

Register to the William McBrien papers

MSS 131



Compiled by Catherine Holland, with Richard Boursy

2013

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<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Gilmore Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
musicsspecialcollections@yale.edu
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

CALL NUMBER: MSS 131

CREATOR: McBrien, William

TITLE: William McBrien papers

DATES: Circa 1985-1998

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: Research materials and sound recordings pertaining to Cole Porter

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0131>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0131>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The William McBrien Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University by William McBrien in 2003.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the [Special Collections staff](#) to schedule an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The William McBrien Papers are the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation

MSS 131, The William McBrien Papers in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

Associated Materials

Researchers interested in Cole Porter may wish to consult MSS 82, the Cole Porter Collection at Yale, and also the Cole Porter Collection in the Music Division of the Library of Congress.

Biographical / Historical

William McBrien (1930-2009) was a professor of English at Hofstra University. He wrote biographies of Cole Porter and Stevie Smith.

Scope and Contents

William McBrien's papers pertain chiefly to Cole Porter, and arise mainly from the research for his book *Cole Porter: A Biography* (New York: Knopf, 1998). They include research materials, sound recordings, and other items. McBrien's original arrangement has largely been preserved, so some topics are covered in more than one series. A few items have been re-labeled or re-filed for the sake of clarity.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into five series, as follows: I. Notecards. II. Glossary of Names. III. Porter Chronology. IV. Research Topics. V. Sound Recordings.

Collection Contents

Series I: Notecards

This series consists of McBrien's notecards from his research on Cole Porter. Sub-series I.A is arranged alphabetically by name, and Sub-series I.B is arranged alphabetically by topic.

By Name Series I.A.

b. 1, f. 1	Abbott, George
b. 1, f. 1	Ackeson
b. 1, f. 1	Acosta, Mercedes de
b. 1, f. 1	Andrews, Julie
b. 1, f. 1	Astor, Brooke
b. 1, f. 1	Bagley, Ben
b. 1, f. 1	Ballard, Kay
b. 1, f. 1	Barclift, Nelson
b. 1, f. 1	Baz, Ben
b. 1, f. 1	Bentley, Andrew
b. 1, f. 1	Berlin, Irving
b. 1, f. 1	Branden, Sprinle
b. 1, f. 1	Bray, Bobby
b. 1, f. 1	Brody, Elaine
b. 1, f. 1	Capallo, Carmen
b. 1, f. 1	Carter, Janis
b. 1, f. 1	Chaplin, Saul
b. 1, f. 1	Charisse, Cyd (Mrs. Tony Martin)
b. 1, f. 1	Columbia, David
b. 1, f. 1	Conde-Nast Library
b. 1, f. 1	Cooper, Lady Diana
b. 1, f. 1	Cooper, Rocky
b. 1, f. 1	Cora
b. 1, f. 1	Coward, Noel
b. 1, f. 1	Cracker, Will

Series I.A. By Name (continued)

b. 1, f. 1	Cronin, John
b. 1, f. 1	Cukor, Irene
b. 1, f. 1	Cullman, Mrs. Howard
b. 1, f. 1	Curtis, Tony
b. 1, f. 1	Daney, Jack
b. 1, f. 1	De Menocal, Richard
b. 1, f. 1	De Mill, Agnes
b. 1, f. 1	De Wolfe, Elsie
b. 1, f. 1	Duchin, Peter
b. 1, f. 1	Duquette, Tony
b. 1, f. 1	Eells, George
b. 1, f. 1	Elg, Taina
b. 1, f. 1	Ewen, David
b. 1, f. 1	Fairbanks, Douglas, Jr.
b. 1, f. 1	Farrell, Joseph N.
b. 1, f. 1	Fetter, Ted
b. 1, f. 1	Feuer, Cy
b. 1, f. 1	Fitzgerald, Ella
b. 1, f. 1	Fizdale, Robert
b. 1, f. 1	Fontaine, Joan
b. 1, f. 1	Fox, Colin Leslie
b. 1, f. 1	French, Winsor
b. 1, f. 1	Fulco di Verdura, Duke
b. 1, f. 2	Gaither, Gant
b. 1, f. 2	Galeska, Walter
b. 1, f. 2	Galliher, John
b. 1, f. 2	Garbo, Greta
b. 1, f. 2	Garrett, Betty
b. 1, f. 2	Gaynes, George
b. 1, f. 2	Gershe, Leonard

