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Donald C. Brace papers 12414983

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Brace, Donald C., 1881-1955
Title:	Donald C. Brace Papers
ID:	12414983
ID:	MS#1824
Date [inclusive]:	1839-1991
Date [bulk]:	1901-1955
Physical Description:	3 linear feet 1 record carton; 3 document boxes; 1 flat box; 1 Portrait of Brace
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains the papers of Donald C. Brace, one of the founders of the New York publishing house Harcourt, Brace & Company. Materials include correspondence, business records, and proofs of the U.S. editions of Virginia Woolf's works <i>Orlando</i> , <i>The Waves</i> , and <i>The Second Common Reader</i> ; the latter two proofs include the author's corrections.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Donald C. Brace Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Donald Brace was born in 1881 in West Winfield, N.Y., where his father was a local newspaper publisher. In 1901 he matriculated at Columbia University, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Spectator* and was named 1904 class valedictorian. He began his career in publishing at Henry Holt & Co. before founding his own firm with Columbia classmate Alfred Harcourt in 1919. The newly formed Harcourt, Brace & Howe (William Howe soon left the firm) found early success with John Maynard Keynes' *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* and Sinclair Lewis' *Main Street* (both released in 1920). Through Keynes Brace met other

Bloomsbury writers, and over the next decade he made frequent trips to England to secure the U.S. rights to books by novelists and poets such as Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, T.S. Eliot, and George Orwell. Prominent American authors on Harcourt Brace's list included Lewis Mumford, Katherine Anne Porter, Carl Sandburg, Jean Stafford. The firm also established a successful textbook department and ran the Harcourt Brace bookshop in Manhattan. After Alfred Harcourt's retirement in 1942, Brace served as chairman until his retirement in 1948.

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Biographical / Historical

Brace and his wife Ida lived in Riverside, Connecticut with their two children. The Brace family was friendly with several writers and artists published by Harcourt Brace, including Paul de Kruif, Christopher Morley, and Rockwell Kent, and with the British publisher Jonathan Cape, whose children lived with the Braces during World War II. In the 1920s and early 1930s, Brace's father Frank joined his son at the publishing firm, while Brace's younger brother Ernest became a novelist in Woodstock, N.Y. An active Columbia alumnus in later life, Brace chaired scholarship fundraising efforts and received the university's Medal of Excellence in 1950.

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Biographical / Historical

When Brace died in 1955, T. S. Eliot wrote in a London Times obituary "No American publisher was better known or better liked in the literary world of my generation." After Brace's death, Harcourt Brace (under the names Harcourt Brace & World and Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) became more focused on textbooks, and took an increasingly commercial orientation under William Jovanovich's leadership. It nonetheless maintained an interest in literary translation, with the Helen and Kurt Wolff (Pantheon Press founders) imprint. The firm's backlist is now a part of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

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Summary

The collection contains the papers of Donald Brace and his family and chiefly relates to Brace's publishing activities. The first series includes Brace's correspondence with authors, professional associates, family members, and friends. The author correspondence includes

letters from many prominent American writers during the 1930s through 1950s, but includes no correspondence with the firm's British authors. Series II includes the papers of Harcourt Brace, the bulk dating from 1919 to 1960: proofs of three Virginia Woolf books and one novel by fellow Bloomsbury writer David Garnett; as well as business files, financial records, catalogs, and photographs of the firm's offices and personnel. Series III contains the personal papers of Donald Brace and materials related to his involvement with Columbia College. Series IV holds the Brace family papers - including deeds, marriage certificates, compositions, and correspondence - dating from 1839 to 1977. Series V contains limited-edition or privately printed books owned by Donald Brace, including a complete series of leaflets from writer and activist J. E. Spingarn's Troutbeck Press.

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Arrangement

The material is arranged into five series and several subseries.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. XML document instance created by Catherine C. Ricciardi XML document instance revised by Catherine C. Ricciardi EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2017-07-12 2017-07-16 2018-01-10 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

The following boxes are located off-site: 1, 3-5. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2016-2017-M124: Source of acquisition--Katharine Consenza Butler. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--date.

