Guide to the Marc Allégret Papers

GEN MSS 651

by Michael L. Forstrom

January 2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 651

CREATOR: Allégret, Marc, 1900-1973

TITLE: Marc Allégret papers

DATES: 1900–1972

BULK DATES: 1920–1956

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.51 linear feet (16 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Chiefly in French, with some materials in German and English.

SUMMARY: The Marc Allégret Papers document Allégret’s career as a filmmaker and his association with author André Gide. Allégret’s working files include screenplays, shooting scripts, correspondence, background and research materials, production notes and documents, cut film, photographs, and printed ephemera. There are screenplays or shooting scripts for over a dozen feature-length films and larger, mixed files for the documentaries Voyage au Congo (1927), Occultisme et magie (1951), and Avec André Gide (1952). The files for Voyage au Congo also document Allégret’s travels with Gide through French equatorial Africa in the mid 1920s. Works by Others include writings by Gide and screenplays and shooting scripts by Allégret’s collaborators. Works by Gide include corrected drafts and proofs for several titles dating from the 1920s, such as Corydon (1924) and Retour du Tchad (1927). Correspondence consists of letters to Allégret from Françoise Giroud, Roger Martin du Gard, and Roger Vadim, and third party correspondence between André Gide, Madeleine Louise Mathilde Gide, Elie Allégret, Roger Martin du Gard, producer Pierre Braunberger, and others.

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To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.allegret.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The Marc Allégret Papers was aquired through purchase from Librarie Benoit Forgeot on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2008.

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.
Cut film contained in boxes 2-3 and 10 is restricted and may only be seen with permission of the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use
The Marc Allégret Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Marc Allégret Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Marc Allégret (1900-1973)
Marc Allégret, a French screenwriter and filmmaker, was born in Basel, Switzerland and trained as a lawyer. After travelling in French equatorial Africa in the mid 1920s with André Gide, Allégret chose to pursue a career in the film industry. He directed his first feature-length film, *Mam’zelle Nitouche*, in 1931 and went on to write numerous scripts and direct more than fifty films. He was the elder brother of Yves Allégret, also a filmmaker. Additional information is available in standard print and online biographical resources.

The following chronology provides dates for key events and film projects for which there are files in the collection:

1900 December 22 born in Basel, Switzerland
1925-1926 travel with André Gide in French equatorial Africa
1927 *Voyage au Congo*
1934 *Zouzou*
1934 *L’Hôtel du libre échange*
1937 *Gribouille*
1938 *Orage*
1942 *L’Arlésienne*
1942 *La belle aventure*
1944 *Les petites du quai aux fleurs*
1945 *Félicie Nanteuil*
1946 Lunegarde
1946 Pétrus
1951 Occultisme et magie
1952 Avec André Gide
1953 Julietta
1955 L’Amant de lady Chatterley
1970 Le bal du comte d’Orgel
1973 November 3 dies in Versailles, France

Scope and Contents
The Marc Allégret papers feature material relating to films shot or directed by Allégret and to his association with André Gide. Allégret’s working files include screenplays, shooting scripts, correspondence, background and research materials, production notes and documents, cut film, photographs, and printed ephemera dating from his earliest cinematic effort, the documentary Voyage au Congo (1927), to his last feature-length film, Le bal du comte d’Orgel (1970). Allégret became acquainted with Gide through his father’s friendship and his travels with Gide into Africa in the mid 1920s are richly documented in the production files, which include correspondence, manuscript notes, photographs, and ephemera, for Voyage au Congo. Other materials relating more or less directly to Gide include the production files for the late documentary Avec André Gide (1952), corrected drafts and proofs for several titles by Gide from the 1920s, and third-party correspondence. Works by Others also include screenplays and shooting scripts by some of Allégret’s collaborators. General correspondence consists of letters to Marc Allégret from Françoise Giroud, Roger Martin du Gard, and Roger Vadim, with over seventy pieces of correspondence from Martin du Gard. Third Party correspondence features approximately thirty pieces of correspondence between Marc Allégret’s father, Elie Allégret, and André Gide, and include letters from Gide’s wife Madeleine, Roger Martin du Gard, and producer Pierre Braunberger. Chiefly in French, with some materials in German and English.

Arrangement
Collection Contents

Series I. Works by Marc Allégret

4.17 linear feet (11 boxes)

Series I, Works by Marc Allégret, housed in boxes 1-11, consists of material relating to films shot or directed by Allégret throughout his career as a filmmaker. Materials include screenplays, shooting scripts, correspondence, background and research materials, production notes and documents, cut film, photographs, and printed ephemera. There are screenplays or shooting scripts for over a dozen feature-length films and larger, mixed files for three documentaries, Voyage au Congo (1927), Occultisme et magie (1951), and Avec André Gide (1952).

