

**The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Herbert Mitgang
Papers, c1929-1995**

**C. Meyers, 8/13/82; F. Pitaro, 3/1/90;
Revised: 12/7/95, J. Stinson;
Revised: 7/2004, M. Biondi**

Summary

Title: Herbert Mitgang Papers, c.1929-95

Size: 41 linear ft. (26 cartons, 30 boxes)

Source: Gifts of Herbert Mitgang, 1979, 1990, 1994-1995

Access: Audiotapes in Container #56 unavailable until duplicated

Description: The papers document the career of Herbert Mitgang as author, editor, journalist and producer of television documentaries. The papers include general correspondence, writings, research notes, notebooks, memorabilia, photographs, audiotapes of interviews, and motion picture films.

Biographical Note

Herbert Mitgang, author, editor, journalist and motion-picture producer was born on January 20, 1920 in New York City where he later attended St. John's College and Law School. During World War II he served as an army correspondent and became the managing editor of the Oran-Casablanca and Sicily editions of *Stars and Stripes*. After the war he joined the *New York Times* as a copy editor and reviewer. From 1955-62 he served as supervising editor of the drama section of the Sunday edition of the *Times*. He was an editorial writer and member of the editorial board of the *Times* in 1963-1964 and again in 1967-1976. From 1964 to 1967 Mitgang was assistant to the president and executive editor of *CBS News* during which time he produced several film documentaries including "Sandburg's Prairie Years", "Anthony Eden on Vietnam", and "D-Day Plus 20 Years". He also instructed evening classes in English at City College in 1948-1949 and was a visiting professor at Yale in 1975-1976. From 1948 to 1949 he was a member of the executive board of the Newspaper Guild of New York, CIO, and has been a long time-member and has served as president of both the Authors League and the Authors Guild. In addition to his career with the *Times*. Mitgang has contributed freelance articles to magazines, written several novels and biographies and has edited several books including the *Letters of Carl Sandburg*, *Civilians Under Arms: Stars and Stripes Civil War to Korea*, and *Spectator of America*

Series Notes

The papers include general correspondence (1945-77), correspondence and papers relating to the Authors Guild (1957-59), the Authors League (1962-73), and the *New York Times* Op-Ed Page and editorial board (1970-76). There are also typescripts, notes and reviews of Mitgang's novels and biographies; a collection of articles, scripts, and films from his "CBS Reports" documentaries (1963-65); miscellaneous articles, reviews, interviews and other papers dating from World War II to the present; and awards, accounts, scrapbooks and memorabilia. There are also photographs taken by Mitgang to illustrate his articles and interviews.

Included also are the following additions to the Herbert Mitgang Papers received in 1990 and in 1994-1995:

The additions received in 1990 (90M6) consist of general correspondence, notes, printed matter, photographs and cartoons, typescripts and proofs, and files collected by Mitgang for his book *Dangerous Dossiers: Exposing the Secret War Against America's Greatest Authors*.

The *Dangerous Dossiers* files, which make up the bulk of this addition, consist of Mitgang's correspondence (1983-88) with the FBI and of copies (c1929-81; bulk: 1940-60) of FBI dossiers which Mitgang obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. A few files (as noted on the container list) contain letters from authors who were under investigation. The files are listed by name on the container list.

The general correspondence (one folder) which is with administrators of the Freedom of Information Act relates to requests for copies of FBI dossier files. The photographs which are standard publishers' publicity shots of authors, and the cartoons, which are in the form of photocopies or photostats, were collected by Mitgang for illustrating his book. The typescript is an original draft of *Dangerous Dossiers*. The proofs are corrected galleys for the book and for the segments of it which were published in *The New Yorker* magazine in the "Annals of Government" column under the title "Policing America's Authors".

