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Ben Grauer papers 4078832

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

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>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Physical Medium	7
Collection Inventory	7
Cataloged Correspondence	7
Arranged Correspondence	9
Personal	9
Scripts File	10
Activities File	12
Publicity	14
Diaries	14
Publicity Files	15
Financial Records	16
Photographs	16
Books 1-4 Scrapbooks	16
Audio Tape Recording	16

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Grauer, Ben
Title:	Ben Grauer papers
ID:	4078832
ID:	MS#0506
Date [inclusive]:	1915-1977
Physical Description:	80 linear feet 171 boxes 1 audio tape
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Ben Grauer papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Radio and television announcer, reporter, commentator, and host. Grauer, born Benjamin Franklin Grauer, began his show business career in 1915 as a child actor on the Broadway stage and in silent movies. After graduating from the City College of New York in 1930, he was hired by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and became one of its most famous "voices."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Correspondence, manuscripts, diaries, radio, television, and film scripts, notes, subject files, documents, financial records, photographs, memorabilia, clippings, and printed materials. Grauer's voluminous professional, personal, and family correspondence reflect his many and varied interests in radio, television, motion pictures, sound recordings, journalism, book collecting, printing, the graphic arts, and travel. Among the significant correspondents there are 43 letters from Henry Miller, 26 letters from Eric Partridge, and ten letters from Bruce Rogers. There are numerous single letters from public figures and celebrities, many written to the author, Quentin Reynolds, who organized Grauer's 25th Anniversary in Broadcasting in 1950. Among these are George Abbott, Agnes de Mille, Samuel Goldwyn, John Hersey, Bob Hope, Lauritz Melchior, Edward R. Murrow, Anais Nin, David Sarnoff, and Thornton Wilder. There are thousands of letters from fans, friends, and family, including Grauer's wife Melanie Kahane, the interior decorator. The manuscripts consist of early writings; radio, television, film, and sound recording scripts with related notes and correspondence; speeches; periodical articles; and several book manuscripts. The majority of the Scripts File are for NBC productions, but also included are scripts for the Voice of America, commercials, films, and records. Among Grauer's many "firsts" in broadcasting are the first live report of Count Folke Bernadotte's assassination, the first radio show to present cash prizes ("Pot 'o Gold"), and NBC television's first live news event, the opening of the 1939 New York World's Fair. The Activities File documents Grauer's presence in broadcasting, book collecting, printing and the graphic arts, travel, including the promotion of the Pan American Highway, and his membership in countless organizations. There are more than 3,000 photographs documenting his career from his years as a child actor through the more than 40 years he was associated with NBC. He was photographed with the famous men and women of his generation whose activities he covered on the air. The Publicity File contains newspaper and periodical clippings on his career. Also included is one audio tape recording of "Salute to Ben Grauer" Nov. 15, 1950, an off the air recording

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Catalogued, Listed, Arranged.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-26 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

The following boxes are located off-site: 2-171. 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.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Grauer, Mrs. Ben. Method of acquisition--Gift; Accession number--M-59.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89.

Accruals

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Radio broadcasting
- Television broadcasting
- Radio programs
- Television programs
- Book collecting
- Screenplays
- Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
- Motion picture industry
- Silent films
- Child actors
- Graphic arts
- Printing
- Pan American Highway System
- Photographic prints
- Scripts (documents)
- Radio journalists
- Television journalists
- Miller, Henry, 1891-1980
- Partridge, Eric, 1894-1979
- Rogers, Bruce, 1870-1957
- Reynolds, Quentin James, 1902-1965
- Abbott, George, 1887-1995
- De Mille, Agnes
- Goldwyn, Samuel, 1879-1974
- Hersey, John, 1914-1993
- Hope, Bob, 1903-2003
- Melchior, Lauritz
- Murrow, Edward R
- Nin, Anaïs, 1903-1977
- Sarnoff, David, 1891-1971
- Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975
- Kahane, Melanie
- Bernadotte, Folke, 1895-1948
- National Broadcasting Company

- New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)

Physical Medium

Material base and configuration--Audio tape

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Cataloged Correspondence	
Title/Description	Instances
Abbott, George	box 1
Adler, Elmer	box 1
Allen, Fred	box 1
Angelo, Valenti	box 1
Austin, Warren R.	box 1
Barnett, Paul A	box 1
Beck, Julian	box 1
Beebe, William	box 1
Bernays, Edvard L.	box 1
Burnett, Whit	box 1
Cleland, Thomas Maitland	box 1
Couve, de Murville, Maurice	box 1
Crouse, Russel	box 1
Davis, Elmer	box 1
Davison, Fredrick Trubee	box 1
de Mille, Agnes	box 1
Dwiggins, William Addison	box 1
Edward, Ralph	box 1
Eisenhower, Dwight David	box 1
Elmanmischa	