The files for Voyage au Congo, including correspondence, manuscript material, photographs, and printed ephemera, document Allégret’s travels with André Gide through French equatorial Africa in the mid-1920s--Gide’s journals were also published shortly after their return as Voyage au Congo (1927) and Retour du Tchad (1928). Material identified in the list below as “Notes and notebooks” preserves folders of letters, background material, itineraries, lists of supplies, financial records, journal entries, ethnographic observations, language aids, and other papers. Correspondence relating chiefly to distribution of the documentary, as well as to publication of photographs, can be found in the “Correspondence” folders, which date from 1927 to 1930, while correspondence relating to travel can be found scattered throughout the “Notes and notebooks”. Correspondents include Kodak founder George Eastman, to whom there is a draft of a letter, in English, soliciting camera equipment for “artistic and scientific research,” and colleagues of Allégret’s father, Elie, at the Société des mission évangéliques de Paris.

The Voyage au Congo materials in Series I complement the research materials, drafts, and proofs relating to Gide’s travel writings in Series II. Together these two groups of material document travel through areas now known as the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Cameroon, and aspects of life in parts of these countries, including colonial attitudes and relationships.

Allégret’s documentary on André Gide, released shortly after Gide’s death in 1951, combines still photographs, documentary and newsreel footage, and interviews. Files for the film include correspondence, manuscript material, and cut film. The manuscript material (also identified in the list as “Notes”) preserves folders of correspondence, lists of photographs and documents used in the film, drafts of interviews and commentary, financial records, and other papers relating to the production and distribution of the film. Correspondents include: Gaston Criel, Henri Langlois of the Cinémathèque française, Jean Duché, Jean Schlumberger, René Gustave Nobécourt, Jean-Louis Barrault, Roger Martin du Gard, Justin O’Brien, Pierre Herbart, Philippe Halsman, Yvonne Davet, Georges Sirot, and many others; included are letters to and from Allégret’s assistant Pierre Boursaus.

The files for Occultisme et magie, including correspondence, printed ephemera, photographs, and manuscript material, feature drafts of interviews, essays, and notes on the following topics: astrology, black magic, occultism and science, parapsychology, alchemy, hypnotism, faith and medicine healers, spiritism, yoga, and fakirs. There is material by or relating to Robert Amadou, Jean Piverd, Jean Auscher, Scarha-Bey, Jean Thévenot, and others.

Many of Allégret’s feature films, such as L’Amant de Lady Chatterly and Le Bal du Comte d’Orgel, were adapted from literary works, and the dialogue and/or screenplays were either written by others or in collaboration with Allégret. Contributors include Marcel Achard, Françoise Giroud, H. G. Lustig, Charles de Peyret-Chappuis, and Carlo Rim. French composer Georges Auric also wrote scores for a number of Allégret’s films, and music to a theatrical adaptation of Volpone by Jules Romains can be found in Series II.

Cut film is stored in cold storage.

Arranged alphabetically by film title.
### Marc Allégret Papers

**GEN MSS 651**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>L’amant de Lady Chatterley</strong></td>
<td>Screenplay, typescript</td>
<td>1954 June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-2</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>L’arlésienne</strong></td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>L’arlésienne</strong></td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>[ca. 1941]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Avec André Gide</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1949–1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5-7</td>
<td>See also: Notes, Box 4, folders 26-44</td>
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<td>Cut film</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 8-19</td>
<td>Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.</td>
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<td>1951</td>
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<td><strong>Avec André Gide</strong></td>
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<td>b. 4, f. 26-44</td>
<td>Includes correspondence</td>
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<td><strong>Le bal du comte d’Orgel</strong></td>
<td>Clippings</td>
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<td><strong>Le bal du comte d’Orgel</strong></td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>b. 5, f. 45</td>
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<td><strong>Le bal du comte d’Orgel</strong></td>
<td>Shooting scripts, typescript</td>
<td>1969, undated</td>
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<td>b. 5, f. 46-47</td>
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<td><strong>La belle aventure</strong></td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>1942 September 4</td>
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<td>b. 5, f. 48</td>
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<td><strong>La belle aventure</strong></td>
<td>Shooting script, annotated</td>
<td>[1942?]</td>
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<td>b. 5, f. 49</td>
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<td><strong>Félicie Nanteuil</strong></td>
<td>Screenplay, holograph fragments</td>
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<td>b. 6, f. 50</td>
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<td><strong>Félicie Nanteuil</strong></td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript</td>
<td>[ca. 1945]</td>
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<td>b. 6, f. 51-53</td>
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<td><strong>Gribouille</strong></td>
<td>Screenplay, holograph, corrected</td>
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<td><strong>L’hôtel du libre échange</strong></td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>[ca. 1934]</td>
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<td>b. 6, f. 55</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Julietta</strong></td>
<td>Screenplay, typescript</td>
<td>1953 April 17</td>
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<td>b. 6, f. 56</td>
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**Julietta** (continued)