Series I.A. By Name (continued)

b. 1, f. 2	Gershwin, George
b. 1, f. 2	Gill, Brendan
b. 1, f. 2	Godowsky, Mrs. Frankie Gershwin
b. 1, f. 2	Goodman, Benny
b. 1, f. 2	Gray, Dolores
b. 1, f. 2	Green, Stanley
b. 1, f. 2	Gungbury, Barn Nicolas
b. 1, f. 2	Haas, Dick
b. 1, f. 2	Haas, Jean
b. 1, f. 2	Hadley, Bower
b. 1, f. 2	Hall, Fred
b. 1, f. 2	Hanna, Len
b. 1, f. 2	Harriman, Averill
b. 1, f. 2	Harris, O.
b. 1, f. 2	Hart, Kitty Carlisle
b. 1, f. 2	Haskins, James
b. 1, f. 2	Havoc, Jane
b. 1, f. 2	Haynes, Billy,
b. 1, f. 2	Hepburn, Katherine
b. 1, f. 2	Holm, Celeste
b. 1, f. 2	Holm, Hanya
b. 1, f. 2	Hornblow, Mrs. Arthur (Bubbles)
b. 1, f. 2	Horne, Lena
b. 1, f. 2	Horst
b. 1, f. 2	Howard, Bart
b. 1, f. 2	Howard, Jean
b. 1, f. 2	Hubler, Richard G.
b. 1, f. 2	Hutchinson, Leslie
b. 1, f. 2	Hyde, Henry B.
b. 1, f. 2	Jones, Harris

Series I.A. By Name (continued)

b. 1, f. 2	Kanin, Garson
b. 1, f. 2	Kellogg, Frank
b. 1, f. 2	Kelly, Ray
b. 1, f. 2	Kesler, Lewis
b. 1, f. 2	Kidd, Michael
b. 1, f. 2	Kimball, Robert
b. 1, f. 3	Kingsland, Mr. and Mrs. James
b. 1, f. 3	Knef, Hildegard
b. 1, f. 3	Lambert, Gamin
b. 1, f. 3	Lamkin, Mr. "Speed"
b. 1, f. 3	Lane, Kenneth
b. 1, f. 3	Lawrence, Paula
b. 1, f. 3	Lazar, Irving
b. 1, f. 3	Lewine, Richard
b. 1, f. 3	Liebersohn, Mrs. Goddard
b. 1, f. 3	Logan, Joshua
b. 1, f. 3	Lucinge, Jean-Louis de Faucigny
b. 1, f. 3	Macintosh, Captain Alistair
b. 1, f. 3	MacLeish, Archibald
b. 1, f. 3	Marbury, Elizabeth
b. 1, f. 3	Martin, Ernest
b. 1, f. 3	Maxwell, Elsa
b. 1, f. 3	McGlenn, John
b. 1, f. 3	Merman, Ethel
b. 1, f. 3	Montgomery, Bob
b. 1, f. 3	Morison, Patricia
b. 1, f. 3	Mountbatten, Lady Louis
b. 1, f. 3	Murphy, H.
b. 1, f. 3	Murphy, Mrs. Donnelly
b. 1, f. 3	Murphy, Senator George

Series I.A. By Name (continued)

b. 1, f. 3	Musgrove, Stanley
b. 1, f. 3	Nicholson, Charles
b. 1, f. 3	O'Brien, Kathleen
b. 1, f. 3	O'Reilly, Gretchen
b. 1, f. 3	O'Reilly, Mrs. (Niece of J. Cole)
b. 1, f. 3	Paley, Natasha, Princess
b. 1, f. 3	Peck, Daniel
b. 1, f. 3	Phillips, Michelle
b. 1, f. 3	Powell, Bill
b. 1, f. 3	Reilly, Charles
b. 1, f. 3	Richards, Ralph
b. 1, f. 3	Rochambeau, Countess de
b. 1, f. 3	Rodgers, Richard
b. 1, f. 3	Romanov, Mrs. Gloria
b. 1, f. 3	Rosalie
b. 1, f. 3	Rubinstein, Mrs. Arthur
b. 1, f. 3	Rungon, Keith
b. 1, f. 3	Ryan, Nim
b. 1, f. 3	Sarlie, Jacques
b. 1, f. 3	Scheftel, Stuart
b. 1, f. 3	Schenk, Joseph
b. 1, f. 3	Schmitt, Louise Cole
b. 1, f. 3	Schneider, Ann Kaufman
b. 1, f. 3	Schwartz, Charles
b. 1, f. 3	Scratin, Frank
b. 1, f. 3	Shavier, Robert
b. 1, f. 3	Shaw, Artie
b. 1, f. 4	Short, Bobby
b. 1, f. 4	Silverstein, Dr. Allen
b. 1, f. 4	Siimpson, Babo