Ben Grauer papers 4078832

	box 1
Farley, James A.	box 1
Goldwyn, Samuel	box 1
Goudy, Frederic W	box 1
Gunther, John	box 1
Helburn, Theresa	box 1
Hersey, John	box 1
Hersholt, Jean	box 1
Hope, Bob	box 1
Hurst, Fannie	box 1
Javits, Jacob K.	box 1
Kaufman, George S.	box 1
Keynes, Geoffrey	box 1
Kiipatrick, John Reed	box 1
Lilenthal, David E.	box 1
McBride, Mary Margaret	box 1
Maeterlinck, Maurice	box 1
Melchior, Louritz	box 1
Michener, James Albert	box 1
Miller, Henry	box 1
Monaghan, Frank	box 1
Morley, Christopher Darlington	box 1
Morse, Wayne	box 1
Murrow, Edward R.	box 1
Nin, Amais	box 1
Patridge, Eric	box 1
Ransom, Will	box 1
Reynold, Quentin	box 1
Rickenbacker, Edward V.	box 1
Robinson, Jackie	box 1
Rogers, Bruce	box 1
Romulo, Carlos P.	box 1

Roosevelt, Eleanor (Mrs Franklin Delano)	box 1
Sarnoff, David	box 1
Skinner, Cornelia Otis	box 1
Smith, H. Allen	box 1
Spaeth, Sigmund	box 1
Stassen, Harold Edward	box 1
Stern, Julius David	box 1
Sullivan Ed	box 1
Swope, Herbert Baynard	box 1
Thomas, Lowell	box 1
Van Vechten, Carl	box 1
Wilder, Thornton	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arranged Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Miscellaneous General, 1935-1977	box 2
Fan Mail, 1941-1944	box 3
Scope and Contents	
[Note: There is a wooden bullet in this folder. An envelope labeled "POISON" was removed on 7/16.2018]	
Fan Mail 1942-Current and Special Program	box 4
NBC Business-Radio	box 5
Contracts for Radio, T.V. and Other Appearances, with related correspondence, 1935-1951	box 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Personal

Title/Description	Instances
Alphabetical Annoucer's Craft-Foot	box 7
Alphabetical Fielding Fiesta-Lorraine, Lois	box 8
Alphabetical Josephson, Marvin-Wiggin, John	

	box 9
Chronological, 1920-1940	box 10
Chronological, 1945-1955	box 11
Chronological 1945/1956-1949/1960	box 12
Chronological 1949/1960 (2)-1970/1977	box 13
Personal and Miscellaneous 1940-1944 A-Z, 1940-1944	box 14
Family Grauer, Adolph	box 15
Family Grauer, Alvin-Grauer, Zara	box 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scripts File

Title/Description	Instances
A-Americanano, 9	box 17
Americanano, 1949-Asrttar Speaks	box 18
B-Betty Crocker Magazine ofthe Air	box 19
Big Story Correspondence-Scripts, 1955	box 20
Big Story Scripts, 1956 (January -May), 1956	box 21
Big Story Scripts, 1956 (June,)-1957(February), 1956	box 22
Big Story Scripts, 1957 (March)-Boston Pops 1955, 1957, 1955	box 23
Boston Pops, 1956-Business Trends, Interview, 1968/1970	box 24
Business Trends, Interview 1968/1970-Business Trends, Scripts-1968(May)	box 25
Business Trends, Scripts 1968 (June) -- 1969 (March), 1969	box 26
Business Trends, Scripts 1969 (April -December), 1969	box 27
Business Trends, Scripts, 1970	box 28
Camel TV News-Century Edition of News, 1952 (/010/), 1952	box 29
Century Edition of News 1952 (November)-Citizen Union Search Light, 1952, 1952, 1952	box 30
Citizen Union Searchlight, 1955-1962	box 31
Citizen Union Searchlight, 1963-1966	box 32
Citizen Union Searchlight, 1967-1969	box 33
Citizen Union Searchlight, 1970	box 34