The additions received in 1994 (94M34) and in 1995 (95M35) consist of Mitgang's writings; his research notes and papers; and audiotapes of his interviews with Helen Wolff and with Admiral Gene R. La Rocque. The writings consist of a corrected typescript of the introduction to *Words Still Count with Me* (New York and London, W.W. Norton, 1995) and corrected page proofs of the book; and a typescript of a biographical sketch of Helen Wolff which was published (Aug. 2, 1982) in the "Profiles" column of *The New Yorker* magazine .

The research notes and papers relate to Admiral Gene R. La Rocque and Helen Wolff. The papers relating to Admiral La Rocque consist of notes and transcripts of Mitgang's recorded interviews (March 14, and Dec. 1, 1984) with Admiral La Rocque; and biographical materials (mainly printed ephemera) relating to Admiral La Rocque. Included is a letter (TLS, 9 p.) from Admiral La Rocque to Mitgang.

The papers relating to Helen Wolff consist of notes and transcripts of Mitgang's recorded interviews (March 15 and April 5, 1981) with Helen Wolff; and correspondence relating to Helen and Kurt Wolff. Included are letters from Beatrice Flexner, Günter Grass, Uwe Johnson, William Jovanovich, Georges Simenon; and seven letters from Helen Wolff. There is also an undated memorandum (4 p.) by Helen Wolff relating to Pantheon Books and her editorial policy.

The audiotapes consist of 5 audiocassettes of Mitgang's interviews with Admiral Gene R. La Rocque conducted at New York University (3/14/84) and at Admiral La Rocque's residence in Washington, D.C. (12/1/84); and 5 audio cassettes of his interviews with Helen Wolff (3/15/81, 3/22/81, 4/5/81). Included also is one audiocassette of the House Budget Hearings in Washington, D.C. (3/29/85).

Container List

General Correspondence

Box	Eol	
1	1-14	1938; 1945 - 1963
2	1-10	1964 - 1965
3	1-12	1966 - 1974
4	1-3	1975 - 1978; 1979
5	1	A
	2	Ba-Bd
	3	Be
	4	Bi-Bn
	5	Bo-Bz
	6	Bassani, Georgio
	7	Benjamin, Burton
	8	Ca-Ci
	9	Cla-Cle
	10	Coe-Con
	11	Coo-Cow
	12	Cr-Cu
	13	Calder, Alexander
	14	Century Club
	15	Columbia University School of Journalism
	16	Cronkite, Walter
6	1	Da
	2	De - Di
	3	Do - Du
	4	E
	5	Fa - Fl
	6	Fo - Fz
	7	Fonda, Jane
	8	Ga - Gi
	9	Goldman - Goodsell
	10	Gl - Golding
	11	Gordimer - Grif
	12	Gro - Gu
	13	Gary, Romaine
	14	Gray, Francine du Plessix
7	1	Ha
	2	He- Hob
	3	Hf - Hou
	4	Hoffman Irving
	5	Hu - I
	6	J
	7	Ka
	8	Kr - Ku
	9	Ke - Ko

	10	La - Lh
8	1	Li - Lz
	2	Mac/Mc
	3	Ma - Mat
	4	Mau - May
	5	Me - Mi
	6	Mo - Mz
	7	Moore, Henry
	8	Morse, Arthur/Joyce
	9	N
	10	New York City &/or State
	11	News Service
	12	O
	13	Pa - Pl
	14	Po - Pz
	15	Pacific Stars and Stripes
9	1	Ra - Re
	2	Ri
	3	Ro
	4	Ru - Ry
	5	Rockefeller Fund
	6	Reader Mail
	7	Sa - Sb
	8	Sc - Sche
	9	Schi - Sci
	10	Se
	11	Sh
	12	Si - Sp
		Sq - St
9A		Su - Sz
		Sandburg, Carl; Margaret (misc. corresp. regarding not from)
		Shannon, William V.
		Society of American Historians
		Spielvogel, Carl
		T
		Tolstoy, Count Nicolai and Alexandra Tolstoy
		U - V
		Wa
		We
		Wh - Wi
		Wn - Wo
		Wr - Wy
		Webster, Bethuel M.
		Y - Z