Series I.A. By Name (continued)

b. 1, f. 4	Sirmay, Dr. Albert
b. 1, f. 4	Spewack, Col.
b. 1, f. 4	Spewack, Sam and Bella
b. 1, f. 4	Stark, Sam
b. 1, f. 4	Steinert, Alex
b. 1, f. 4	Stempler, Stephen
b. 1, f. 4	Stevens, marti
b. 1, f. 4	Sturges, Howard
b. 1, f. 4	Styne, Jule
b. 1, f. 4	Svetik, Gisela
b. 1, f. 4	Sylvain, Paul
b. 1, f. 4	Tamber, Selma
b. 1, f. 4	Tee, Gerald H.
b. 1, f. 4	Thomas, Dr. Samuel W.
b. 1, f. 4	Tunney, Kieran
b. 1, f. 4	Twing, Mrs. Louise
b. 1, f. 4	Uppman, Theodore
b. 1, f. 4	Vanderbilt, Mrs. Jean
b. 1, f. 4	Venuta, Benay
b. 1, f. 4	Verdon, Gwen
b. 1, f. 4	Vidal, Gore
b. 1, f. 4	Von Rath, Mrs. Wmm.
b. 1, f. 4	Wallace, Loris and Joe
b. 1, f. 4	Webb, J. Watson Jr.
b. 1, f. 4	Welch, Elizabeth
b. 1, f. 4	Wharton, John
b. 1, f. 4	Wheaton, Robert
b. 1, f. 4	Whidden, Peter
b. 1, f. 4	Wightman, Gaylord (Janet)
b. 1, f. 4	Wilder, Billy

Series I.A. By Name (continued)

b. 1, f. 4 Wilson, Julie

b. 1, f. 4 Woolley, Monty

By Research Topic
Series I.B

b. 1, f. 5 1-2-3 Club

b. 1, f. 5 1943 or 44 "Thrilled to Meet Him"

b. 1, f. 5 1956 Trip

b. 1, f. 5 Affection

b. 1, f. 5 And the Villain Still Pursued Her

b. 1, f. 5 Anti-Semitism

b. 1, f. 5 Anything Goes

b. 1, f. 5 Appearance

b. 1, f. 5 Around the World in Eighty Days

b. 1, f. 5 Art

b. 1, f. 5 ASCAP

b. 1, f. 5 Beams

b. 1, f. 5 Born to Dance

b. 1, f. 5 Can Can -- Yale

b. 1, f. 5 China and Art

b. 1, f. 5 Cigarette Case

b. 1, f. 5 Cole Porter -- Scrapbook

b. 1, f. 5 Cora

b. 1, f. 6 Daily Life

b. 1, f. 6 Death

b. 1, f. 6 Deceased

b. 1, f. 6 Doheny Library, USC

b. 1, f. 6 Don't Fence Me In

b. 1, f. 6 Du Barry Was a Lady

b. 1, f. 6 Eavesdropped

b. 1, f. 6 Fascinating Rhythm

b. 1, f. 6 Fifty Million Frenchmen, 1929-30 Scrapbook

Series I.B By Research Topic (continued)