Ben Grauer papers 4078832

Color Television	box 35
Corporation of Queen Elizabeth 11-Democratic Covention	box 36
Discussion-Drama is the News	box 37
E-Empire Builder	box 38
European Travel Cade Program-For Better Living	box 39
For This We Fight-Grauer, Ben (Scripts, 1935-1936)	box 40
Grauer, Ben (Scripts, 1937-1938)-Guatemala City Broadcast	box 41
H-HIS Series	box 42
Health Information Systems-High School Orchestra	box 43
Home Edition of News-Home is What You Make It, 1947 (June), 1947	box 44
Home Is What You Make It, 1947 (July)-Ideas (NBC Magazine), 1947	box 45
Ideas(Program)-Isreal Album	box 46
It's a Problem	box 47
It's News-It's Up To You	box 48
Jergens Journal-Kay Kyser Show, 1949	box 49
Kay Kyser Show, 1950 (January -March), 1950	box 50
Kay Kyser Show, 1950 (April -June), 1950	box 51
L-Living, 1948 (May), 1948	box 52
Living, 1948 (July)-1949 (July), 1948	box 53
Living, 1949 (August) -1950, 1949	box 54
Living, 1950 (November)-Lucky Strike Program, 1950	box 55
MacArthur Conference-Marchof Medicine	box 56
Medical Radio Network-Mr. Fix It	box 57
Modern Voices-Monitor	box 58
Movies/News Reels-Name The Place	box 59
NBC Symphony(Toscanini Concerts)-NBC Universityof the Air	box 60
New Year's Eve-"Out of the World" Series	box 61
P-Public Affairs	box 62
Q-Recital Hall	box 63
Recital Hall 1962/1966-Republican Convention, 1952	box 64

Republican Convention, 1956-Say it with Acting	box 65
Seeing is Believing	box 66
Senor Ben Pan Am Highway-Show Train News	box 67
Silver Jungles on NBC-Tactics	box 68
Tanglewood-Tex and Jinx Show, 1955-07-1955-08	box 69
Tex and Jinx Show.1955(August -September)-Toscanini(NBC News Releases)	box 70
Toscanini (Revival Series)-20th Century Records Worksheets	box 71
United Nations Conference-UN General	box 72
UN Hungarian and Suez Crisis-VOA, Scripts, E	box 73
VOA, Scripts,TH-W	box 74
VOA, NY-NY Correspondence(1974-1976)-Promo Information and Publicity	box 75
VOA, NY-NY(Schedules, 1972-1976)	box 76
VOA, NY-NY(Schedules, 1975-Scripts 1972 June), 1972	box 77
VOA, NY-NY(Scripts, 1972 July -1975 March), 1972	box 78
VOA, NY-NY(Scripts, 1975 April -1974 June), 1975	box 79
VOA, NY-NY (Scripts, 1974 July -1975 March), 1974	box 80
War Workers Salute-Waverly Wavelengths, 1959 (/010/), 1959	box 81
Waverly Wavelengths 1959 (/010/)-What Would you Have Done, Correspondence, 1959	box 82
What Would You Have Done, Scripts-Where Have You Been	box 83
You Asked For It-Yugoslavia (Earthquake)	box 84

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Activities File

Title/Description	Instances
A-AFRA (Election Results 1948-1950)	box 85
AFRA (Independence)-American Lecture Bureau, 1947	box 86
American Lecture Bureau 1948-ATAS (Chairman Local Awards-Station Committee)	box 87
ATAS (TV Academy Library)-Barrigan, Darrell	box 88

Bibliographical Notes on Naturalists Library-Book Collecting(Binding)	box 89
Book Collecting (Bonus Book Club)-LaGuildela Levie	box 90
Book Collecting (Laurence, H.-Wickill, Richard)	box 91
Book Curios-Books to Get, 1966-1977	box 92
Book Venture (Contract)-Causes	box 93
Citations-Crusade for Freedom, 1953	box 94
Crusade for Freedom (Campaign Endowment)	box 95
Expedition Guatemala-Free Trips	box 96
Gambling-Guatemala	box 97
Havana-Ideas (Business)	box 98
Ideas (Leads)-Journalism and Communication Arts Educational Advisory Committee	box 99
Laboratory of Antropology-May a Corelation Prob. Material	box 100
Memorabilia (Broadcasting)-Music	box 101
Narration-National Music League	box 102
NBC: News Picture Book of the Year, 1967 (1), 1967	box 103
NBC: News Picture Book of the Year, 1967 (2), 1967	box 104
NBC: News Picture Book of the Year, 1968 (1), 1968	box 105
NBC: News Picture Book of the Year, 1968 (2), 1968	box 106
NBC: News Picture Book of the Year, 1969 (1)	box 107
NBC: News Picture Book of the Year, 1969 (2), 1969	box 108
National Music League-O'Donnell Anti-Semitism	box 109
One Shot (Special Jobs)-OPC (Murrow Memorial Fund) (1)	box 110
OPC (Murrow Memorial Fund)(2)-Pan Am Highway (Corresp.)	box 111
Pan Am Highway (Correspondence and Contracts Highspot Speech)	box 112
Pan Am Highway (International Road Federation-Speech)	box 113
Pan Am Highway (Trans Darrier Expedition)	box 114
Personal Appearances-Printing (Between Hours Press:Corresp.)	box 115
Printing (Between Hour Pess: Bernal Diaz-Chris-taias Cards,1)	box 116

