward Jablonski (1922-2004) was an author and biographer of American songwriters Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, and Alan Jay Lerner. The collection includes drafts, project files, articles, liner notes, research materials, business papers and correspondence related to his literary projects.

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
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937.
Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983--Correspondence.
Jablonski, Edward--Correspondence.
Jablonski, Edward.
Jablonski, Edward.
Jablonski, Edward. Gershwin years.
Jablonski, Edward. Gershwin years.
Jablonski, Edward. Gershwin.
Jablonski, Edward. Gershwin.
Jablonski, Edward. Harold Arlen : happy with the blues.
Jablonski, Edward. Harold Arlen : happy with the blues.

Subjects
Aeronautics--History.
Biographers--United States.
Composers--United States--Biography.
Librettists--United States--Biography.
Lyricists--United States--Biography.
Musical theater--United States--20th century--History and criticism.
Musicals--United States--History and criticism.
Popular music--United States--History and criticism.

**Form/Genre**
Articles.
Biographies.
Business correspondence.
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Drafts (Documents)
Personal correspondence.
Photographs.
Programs (Publications)
Research notes.
Scripts (Documents)

**Provenance**
Gift; Edward Jablonski; 2004

**Accruals**
No further accruals are expected.

**Processing History**
The Edward Jablonski Papers were processed and the finding aid coded for EAD format by Janet McKinney in 2012. Additional processing and a revision to the finding aid took place in 2017.

**Transfers**
Audiovisual materials have been transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Edward Jablonski Collection (MAVIS collection no. 14504). An inventory of this material is available in the Music Division's collection file.

**Other Repositories**
Materials specifically related to *The Gershwin Years* are found in the Edward Jablonski and Lawrence D. Stewart Collection at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.

**Copyright Status**
Materials from the Edward Jablonski Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

**Access and Restrictions**
The Edward Jablonski Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.
Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Edward Jablonski Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1922, Mar. 1</td>
<td>Born, Bay City, Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942-1946</td>
<td>Served with the U.S. Army Field Artillery Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Founding member of Walden Records with Peter Bartok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Graduated from the New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Published with Lawrence D. Stewart <em>The Gershwin Years</em>. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Published <em>Harold Arlen: Happy With the Blues</em>. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Published <em>George Gershwin</em>. New York: Putnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-1980</td>
<td>Focused research on aviation history and published over 10 books on the subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Published <em>Gershwin</em>. New York: Doubleday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989, Jan. 11</td>
<td>Received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for <em>Gershwin</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Published <em>Gershwin Remembered</em>. Portland, Or.: Amadeus Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Published <em>Harold Arlen: Rhythm, Rainbows, and Blues</em>. Boston: Northeastern University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004, Feb. 10</td>
<td>Died of heart failure in Manhattan</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Scope and Content Note

The Edward Jablonski Papers span the period of 1942-2003, with the majority of the materials dating from 1950-2000. The collection includes book project materials, articles, liner notes, drafts, and related correspondence and business papers. All research, correspondence, and business papers pertaining to a given project are filed with its draft materials.

The Project Files series chiefly consists of materials used in the preparation and publication of Jablonski’s books on such American composers and songwriters as Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, and George Gershwin. Drafts, notes by chapter, research materials, and correspondence are present for each biographical work. These works include *Harold Arlen: Happy With the Blues*, *Harold Arlen: Rhythm, Rainbows, and Blues*, *Gershwin Remembered* and most extensively, *Gershwin*. Articles, liner notes, and other miscellaneous project material for each composer are then filed chronologically by date.

A significant cache of Ira Gershwin correspondence, which had been separated from the Jablonski Papers before its arrival at the Library, has been added to the collection and is noted in the container list. These materials augment the extant Ira Gershwin correspondence, which can be found throughout the correspondence folders of the various Gershwin-related projects.

Other major compositional projects follow the composer biographies in alphabetical order, including *The Encyclopedia of American Music*, and the *Music Lover’s Encyclopedia*. Materials for miscellaneous articles, liner notes, and other writings focusing on a particular composer or a general broader topic such as American musical theater, can be found filed chronologically by date.

Jablonski was also an author of aviation history, and there are several articles and correspondence related to his work in this field. These are compiled together with his other writings on various non-music related subjects.

Correspondence in the Miscellany series consists of personal letters and business papers, arranged either by last name of correspondent or by date. Notable individuals represented include Abe Berman, Peter Clay, Alan Dashiell, and David Cunard. The series also contains a small amount of miscellaneous personal items.
Organization of the Edward Jablonski Papers

The Edward Jablonski Papers are organized in two series:

- Project Files, 1950-2000
- Miscellany, 1942-2003
Description of Series

<table>
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<td>Project Files, 1950-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 65-68, 76-77</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1942-2003</td>
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## Container List

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### Biographical Works

- **Arlen, Harold**
  - BOX 1-2: Materials for *Harold Arlen: happy with the blues*
  - BOX 3-6: Materials for *Harold Arlen: rhythm, rainbows, and blues*
  - BOX 6-11: Articles, program notes, and liner notes
  - BOX 11-12, 77: Correspondence, tributes, iconography
  - BOX 12-13: Programs, scripts, sheet music, books

- **Bartók, Béla**
  - BOX 13-14: Articles and liner notes
  - BOX 14, 77: Research materials
  - BOX 15: Correspondence with Peter Bartók, 1962-2003
  - BOX 15-16: Materials for *Turkish folk music from Asia Minor*
  - BOX 16: Estate documents

- **Berlin, Irving**
  - BOX 17-20: Materials for *Irving Berlin: American troubadour*
  - BOX 21-23, 77: Writings, correspondence, iconography

- **Gershwin, George and Ira**
  - BOX 23-28: Materials for *Gershwin*
  - BOX 28-29, 70: Materials for *Gershwin Remembered*
  - BOX 29-30, 70: Materials for *The Gershwin Years*
  - BOX 31-32, 71: Articles
  - BOX 32-35, 71: Liner notes
  - BOX 35-36, 71: Program notes
  - BOX 36: Walden Records
  - BOX 37-39, 71: Projects
  - BOX 40-41: *Porgy and Bess*
  - BOX 41-44, 46, 72: Correspondence
    - Ira Gershwin correspondence can be found in the correspondence folders throughout the various Gershwin-related project files, with the most significant amount residing in box-folder 46/5-6. It includes over 140 pieces of correspondence spanning the years 1941-1980.
  - BOX 44-45, 76-77: Iconography
  - BOX 45-46: 100th anniversary celebrations
  - BOX 73-74, 77: Programs, clippings

- **Lerner, Alan Jay**
  - BOX 47-49: Biography, writings, correspondence

- **Serly, Tibor**
  - BOX 49: Writings, correspondence, research materials, photographs
## Project Files, 1950-2000

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<td>Vaughan Williams, Ralph</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 50-51</td>
<td>Writings, correspondence, research materials, photographs</td>
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<td>BOX 51-52</td>
<td>The American Musical</td>
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<td>BOX 52-54</td>
<td>Encyclopedia of American Music</td>
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<td>BOX 54</td>
<td>Masters of 20th Century Music</td>
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<td>BOX 55</td>
<td>Music Lover's Encyclopedia</td>
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### Miscellany

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<td>Articles</td>
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<td>Liner notes</td>
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<td>BOX 61-62</td>
<td>Projects</td>
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<td>Non-Music Writings</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Personal effects</td>
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