Authors Guild

- 1 1957 - 1968 July
- 2 1968 June - 1969 March
- 3 1969 April - Dec
- 4 1970 - 1971 March
- 5 1971 Apr - 1971 Oct
- 6 1971 Nov - 1972 May
- 7 1972 June - 1972 Dec
- 8 1973 Jan - June
- 9 1973 July - 1974 Feb
- 10 1974 Mar - Sept
- 11 1974 Oct - Dec

- 11 1 1975
- 2 1976 Jan - April; 1978; 1979
- 3 Constitution and By-Laws
- 4 Financial Statements, 1968; 1972
- 5 Guide to the Author's Guild Trade Book Contract
- 6 Membership invitation and card (Mitgang's personal items)
- 7 Misc. articles, newsletter, clippings
- 8 Program proposals
- Author's Guild Bulletin
- 9 1957 - 1964
- 10 1965 - 1970
- 11 1971 - 1972
- 12 1973
- 13 1976
- 14 1979

Authors League

- 12 1962 - 1973
- 1974 - 1979
- Amicus Brief's
- Constitution and By-Laws; Certificate of Incorporation
- Financial Statement , 1962; 1974 - 1976
- Printed Materials

New York Times Editorial Board

- 13 1970
- 1971 Jan - Sept
- 1971 Oct - Dec
- 1972
- 1973 Jan
- 1973 Feb - Mar
- 1973 Apr - May
- 1973 June - July
- 1973 Aug - Nov
- 1973 Dec - 1974 Jane - Feb
- 1974 Mar - June
- 1974 July - Dec
- 14 1975
- 1976
- related materials

New York Times Op-Ed Page Correspondence

15	1	Adams, Thomas B. Antonioni, Michelangelo Arnow, Harriette Simpson
	2	Bayh, Birch Bowles, Chester
	3	Bradley, Omar N. Brzezinski, Zbigniew Burns, James MacGregor
	4	Capp, Al Chayevsky, Paddy Chennault, Anna Chomsky, Noam
	5	Clark, Blair Clark, Mark W. Clark, Ramsey Clark, Tom
	6	Clifford, Clark M. Commager, Henry Steele
	7	Dolci, Danilo Douglas, William O.
	8	Eisenhower, (Dwight) David II
	9	Eisenhower, John S.D. Fairbank, John K. Fitzgerald, Frances
	10	Fontaine, Andre Gavin, James M. Goldman, Eric F.
	11	Highet, Gilbert Heilbroner, Robert L. Hesburgh, Theodore M. Heckscher, August Hayakawa, Samuel Handlin, Oscar Halsey, Margaret Howe, Irving
	12	Ives, Burl Jensen, Oliver Kempton, Murray Kennan, George
16	1	Kennedy, Edward M. Kennedy, Robert F.
	2	Keyserling, Leon Kieran, John Koch, Edward I. Krim, Seymour Kristol, Irving
	3	La Rocque, Gene LaMay, Curtis E. Lea, Tom Lifton, Robert J.

		Lilienthal, David E.
		Lynes, (Joseph) Russell
4		McGovern, George
		McCarthy, Eugene J.
5		MacLaine, Shirley
		MacNamara, Robert
		McNeill, William H.
		McWilliams, Carey
		Malraux, Andre
		Mansfield, Mike
		Marshall, Samuel L.A.
		Mends-France, Pierre
		Menotti, Gian Carlo
		Monod, Jacques
		Moravia, Alberto
		Morgenthau, Hans J.
6		Moses Robert
		Moynihan, Daniel Patrick
		Nader, Ralph
		Osborn, Robert
		Papandreou, Andreas G.
		Percy, Walker
		Peyre, Henri
7		Ridgway, Matthew B.
8		Rosten, Leo
		Rostow, Eugene
		Rostow, Walt
		Sahl, Mort
		St. Clair, James D.
		Schlesinger Jr., Arthur
		Sciascia, Leonard
		Shirer, William L.
		Stanton, Frank
		Strauss, Lewis L. (Admiral, USN)
		Streeter, Edward
		Swados, Harvey
		Taylor, Telford
		Teller, Edward
		Thomas, Norman
17	1	Tugwell, Rexford G.
		Tuchman, Barbara
	2	Urey, Harold C.
	3	Viereck, Peter
		Wald, George
		Wedemeyer, Albert C.
		Yevtushenko, Yevgeny
		Yost, Charles W.