Processing Information

Papers processed by Will Glovinsky (GSAS 2020), 2017.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Will Glovinsky (GSAS 2020), July 2017.

Accrual

No additions are expected

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Authors and publishers
- Book editors

- Publishers and publishing
- Publishers and publishing -- United States -- History
- Awards
- Book catalogs
- Chapbooks
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Diaries
- Page proofs
- typescripts
- Wills
- Yearbooks
- Brace, Ernest C.
- Brooks, Van Wyck, 1886-1963
- Cane, Melville, 1879-1980
- Cape, Jonathan, 1879-1960
- Cozzens, James Gould, 1903-1978
- De Kruif, Paul, 1890-1971
- Dodd, Martha, 1908-1990
- Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965
- Fisher, Dorothy Canfield, 1879-1958
- Garnett, David, 1892-1981
- Glasgow, Ellen Anderson Gholson, 1873-1945
- Harcourt, Alfred, 1881-1954
- Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971
- Lewis, Lloyd, 1891-1949
- Lewis, Sinclair, 1885-1951
- McKenney, Ruth, 1911-1972
- Moore, Merrill, 1903-1957
- Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957
- Porter, Katherine Anne, 1890-1980
- Robinson, Henry Morton, 1898-1961
- Snow, Wilbert, 1884-1977
- Stafford, Jean, 1915-1979
- Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977
- Van Loon, Hendrik Willem, 1882-1944
- Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941
- Columbia College (Columbia University)
- Harcourt Brace & Company
- Harcourt, Brace & Howe
- Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
- Reynal & Hitchcock

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1920-1955

Scope and Contents

This series includes Donald Brace's correspondence with authors, professional associates, and family members and friends.

Subseries I.1: Author Correspondence, 1925-1953

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes letters from many prominent American writers, but includes no correspondence with the firm's British authors. Correspondence is most extensive with Paul de Kruif, Christopher Morley, Lewis Mumford, and Katherine Anne Porter. Because Brace was intimately acquainted with some of the authors he published, this subseries includes letters and telegrams that bear on personal and professional matters.

Title/Description	Instances	
Van Wyck Brooks, 1942	box 1	folder 1
James Gould Cozzens, 1951	box 1	folder 1
Paul de Kruif, 1931-1948	box 1	folder 1
Martha Dodd, 1945-1950	box 1	folder 1
Dorothy Canfield Fisher, 1936-1953	box 1	folder 1
Ellen Glasgow, 1940-1944	box 1	folder 1
Rockwell Kent, 1936-1953	box 1	folder 1
Lloyd Lewis, 1945	box 1	folder 1
Ruth McKenney, 1948-1953	box 1	folder 1
Merrill Moore, 1950	box 1	folder 1
Christopher Morley, 1925-1952	box 1	folder 1
Lewis Mumford, 1940-1952	box 1	folder 1
Katherine Ann Porter, 1943-1953	box 1	folder 1
Henry Morton Robinson, 1940-1944	box 1	folder 1
Wilbert Snow, probably, 1949	box 1	folder 1
Jean Stafford, 1953	box 1	folder 1
Louis Untermeyer, 1938	box 1	folder 1
Hendrik Willem van Loon, 1940	box 1	folder 1

Subseries I.2: Professional Correspondence, 1920-1954**Scope and Contents**

This subseries includes letters with fellow officers of Harcourt Brace, other figures in the New York publishing industry, and other non-author business correspondents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Professional Correspondence, 1920-1954	box 1	folder 2
Professional Correspondence, 1933, 1936 (Conservation Job # 17095), 1933, 1936	box 1	folder 3

Subseries I.3: Personal Correspondence, 1921-1955**Scope and Contents**

This subseries includes letters from Brace's family, including his brother Ernest and father Frank, and friends who were not Harcourt Brace authors. It also includes correspondence regarding community organizations and several New York and Connecticut clubs of which Brace was a member (including the Century Club), notes of condolence on the passing of his father, correspondence regarding his guardianship of Jonathan Cape's children during World War II, and letters of recommendation or introduction.