b. 1, f. 6	Food
b. 1, f. 6	Fortune
b. 1, f. 6	Friendships
b. 1, f. 6	Gay Divorce
b. 1, f. 6	Grandma Moses and Art
b. 1, f. 7	Harlem
b. 1, f. 7	Harvard Law School
b. 1, f. 7	Haskins, James, Bricktop
b. 1, f. 7	High Society
b. 1, f. 7	Hollywood
b. 1, f. 7	Homosexual Affairs
b. 1, f. 7	Independent Songs Written for the Armed Forces
b. 1, f. 7	Indiana
b. 1, f. 7	Indianapolis
b. 1, f. 7	Inspiration
b. 1, f. 7	Institute of the American Musical
b. 1, f. 7	Jokes
b. 1, f. 7	Jubilee
b. 1, f. 7	Kaleidoscope
b. 1, f. 7	Languages
b. 1, f. 7	Late Years
b. 1, f. 7	Leave It to Me
b. 1, f. 7	Les Girls
b. 1, f. 7	Lesbianism
b. 1, f. 7	Let's Face It
b. 1, f. 7	Letters
b. 1, f. 7	Library
b. 1, f. 7	Likes
b. 1, f. 7	Lincoln Center
b. 1, f. 7	London

Series I.B By Research Topic (continued)

b. 1, f. 8	Main Bocher
b. 1, f. 8	Mayfair and Monmartre
b. 1, f. 8	Mexican Hayride
b. 1, f. 8	Mississippi Belle
b. 1, f. 8	Money
b. 1, f. 8	Mother
b. 1, f. 8	Murder
b. 1, f. 8	Museum of the City of New York
b. 1, f. 8	Music
b. 1, f. 8	Newspapers
b. 1, f. 8	New Yorker, The
b. 1, f. 8	Night and Day
b. 1, f. 8	Night Out, A
b. 1, f. 8	Nymph Errant
b. 1, f. 8	Openings
b. 1, f. 8	Other Shows
b. 1, f. 8	Out of Luck
b. 1, f. 8	Out of the World
b. 1, f. 8	Painting
b. 1, f. 8	Panama Hattie
b. 1, f. 8	Paranoia
b. 1, f. 8	Paris
b. 1, f. 8	Patriotism
b. 1, f. 8	PBS Telecast
b. 1, f. 8	Personal Qualities
b. 1, f. 8	Pirate, The
b. 1, f. 8	Players Club
b. 1, f. 8	Pot of Gold, A
b. 1, f. 8	Publicity
b. 1, f. 8	Questions for Eddy Barclift

Series I.B By Research Topic (continued)

b. 1, f. 9	Red, Hot, and Blue
b. 1, f. 9	Red, Hot, and Rich! An Oral History of Cole Porter
b. 1, f. 9	Rehearsals
b. 1, f. 9	Relatives
b. 1, f. 9	Religion
b. 1, f. 9	Riding Accident
b. 1, f. 9	Servants
b. 1, f. 9	Seven Lively Arts
b. 1, f. 9	Singers
b. 1, f. 9	Silk Stockings, Yale
b. 1, f. 9	Smoking
b. 1, f. 9	Snobbery
b. 1, f. 9	Something for the Boys
b. 1, f. 9	Songs
b. 1, f. 9	Students
b. 1, f. 10	Travels
b. 1, f. 10	Trips Scrapbook
b. 1, f. 10	Trunk Songs
b. 1, f. 10	Venice
b. 1, f. 10	Voice, Singing
b. 1, f. 10	Wall to Wall Cole Porter
b. 1, f. 10	We're All Dressed Up and Don't Know Huerto Go
b. 1, f. 10	Williamstown
b. 1, f. 10	Within the Quota
b. 1, f. 10	Women
b. 1, f. 10	Yale Days
b. 1, f. 10	You'll Never Get Rich
b. 1, f. 10	You'll Never Know
b. 1, f. 11	Miscellaneous

Series II: Glossary of Names

This series contains background information on numerous people associated with Porter, arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 12

Glossary of Names

Series III: Porter Chronology

This series contains information about Porter's life, arranged chronologically. It was originally kept in two binders. Each binder also included additional materials with no clear relationship to the chronology; these have been placed in two folders marked Miscellaneous.

b. 1, f. 13	1890-1919
b. 1, f. 14	1920-1936
b. 1, f. 15	1937-1944
b. 1, f. 16	1945-1950
b. 1, f. 17	1951-1952
b. 1, f. 18	1953
b. 1, f. 19	Miscellaneous (Binder 1)
b. 1, f. 20	1954
b. 1, f. 21	1955-1957
b. 1, f. 22	1958-1971
b. 1, f. 23	Miscellaneous (Binder 2)

