

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2012
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

Arlen, Harold, 1905-1986.

Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989.

Gershwin, George, 1898-1937.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983--Correspondence.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983.

Jablonski, Edward--Correspondence.

Jablonski, Edward.

Jablonski, Edward.

Jablonski, Edward. Alan Jay Lerner : a biography.

Jablonski, Edward. Alan Jay Lerner : a biography.

Jablonski, Edward. Gershwin remembered.

Jablonski, Edward. Gershwin remembered.

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.

Jablonski, Edward. Harold Arlen : rhythm, rainbows, and blues.

Jablonski, Edward. Harold Arlen : rhythm, rainbows, and blues.

Jablonski, Edward. Irving Berlin : American troubadour.

Jablonski, Edward. Irving Berlin : American troubadour.

Lerner, Alan Jay, 1918-1986.

Subjects

Aeronautics--History.

Biographers--United States.

Composers--United States--Biography.

Librettists--United States--Biography.

Lyricists--United States--Biography.

Musical theater--United States--History--20th century.

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

Date	Event
1922, Mar. 1	Born, Bay City, Michigan
1942-1946	Served with the U.S. Army Field Artillery Corp.
1949	Founding member of Walden Records with Peter Bartok
1950	Graduated from the New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y.
1958	Published with Lawrence D. Stewart <i>The Gershwin Years</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday
1961	Published <i>Harold Arlen: Happy With the Blues</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday
1962	Published <i>George Gershwin</i> . New York: Putnam
1965-1980	Focused research on aviation history and published over 10 books on the subject
1981	Published <i>Encyclopedia of American Music</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday
1987	Published <i>Gershwin</i> . New York: Doubleday
1989, Jan. 11	Received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for <i>Gershwin</i>
1992	Published <i>Gershwin Remembered</i> . Portland, Or.: Amadeus Press
1996	Published <i>Alan Jay Lerner: A Biography</i> . New York: H. Holt Published <i>Harold Arlen: Rhythm, Rainbows, and Blues</i> . Boston: Northeastern University Press
1999	Published <i>Irving Berlin: American Troubadour</i> . New York: Henry Holt
2004, Feb. 10	Died of heart failure in Manhattan

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

Container	Series
BOX 1-64, 69-77	<u>Project Files, 1950-2000</u>
BOX 65-68, 76-77	<u>Miscellany, 1942-2003</u>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-64, 69-77	Project Files, 1950-2000
	Biographical Works
	Arlen, Harold
BOX 1-2	Materials for <i>Harold Arlen: happy with the blues</i>
BOX 3-6	Materials for <i>Harold Arlen: rhythm, rainbows, and blues</i>
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 <i>Turkish folk music from Asia Minor</i>
BOX 16	Estate documents
	Berlin, Irving
BOX 17-20	Materials for <i>Irving Berlin: American troubadour</i>
BOX 21-23, 77	Writings, correspondence, iconography
	Gershwin, George and Ira
BOX 23-28	Materials for <i>Gershwin</i>
BOX 28-29, 70	Materials for <i>Gershwin Remembered</i>
BOX 29-30, 70	Materials for <i>The Gershwin Years</i>
BOX 30	Unpublished book, co-author Milton Caine
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	<i>Porgy and Bess</i>
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

Container

Contents

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

Miscellany

BOX 58-59	Articles
BOX 60-61	Liner notes
BOX 61-62	Projects
BOX 63-64	Subject files
BOX 56-58	Walden Records
BOX 69, 75	Non-Music Writings

BOX 65-68, 76-77 **Miscellany, 1942-2003**

BOX 65-68	Correspondence
BOX 68, 76-77	Personal effects