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://lccn.loc.gov/2018571982

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu024009

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
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


Bibliography


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

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983--Correspondence.
Subjects
Journalists--United States--Correspondence.
Lyricists--United States--Correspondence.

Form/Genre
Personal correspondence.
**Description of Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1939-1983</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chiefly correspondence to Leonard Lyons from various politicians, artists, and other figures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Of note is a large group of letters and telegrams from Ira and Lee Gershwin.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td><strong>Music, 1924-1946</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printed piano-vocal scores. Each is inscribed to Leonard or Warren Lyons from Ira Gershwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the exception of &quot;Change Partners,&quot; which is inscribed by Ginger Rogers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by composer and title of show/song therein.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Container List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 1/3 | 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
BOX-FOLDER 2/1  
*Carefree.* Change Partners, 1938
Gershwin, George and Ira
BOX-FOLDER 2/2  
*Funny Face.* He Loves and She Loves, 1927
BOX-FOLDER 2/3  
*Funny Face.* 'S Wonderful, 1927
BOX-FOLDER 2/4  
*Lady, Be Good.* Oh, Lady Be Good!, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 2/5  
*Lady, Be Good.* So Am I, 1925
BOX-FOLDER 2/6  
*The Shocking Miss Pilgrim.* For You, for Me, for Evermore, 1946
BOX-FOLDER 2/7  
*Strike Up the Band.* Soon, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 2/8  
*Treasure Girl.* Feeling I'm Falling, 1928
Weil, Kurt and Ira Gershwin
BOX-FOLDER 2/9  
*The Firebrand of Florence.* Sing Me Not a Ballad, 1945