	Photographs
18	A-Z (Persons and subjects)
19	"Stars & Stripes" and Carl Sandburg (oversized photos only)
	Writings
20	<i>New York Times</i> (c1948-79)
21	Other publications (clippings of articles)
22	Other publications (unsorted manuscripts)
23	Up Front with Bill Mauldin (Film Treatment)
	<i>Articles, Reviews, Interviews, and Related Papers (by Mitgang et al)</i>
24	Articles by Mitgang Notes for Articles (from Germany, Ireland and London) Interviews: Gunter Grass, David Levine, Sean O'Faolain, and Mary Lavin <i>New York Times</i> Articles by Others (1967-76) Clippings: <i>New York Times</i> column (1967-70)
25	Clippings: Book Reviews (by Mitgang) Articles and Notes (by Mitgang) Papers re Organizations: PEN, Asian Scholars, Vietnam Veterans
	Correspondence and Papers re Books by Mitgang
26	[contents removed to other boxes]
27	- <i>America at Random</i> ; - <i>Lincoln As they Saw Him</i> - <i>Working for the Reader</i>
28-	- <i>The Return</i> (typescript and manuscript)
29-30	- <i>Get These Men Out of the Hot Sun</i>
30-31	- <i>Spectator of America</i>
32	- <i>Washington in Civil War Days</i> (typescripts and notes)
33	- <i>The Letters of Carl Sandburg</i> (manuscript, correspondence, monograph)
34-35	[contents removed to other boxes]
36	- <i>New York Naturally</i> (unpublished articles) - <i>Between the Wars</i> (magazine articles) -unsorted books files and articles
37	- <i>The Man Who Rode the Tiger</i> (typescript and letters)
38	- <i>Civilians under Arms: Stars and Stripes Civil War to Korea</i> (notes); "The Stars and Stripes" (clippings)

39 -*Dangerous Dossiers* (Files)
 Algren, Nelson
 Anderson, Maxwell
 Anderson, Sherwood
 Arendt, Hannah
 Auden, W. H.
 Author's Guild / Author's League of America
 Baldwin, James
 Barnes, Djuna
 Bellow, Saul
 Bourke-White, Margaret
 Boyle, Kay (2 ALS)
 Brecht, Bertolt
 Buck, Pearl

40 Calder, Alexander
 Caldwell, Erskine
 Camus, Albert
 Capote, Truman
 Cather, Willa
 Cerf, Bennett
 Cheever, John
 Coover, Robert (no FBI file)
 DeAntonio, Emil
 Dos Passos, John
 Dreiser, Theodore
 Eliot, T. S.
 Faulkner, William
 Fitzgerald, F. Scott
 Frost, Robert
 Galbraith, John K.
 Gershwin, George
 Ginsburg, Allen (1 TLS)
 Greene, Graham (1 TLS)
 Grosz, George
 Hammett, Dashiell
 Hammerstein, III, Oscar
 Hellman, Lillian
 Hemingway, Ernest
 Hersey, John (2 TLS)
 Hopper, Edward
 Huxley, Aldous
 Isherwood, Christopher
 James, Henry
 Kilmer, Joyce
 Knopf, Alfred A. (2 ALS from Peter Prescott)