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<td>b. 6, f. 57</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunegarde</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 58</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1941, 1944</td>
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<td>b. 6, f. 59</td>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 60</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Occultisme et magie</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 61-81</td>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>1950–1953, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 82-83</td>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>1950–1953, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 84</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 8, f. 85-86</td>
<td>Printed ephemera</td>
<td>1950–1953, undated</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folder 172</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Orage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 87-88</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>1937, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 89</td>
<td>Screenplay, typescript, including clippings of Émile Zola’s <em>La Bete humaine</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Les petites du quai aux fleurs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 90-92</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript</td>
<td>1943 June</td>
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<td><strong>Pétrus</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 93</td>
<td>Screenplay, holograph, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 94</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript</td>
<td>[ca. 1945]</td>
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<td><strong>Voyage au Congo</strong></td>
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<td>b. 9, f. 95-96</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1927–1930, undated</td>
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<td>See also: Notes and notebooks, Boxes 9-10, folders 97-114</td>
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<td>b. 9, f. 97-106</td>
<td>Notes and notebooks</td>
<td>1907–1927</td>
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<td>b. 10, f. 107-114</td>
<td>Notes and notebooks</td>
<td>1925–1926, undated</td>
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<td>Includes correspondence and cut film</td>
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<td>b. 10, f. 115</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 10, f. 116-117</td>
<td>Printed ephemera</td>
<td>1924–1928, undated</td>
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<td>Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folders 173-175</td>
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<td><strong>Zouzou</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 118-122</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>[ca. 1934]</td>
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Zouzou (continued)

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 123-124</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>[ca. 1934]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printed ephemera</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>Stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folder 176</td>
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Series II. Works by Others

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series II, Works by Others, housed in boxes 12-14, consists of two main groups of materials, writings by André Gide and screenplays and shooting scripts by some of Allégret’s cinematic collaborators. The Gide materials feature corrected proofs, as well as a couple drafts, for several titles dating between 1919 and 1927. There are proofs, for example, for Gide’s travel journals, Voyage au Congo (1927) and Retour du Tchad (1928), which are complemented by the extensive notes and materials relating to Allégret’s documentary project in Series I, as well as for La symphonie pastorale and Corydon. In addition, there are drafts for Retour du Tchad and an essay, entitled “Les villages des tribus Massas”, based on his travels.

The screenplays and shooting scripts listed in Series II are for works that were not realized, such as Prévert’s “Comme la plume au vent”, or filmed by another director, such as Drôle de drame and Les visiteurs du soir, both of which were directed by Marcel Carné. Contributors include Françoise Giroud, Pierre Larouche, Roger Martin du Gard, Jacques Prévert, Jules Romaine, and Roger Vadim.

Arranged alphabetically first by name of author, then by title.

Gide, André

Corydon

b. 12, f. 125 Page proof, corrected [1924?]

"La porte étroite"

b. 12, f. 126 Printed publicity for 1920 adaptation 1920 February 11

Retour du Tchad

b. 12, f. 127 Research materials
Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folder 177 1920-1927, undated

b. 12, f. 128 Draft, typescript, corrected [1927]

b. 12, f. 129-131 Proofs, corrected 1927

La symphonie pastorale

b. 12, f. 132-133 Proofs, corrected [ca. 1919]

Typhon

b. 12, f. 134 Page proofs, corrected, of translation of work by Joseph Conrad 1923