Printing (Between Hour Press: Christmas Cards, 2, Printing (Surrey Fine Arts Press)	box 117
Progressive Citizens of America-Radio TV Correspondence Associates	box 118
Red Channels 1	box 119
Red Channels 2	box 120
Red Channels 3	box 121
Spirit of 1967 Air Warden Auxiliary-Society of Printer's, 1967	box 122
Speeches: Personal Appearance Mat.-Tape Recorders and Sound Studios	box 123
Tau Delta Phi-Theatre Venture (Casting File)	box 124
Theatre Venture (Figure of a Girl)-Twentieth Anniversery in Broadcasting	box 125

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Publicity

Title/Description	Instances
Twentieth Anniversary in Broadcasting (Release and Luncheon Invitations)-	box 126
Trips (Europe):	
Trips (Paris, Rome)-Trips (Europe)	box 127
Trips (Europe)-Wedding Congratulations'	box 128
War Fund-Betty Newman Work	box 129

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Diaries

Title/Description	Instances
1923 1930 1934 1937-1951, 1923, 1930, 1934, 1937-1951	box 130
1949-1960	box 131
1961-1971 Misc. Notes, 1961-1971	box 132
Biographical Material	
Biographical Material	box 133

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Publicity Files	
Title/Description	Instances
General 1943-1944/1946	box 134
General, 1945-1947	box 135
General, 1947-1949	box 136
General, 1950-1951	box 137
General, 1952-1953	box 138
General, 1953-1951	box 139
General, 1955-1956	box 140
General, 1957-1959	box 141
General, 1960-1963	box 142
General, 1964-1968	box 143
General, 1969-1972	box 144
General, 1973-1976	box 145
"One Shot's" 1949-1952 (1), 1949-1952	box 146
"One Shot's" 1949-1952 (2), 1949-1952	box 147
"One Shot's" 1953-1954 (1), 1953-1954	box 148
"One Shot's" 1953-1954 (2), 1953-1954	box 149
"One Shot's" 1953-1957 1955-1957 (1), 1953-1957, 1955-1957	box 150
"One Shot's" 1955-1957 1955-1961 (2), 1955-1957, 1955-1961	box 151
"One Shot's" 1958-1961 (1), 1958-1961	box 152
"One Shot's" 1958-1961 (2), 1958-1961	box 153
"One Shot's", 1961-1965	box 151
"One-Shot's", 1965-1967	box 155
"One Shot's", 1965-1970	box 156
"One Shot's", 1970-1977	box 157

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Financial Records

Title/Description	Instances
Ledgers, 1935-1948	box 158
Ledgers, 1949-1953	box 159
Ledgers, 1954-1958	box 160

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Childhood/Adolescence, Family	box 161
Activities 1920-19U0	box 162
Activities 1950-1970 American Merchant Marine to Armed Forces Involvement, 1950-1970	box 163
British Refugee Children to Mitchell Field Air Show; NBC: Photos, of Grauer at work	box 164
NBC: Photos of Grauer; Show (Atlantic Spotlight-Victory Am and Breakfast); Misc. A Letterpress Forum)	box 165
NBC: Misc. (Personal-Winchell, Walter); Personal-Publicity	box 166
Overseas Press Club-United Nations	box 167
Memorabilia	box 168
Printed Materials	box 169

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Books 1-4 Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
1. Scrapbook, 1930-1942	
2. Scrapbook, 1937-1938	
3. Scrapbook, 1943-1946	
4. Scrapbook , 1947	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Audio Tape Recording

Title/Description	Instances
1. "Salute to Ben Grauer", 15 November 1950 1 reel, 15 November 1950	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)