Title/Description	Instances	
Personal Correspondence, 1921-1955	box 1	folder 4

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Series II: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1919-1991**Scope and Contents**

This series 1991 includes proofs, business records, catalogs, and photographs related to the firm's publishing operations. The bulk of the material dates from 1919 to 1960.

Subseries II.1: Page Proofs, 1928-1933**Scope and Contents**

This subseries includes proofs of four books published by Harcourt Brace. The three Virginia Woolf titles, all first published in London by the Woolfs' Hogarth Press, are *Orlando* (1928), *The Waves* (1931), and *The Second Common Reader* (1932). The proofs of *The Waves* and *The Second Common Reader* include Woolf's handwritten corrections; the *Orlando* proofs are uncorrected. The fourth set of proofs, dated 16 Sept 1932 and marked "Second Proof," is for David Garnett's *Pocahontas* (1933; published the same year in the UK by Chatto & Windus); these proofs are also corrected by the author.

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Orlando</i> , Virginia Woolf, 1928	box 2	folder 1
<i>The Waves</i> , Virginia Woolf, 1931	box 2	folder 2
<i>The Second Common Reader</i> , Virginia Woolf, 1932	box 2	folder 3

Pocahontas, David Garnett, 1933

box 2

folder 4

Subseries II.2: Business Files, 1919-1991**Scope and Contents**

This subseries includes the minutes of incorporation outlining the corporate structure of Harcourt Brace & Howe in 1919 (Howe soon left and the firm was renamed Harcourt, Brace & Co.) as well as minutes of subsequent meetings of the board of directors and stockholders through 1939. The subseries also includes newspaper and magazine clippings about the firm, memoranda, letters of resignation addressed to the board of directors, the 1949 Report of the President to the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a 1949 sales reports on the textbook division and 1949 Survey of the Textbook Publishing Industry, a 1953 report on the compensation of textbook salespersons, and the preliminary prospectus of Harcourt Brace's initial public offering in 1960.

Title/Description	Instances	
Business Files, 1919-1934	box 1	folder 5
Business Files, 1939-1991	box 1	folder 6
Business Files, 1949 (Conservation Job # 17095), 1949	box 1	folder 7

Subseries II.3: Publishing Catalogs, 1919-1943**Scope and Contents**

This subseries contains four Harcourt Brace catalogs: the first announcement from Fall, 1919; Spring, 1923; Spring, 1936; and Spring 1943.

Title/Description	Instances	
Publishing Catalogs, 1919-1943	box 1	folder 8

Subseries II.4: Photographs, 1921-1962**Scope and Contents**

This subseries includes photos of Harcourt Brace's personnel, offices, warehouse, and bookstore.

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, 1921-1962	box 1	folder 9
Photographs, 1929	box 5	folder 1

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Series III: Personal, 1899-1955**Scope and Contents**

This series includes materials related to Brace's personal life and his involvement as a student and alumnus of Columbia.

Subseries III.1: Miscellaneous Personal, 1899-1956

Scope and Contents

The subseries includes Brace's high school graduation program, newspaper clippings about Donald and Ida Brace, membership booklets of Brace's clubs, obituaries of Frank Brace, two typescripts, a notebook with various memoranda (including several related to Harcourt Brace business in 1947) and addresses, a 1954 diary, an obituary of Donald Brace from the West Winfield Star, and several portraits of Brace and photographs of him with family and friends.

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous Personal, 1899-1955	box 1	folder 10
Miscellaneous Personal, 1956 (Conservation Job # 17095), 1956	box 1	folder 11
Oversize Photographs, undated	box 5	folder 2
Portrait of Donald Brace, undated		