"Les villages des tribus Massas"

b. 12, f. 135 Draft, holograph, corrected undated

b. 12, f. 136 Proof, corrected 1927 February 18

Voyage au Congo

b. 13, f. 137-139 Page proofs, corrected 1927 March

Giroud, Françoise

“Les memoires de poisson rouge”
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 140-141</td>
<td>Screenplays, holograph and typescript</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>Laroche, Pierre</td>
<td>See: Prévert, Jacques, Box 13, folders 145-146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin du Gard, Roger</td>
<td>“Frere et soeur”</td>
<td>[ca. 1930]</td>
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<td>b. 13, f. 142</td>
<td>Screenplay, typescript</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Paysan”</td>
<td>Screenplay, typescript carbon, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 143</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>“Rapport sur la situation du cinema français...”</td>
<td>Drafts Includes correspondence and printed materials</td>
<td>1930, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prévert, Jacques</td>
<td>“Comme la plume au vent”</td>
<td>[1941]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 145-146</td>
<td>Screenplay, typescript</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drôle de drame</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript</td>
<td>[ca. 1937]</td>
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<td>b. 14, f. 147-148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les visiteurs du soir</td>
<td>Shooting script, typescript</td>
<td>[ca. 1942]</td>
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<td>b. 14, f. 149</td>
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<td>Romain, Jules</td>
<td>Volpone</td>
<td>1929, undated</td>
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<td>b. 14, f. 150</td>
<td>Printed version, corrected and annotated</td>
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<td>Vadim, Roger</td>
<td>“Petit roman joli”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 14, f. 152</td>
<td>Novella, holograph, corrected</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14, f. 153-154</td>
<td>Miscellaneous material Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folder 178 Includes drafts of screenplays, notes, financial records, and printed ephemera</td>
<td>1947-1971, undated</td>
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**Series III. Correspondence**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

General correspondence consists of letters to Marc Allégret from Françoise Giroud, Roger Martin du Gard, and Roger Vadim, with over 70 pieces of correspondence from Martin du Gard. Third Party correspondence features approximately 30 pieces of correspondence between Marc Allégret’s father, Elie Allégret, and André Gide, and include letters from Gide’s wife Madeleine, Roger Martin du Gard, and producer Pierre Braunberger.

Correspondence can also be found in the production files for works by Allégret in Series I.

Organized into two subseries for General Correspondence and Third Party Correspondence.

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<thead>
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<th>General Correspondence</th>
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<td>General Correspondence</td>
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<td>b. 15, f. 155</td>
<td>Giroud, Françoise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1951–1956, undated</td>
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<td>b. 15, f. 156–158</td>
<td>Martin du Gard, Roger</td>
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<td>1925–1955, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 159</td>
<td>Vadim, Roger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folder 179</td>
<td>1947–1972, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Party Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 160–161</td>
<td>Allégret, Elie to André Gide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1900–1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 162</td>
<td>Braunberger, Pierre to Roger Vadim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1948 July 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 163–164</td>
<td>Gide, André to Elie Allégret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also stored in: Oversize, Box 16, folder 180</td>
<td>1900–1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 165</td>
<td>Gide, André to [Pierre Feuillere?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1942 October 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 166</td>
<td>Gide, André to Lucien Vogel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1944, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 167</td>
<td>Gide, André to Nadine Vogel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1937–1943, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 168</td>
<td>Gide, Madeleine to Elie Allégret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 169</td>
<td>Martin du Gard, Roger to Nadine Allégret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1942–1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 170</td>
<td>Others to Roger Vadim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1949–1950, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Oversize

*1.67 linear feet (1 box)*

Oversize material, housed in box 16, is arranged in folder order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 171</td>
<td>Clipping for <em>Le bal du Comte d’Orgel</em> (In Series I)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 172</td>
<td>Clippings for <em>Occultisme et magie</em> (In Series I)</td>
<td>1950, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 16, f. 173-175 | Printed ephemera for *Voyage au Congo* (In Series I)  
Also stored in: Broadside cabinets | 1927–1928, undated   |
| b. 16, f. 176 | Printed ephemera for *Zouzou* (In Series I) | undated             |
| b. 16, f. 177 | Research material for *Retour du Tchad* (In Series II) | 1925 September      |
| b. 16, f. 178 | Clipping on Roger Vadim (In Series II) | 1971 September 7    |
| b. 16, f. 179 | Letter from Roger Vadim to Marc Allégret (In Series III) | undated             |
| b. 16, f. 180 | Clipping from letter to Elie Allégret from André Gide (In Series III) | undated             |
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Cinematography
Motion picture producers and directors
Motion picture producers and directors
Motion pictures -- France
Motion pictures -- Production and direction

Geographic Names
Africa, French-speaking Equatorial --
Description and travel
Cameroon -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats
Film scripts
Photographic prints
Printed ephemera

Names
Allégret, E. (Elie)
Allégret, Marc, 1900-1973
Braunberger, Pierre, 1905-1990
Gide, André, 1869-1951
Gide, Madeleine Louise Mathilde, approximately 1867-1938
Giroud, Françoise, 1916-2003
Martin Du Gard, Roger, 1881-1958
Vadim, Roger, 1928-2000