41 Lewis, Sinclair
 Liebling, A. J.
 London, Jack
 Lowell, Robert
 Luce, Robert

MacLeish, Archibald (2 ALS from Scott Donaldson)
Malamud, Bernard
Mann, Heinrich
Mann, Klaus
Mann, Thomas
Mauldin, Bill
Mencken, H. L.
Miller, Arthur
Miller, Henry
Moore, Henry
Moore, Marianne
O'Hara, John
O'Neill, Eugene

42

Parker, Dorothy
Perleman, S. J.
Picasso, Pablo
Pollock, Jackson
Porter, Cole
Porter, Katherine Anne
Pound, Ezra
Read, Herbert
Reagan, Ronald
Rice, Elmer
Ross, Harold
Runyon, Damon
Sandburg, Carl
Saroyan, William
Schiffrin, Jacques
Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur
Shahn, Ben
Shaw, Irwin
Sherwood, Robert
Silone, Ignazio
Silvers, Robert
Southern, Terry (2 ALS from Caroline Southern)
Soyer, Raphael
Spender, Stephen
Stafford, Jean
Stein, Gertrude
Steinbeck, John
Stout, Rex
Stravinsky, Igor
Twain, Mark
Weill, Kurt
Wells, H. G.
West, Rebecca
Wharton, Edith
White, E. B.
Wilder, Thornton
Williams, Tennessee
Wilson, Edmund

- Wolfe, Thomas
Wolff, Kurt
- 43 Correspondence
Outline and notes
Printed matter
Photographs and cartoons
Manuscript and galleys (unbound)
New Yorker page proofs:
"Annals of Government - Policing America's Authors"
Paperback edition
- 44 Miscellaneous correspondence and reviews relating to
books by Mitgang
- Notes, Printed Matter, Memorabilia, Accounts***
- 45 Notebooks relating to Berlin, Egypt, England, Frankfurt Book Fair,
East Germany, Greece, Israel, Moscow, Scotland, Vietnam
Pocket Guides from World War II
- 46 Awards given to Mitgang
Printed matter, clippings, expense accounts, financial papers
- 47 Notes relating to classes taught at Yale, 1975-76; class taken by Mitgang
at Columbia
Clippings; short fiction by Mitgang
- 48 "St. John's News", 1937-38
- 49 Clippings: St. John's University newspaper, 1938
Scrapbook: World War II Stars and Stripes
Political cartoons by Bill Mauldin, David Levine and others
Unsorted papers
- 50 Miscellaneous papers

Films and Documentaries by Mitgang / Related Papers

[see also: Checklist of Audio-visual Materials on p. 9-10]

- 51-52 Television Documentaries (scripts and notes), 1963-65
Films:
- Alexander Calder-Anti-war Protest
 - CBS Reports
 - Henry Moore: Man of Forms
 - Eden on Vietnam
 - Ben Gurion
 - The Story of Stars and Stripes
 - Jimmy Walker
 - Sandburg

- Anti-Defamation League
- Mike Wallace at Large
- D-Day Plus 20 Years
- CBS Reports
- Eisenhower at Normandy - D-Day Plus 20 Years
- Best of Sandburg
- Carl Sandburg - The Prairie Years
- Albums:
 - Score from Henry Moore: Man of Form
 - Mike Wallace at Large

- 53 VHS Copies of Films:
- Carl Sandburg: The Prairie
 - Carl Sandburg at Gettysburg
 - D-Day Plus 20 Years
 - Eden on Vietnam
 - Henry Moore: Man of Form

Additional Papers (94M34; 95M35)

- 54 Writings
- "Profile" of Helen Wolff (*The New Yorker*)
 - *Words Still Count with Us*
- 55 Research Notes and Papers
- La Rocque, Gene R.
 - Wolff, Helen and Kurt
- 56 Audiotapes
- Interview with Gene R. La Rocque
 - Interview with Helen Wolff