Scope and Contents

Hung in Vault between aisles 36e and 37w

Subseries III:2: Columbia:, 1901-1955**Scope and Contents**

This subseries contains Donald '04 and Ernest '17 Brace's undergraduate transcripts, Donald's Sigma Chi certificate, a 1904 Sesquicentennial Columbia Calendar, newspaper clippings, 1904 and 1917 Class Day and Commencement programs, photographs of the 1904 Columbia College class and Spectator editors, the 1902 Yearbook of the Junior Class, and the 1904 Class Book. The subseries also includes correspondence and other materials related to Donald Brace's activities as an alumnus and fundraiser for Columbia in the 1940s and '50s and his 1950 Columbia Medal of Excellence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Columbia, 1901-1904	box 1	folder 12
Columbia, 1917	box 1	folder 13
Columbia, 1943-1955	box 1	folder 14
The Nineteen Hundred and Four Columbian: Year Book of the Junior Class, 1902 (Note: gloves suggested for handling), 1902	box 3	folder 1
The Nineteen Hundred and Four Class Book, 1904	box 3	folder 2
Columbia Medal of Excellence, 1950	box 4	folder 1

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Series IV: Family, 1839-1977**Scope and Contents**

This series includes the Brace family papers, including deeds, marriage certificates, compositions, and correspondence. The bulk of the material from the nineteenth and early 20th centuries includes family

deeds and wills, and the papers of Frank Brace (1852-1936), who worked at the West Winfield Star, the American Press Association, the Frank Presbrey Company (a New York advertising firm), and finally at Harcourt Brace. The series also contains diaries, letters from Ernest to Frank Brace and Ida Brace's correspondence, including letters of condolence on the death of Donald Brace (including one note containing a clipping of the obituary T. S. Eliot wrote for him). The material postdating Donald Brace's decease includes Ida Brace's donation of a personal library to Clark University and an unsuccessful attempt by the University of Wyoming to acquire Donald Brace's papers in 1977.

Title/Description	Instances	
Family, 1839-1899	box 1	folder 15
Family, 1900-1908	box 1	folder 16
Family, 1922-1977	box 1	folder 17
Family, 1936 approx. 1940 (Conservation Job # 17095), 1936, 1940	box 1	folder 18
Frank Brace--Diaries, 1935-1936 (Conservation Job # 17095), 1935-1936	box 3	
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 items)		

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Series V: Publications, 1910-1958

Scope and Contents

This series includes privately printed or limited-edition works, mostly published by friends of Donald Brace with the exception of "Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years" by Carl Sandburg, which Harcourt Brace published as a promotional addition to Sandburg's biography. Other miscellaneous items include a chapbook by Humbert Wolfe and a book on Henry Winthrop Sargent by J. E. Spingarn. The series also includes a set of Troutbeck Press Leaflets, published by J. E. Spingarn, which include works by Lewis Mumford and W. E. B. Du Bois.

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous Publications, 1910-1927	box 4	folder 2
Miscellaneous Publications, 1931-1958	box 4	folder 3
Troutbeck Press, 1924-1931		
Troutbeck Leaflets, 1924-1926		
1. Six Poems by J. E. Spingarn	box 4	folder 4
2. Criticism: An Unpublished Essay by Walt Whitman	box 4	folder 4
3. Aesthetics: A Dialogue by Lewis Mumford	box 4	folder 4
4. The Younger Generation: A New Manifesto by J. E. Spingarn	box 4	folder 4
5. Thoreau's Last Letter, with a Note on His Correspondent, Myron B. Benton, by Edwin Arlington Robinson	box 4	folder 4

6. Four Days on the Webutuck River, by Charles E. Benton, with an Introduction by Sinclair Lewis	box 4	folder 4
7. New Houses: Twelve Poems by Amy Spingarn	box 4	folder 4
8. The Amenia Conference: An Historic Negro Gathering by W. E. Burghardt Du Bois	box 4	folder 4
9. A Troutbeck Letter-Book (1861-1867): Being Unpublished Letters to Myron B. Benton From Emerson, Sophia Thoreau, Moncure Conway, and Others, with an Introduction by George Edward Woodberry	box 4	folder 4
10. John Burroughs at Troutbeck: Being Extracts From His Writings Published and Unpublished, with an Introduction by Vachel Lindsay	box 4	folder 4
A Scholars Testament: Two Letters from George Edward Woodberry to J. E. Spingarn, with an Introduction by Lewis Mumford, 1931	box 4	folder 4

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