

Lyons Family Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018571982>

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Emily Baumgart, 2024 March

Collection Summary

Title: Lyons Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1924-1983

Bulk Dates: 1937-1983

Call No.: ML31.L98

Creator: Lyons, Leonard, 1906-1976; Lyons, Warren

Extent: 42 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 1.25 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018571982>

Summary: Leonard Lyons was an American newspaper columnist who wrote for the *New York Post* about Broadway in his column "The Lyons Den." His son, Warren Lyons, was a theater producer and director. The collection includes correspondence to Leonard and Warren from notable figures, as well as printed music inscribed to them.

Acquisition Information

Warren Lyons donated the majority of the collection in 2002. Correspondence between Leonard Lyons and Ira and Lee Gershwin was purchased from a manuscript dealer in 2023.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Emily Baumgart processed the Lyons Family Papers and created the finding aid in 2024.

Transfers

Two inscribed novels by Richard Condon were transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Materials Cataloged Separately

Books on performing arts topics inscribed to members of the Lyons Family are cataloged in the Music Division's general collection.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Lyons Family 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 Lyons Family 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 on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Leonard Lyons

Leonard Lyons was born Leonard Sucher on September 10, 1906, in New York City. He originally studied law and graduated from St. John's Law School in 1928. Lyons's news career began in 1930 when he began writing for the *Jewish Daily Forward*. In 1934, he won a *New York Post* competition to become their Broadway writer; his column, "The Lyons Den," ran for 40 years, ending on May 20, 1974. Lyons married Sylvia R. Schonberger, with whom he had four children: George, Jeffrey (notable film critic), Douglas, and Warren. He died on October 7, 1976, in New York.

Warren Lyons

Warren Lyons, one of Leonard Lyons's sons, studied at Columbia University. He produced stage shows, including *Lyrics by Ira Gershwin* in 1975, and won a New York Drama Critics Circle prize as producer of *The House of Blue Leaves* in 1971. With his then-wife Judith Siegfried, he co-directed a series of workshops called "The Joy of Singing." Lyons also authored the book *If You Don't Fit In, Stand Out!!: Insights, Reminders, and Affirmations* in 2001. Warren Lyons died in 2012.

Bibliography

"Leonard Lyons Dies; Columnist 40 Years." *New York Times*. October 8, 1976. <https://www.nytimes.com/1976/10/08/archives/leonard-lyons-dies-columnist-40-years-his-anecdotes-about-broadways.html>

"W. H. Lyons to Wed Miss Siegfried." *New York Times*. August 5, 1984. <https://www.nytimes.com/1984/08/05/style/w-h-lyons-wed-to-miss-siegfried.html>

Scope and Content Note

The Lyons Family Papers span from 1924 to 1983 and consist primarily of correspondence to Leonard or Warren Lyons. This includes letters from Ira and Lee Gershwin, as well as printed sheet music inscribed to members of the Lyons family.

Organization of the Lyons Family Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Correspondence, 1939-1983](#)
- [Music, 1924-1946](#)

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

Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989. Carefree. Change partners.

Carlisle, Kitty, 1910-2007.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980.

Gershwin, George, 1898-1937. Musicals. Selections.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983--Correspondence.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983.

Gershwin, Leonore, -1991.

Grace, Princess of Monaco, 1929-1982.
Hart, Moss, 1904-1961.
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972.
Lyons, Leonard, 1906-1976--Archives.
Lyons, Leonard, 1906-1976--Correspondence.
Lyons, Leonard, 1906-1976.
Lyons, Warren, -2012.
Rainier III, Prince of Monaco, 1923-2005.
Rogers, Ginger, 1911-1995.
Weill, Kurt, 1900-1950. Firebrand of Florence. Sing me not a ballad.

Subjects

Journalists--United States--Correspondence.
Lyricists--United States--Correspondence.

Form/Genre

Personal correspondence.

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

Correspondence, 1939-1983

Chiefly correspondence to Leonard Lyons from various politicians, artists, and other figures.

Of note is a large group of letters and telegrams from Ira and Lee Gershwin.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

BOX 2

Music, 1924-1946

Printed piano-vocal scores. Each is inscribed to Leonard or Warren Lyons from Ira Gershwin with the exception of "Change Partners," which is inscribed by Ginger Rogers.

Arranged alphabetically by composer and title of show/song therein.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1939-1983 Chiefly correspondence to Leonard Lyons from various politicians, artists, and other figures. Of note is a large group of letters and telegrams from Ira and Lee Gershwin. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Douglas, Justice William O., 1953, 1969, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Gershwin, Ira and Lee, 1939, 1948, 1958-1972, 1983, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Gish, Dorothy and Lillian, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Grimaldi, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, 1973-1974
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Hart, Moss and Kitty Carlisle, 1960, circa 1961
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Hoover, J. Edgar, 1953, 1968, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Kissinger, Henry A., undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Nixon, Richard and Pat, 1969
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Steinbeck, John?, 1962
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Thurber, James, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Tolson, Clyde, 1953
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Vinson, Justice Fred M., 1953
BOX 2	Music, 1924-1946 Printed piano-vocal scores. Each is inscribed to Leonard or Warren Lyons from Ira Gershwin with the exception of "Change Partners," which is inscribed by Ginger Rogers. Arranged alphabetically by composer and title of show/song therein. Berlin, Irving <i>Carefree</i> . Change Partners, 1938 Gershwin, George and Ira <i>Funny Face</i> . He Loves and She Loves, 1927 <i>Funny Face</i> . 'S Wonderful, 1927 <i>Lady, Be Good</i> . Oh, Lady Be Good!, 1924 <i>Lady, Be Good</i> . So Am I, 1925 <i>The Shocking Miss Pilgrim</i> . For You, for Me, for Evermore, 1946 <i>Strike Up the Band</i> . Soon, 1929 <i>Treasure Girl</i> . Feeling I'm Falling, 1928 Weill, Kurt and Ira Gershwin <i>The Firebrand of Florence</i> . Sing Me Not a Ballad, 1945
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	