Checklist of Audiovisual Materials

Control # **Audiotapes**

- 00001 Herbert Mitgang: [Score to "Henry Moore: Man of Form"]. This is the musical score to the CBS documentary, "Henry Moore, Man of Form." The video to this documentary is available as V0103.
- 00002 Herbert Mitgang: [Century Association Dinner]. This is a dinner given by the Century Association with speeches given by several people.
- 00000 -Interview with Gene R. La Rocque
- 00000 -Interview with Helen Wolff

Control # **Videotapes**

- V 00101 Herbert Mitgang: "Carl Sandburg: The Prairie". Reporter Howard K. Smith interviews the famed biographer of Abraham Lincoln as they tour through the locations of the President's childhood on up to his departure from Springfield as an adult. The opening begins with a talk about Lincoln's childhood and his love for Anne Rutledge. At 2:45 we learn how a trip to New Orleans inspired him to be a politician. Lincoln held many jobs as a young man as is recounted at 5:30. His time as a lawyer is touched on at 8:30. His family is discussed at 10:30. Sandburg provides an anecdote about Lincoln's stovepipe hat at 13:00. Lincoln's views on slavery are looked at 16:00 and the Nebraska Bill is mentioned at 17:00. Finally, the famous Lincoln Douglas debates are spoken of at 18:30. This interview takes place one year after another interview Smith did with Sandburg for CBS News, "Carl Sandburg at Gettysburg." [See 00102] Herbert Mitgang/David Buksbaum/Fred Friendly, 1957. B/W Video VHS tape.
- V 00102 Herbert Mitgang: "Carl Sandburg at Gettysburg". Howard K. Smith interviews famed Abraham Lincoln biographer, Carl Sandburg at the site of the greatest battle during the Civil War. They begin by talking about why there was a war which leads into the battle itself at 5:00. At 9:00 Sandburg explains the southern rationale and the government they wished to form. At 15:00 General Robert E. Lee is talked about and Harriet Beecher Stowe is touched upon at 45:00. This is the first interview that Smith had with Sandburg. The second, "Carl Sandberg: the Prairie" is available for viewing [see 00101]. Palmer Williams/Herbert Mitgang/Fred Friendly, 1956. B/W Video VHS tape.
- V 00103 Herbert Mitgang: "Henry Moore: Man of Form" Renowned sculptor Henry Moore is the subject of this documentary with Charles Collingwood for CBS News. In the course of the hour, the piece looks at the sculptor who crafted the "Bronze Reclining Woman" which sits in the fountain at Lincoln Center. The composer of the background music for this documentary is Thomas Wagner and the conductor is Alfrede Antonini. The soundtrack is available for listening [see A00001]. William K. McClure, 1955 B/W Video VHS tape
- V 00104 Herbert Mitgang: "D-Day Plus 20 Years: Eisenhower...". Walter Cronkite interviews President Eisenhower as he tours Normandy twenty years after the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. This special report for CBS News was viewed on 22 networks in 19 countries. The piece opens with a discussion of the planning of the attack in the actual war room. This is followed by a retracing of the route, by boat, to Normandy at 22:30.

Eisenhower recounts the difficulties they faced at 29:00. Omaha Beach, the target, is looked at 39:00. The armaments of both sides is discussed at 43:00. Eisenhower trades war stories with Madame Simone Rideau, wife of the then mayor of Eglise, a city in Normandy at 52:45. This documentary is supplemented with footage of the attack and of audio tracks of Eisenhower's speeches. 1964 B/W Video VHS tape

V 00105

Herbert Mitgang: "Eden on Vietnam". Charles Collingwood interviews Anthony Eden, former foreign secretary and prime minister in Great Britain. As the man instrumental in bringing about a temporary peace in the then French war in Vietnam and the author of Towards Peace in Indochina, Eden offers his ideas on ending the Vietnam War. 1967 B/W Video VHS tape