Series IV: Research Topics

This series contains materials on various topics relating to Porter. It covers much of the same ground as Series I, II, and III, but Series IV has more extensive information on each topic. It appears to be McBrien's raw material, while the other Series seem to reflect his efforts to transform it into a book.

b. 2, f. 24	Acknowledgment
b. 2, f. 25	Amon Papers - Script for Fred Emney
b. 2, f. 26	Anything Goes
b. 2, f. 27	Around the World
b. 2, f. 28	Article about Porter's Student Notebooks
b. 2, f. 29	Astaire, Fred
b. 2, f. 30-31	Auden, W.H.
b. 2, f. 32	Balls
b. 2, f. 33	Beerbohm, Max
b. 2, f. 34	Berenson
b. 2, f. 35	Berlin, Irving
b. 2, f. 36-39	Biography
b. 2, f. 40	Can-Can
b. 2, f. 41-43	Centennial - Cole Porter
b. 2, f. 44	Childhood
b. 2, f. 45	Cole Porter
b. 2, f. 46	Cole Porter Musical and Literary Trust
b. 2, f. 47	Cole, James O. (Cole Family)
b. 2, f. 48	Collins
b. 2, f. 49	Corrections
b. 2, f. 50	Coward, Noel
b. 2, f. 51	Criticism
b. 2, f. 52	Cronin, John
b. 3, f. 53	Dance
b. 3, f. 54	Dante
b. 3, f. 55	Duke of Verdura, Fulco
b. 3, f. 56	Eells, George

b. 3, f. 57	Essay on Stevie Smith's Poems - Unfinished
b. 3, f. 58	Family Photos / Photos of Cole Porter's Life
b. 3, f. 59	Father - Samuel Fenwick Porter
b. 3, f. 60	FBI Records
b. 3, f. 61	Form Letters
b. 3, f. 62	Gay Divorce
b. 3, f. 63	Gershwin, George
b. 3, f. 64	Grandma Moses
b. 3, f. 65-67	Grants
b. 3, f. 68	Hart, Moss
b. 3, f. 69	Harvard
b. 3, f. 70	Henry Article and other odd ends
b. 3, f. 71	Hirshaw, Dorothy
b. 3, f. 72	Historical
b. 3, f. 73	Hollywood
b. 3, f. 74	Homosexuality
b. 3, f. 75	Howard, Bart
b. 3, f. 76	Howard, Jean
b. 3, f. 77	Illustrations
b. 3, f. 78	Inquiries
b. 3, f. 79	Interview with Madeline P. Smith
b. 3, f. 80	Jubilee
b. 3, f. 81	Kidd, Michael
b. 3, f. 82	Kimball, Robert
b. 3, f. 83-85	Kiss Me Kate
b. 3, f. 86	Kochno
b. 3, f. 87	Krueger, Miles
b. 3, f. 88-89	Lyrics
b. 3, f. 90	Maxwell, Elsa
b. 3, f. 91	Menus - Cole Porter - Waldorf

b. 3, f. 92	Mercer, Mabel
b. 3, f. 93	Miami County Museum
b. 3, f. 94-95	Miscellaneous
b. 3, f. 96	Miscellaneous Songs
b. 4, f. 97	Mother
b. 4, f. 98	Murphys
b. 4, f. 99	Museum of TV and Radio
b. 4, f. 100	Music Analysis
b. 4, f. 101	Musicals (History)
b. 4, f. 102	Negative Reviews
b. 4, f. 103	New Yorkers
b. 4, f. 104	Newman
b. 4, f. 105	Night and Day Film
b. 4, f. 106	Notebooks
b. 4, f. 107	Notes
b. 4, f. 108	Nymph Errant
b. 4, f. 109	Obits - Funeral
b. 4, f. 110	Oddnesses - St. John Documents and Contacts
b. 4, f. 111	Other Composers
b. 4, f. 112	Other Writings
b. 4, f. 113	Overture
b. 4, f. 114	Paris
b. 4, f. 115	Permissions
b. 4, f. 116	Peru, Indiana
b. 4, f. 118-122	Photographs
b. 4, f. 123	Porter, Linda
b. 4, f. 124	Post-Porter Material
b. 4, f. 125	Preface
b. 4, f. 126	Promotion
b. 4, f. 127	Proposal

b. 4, f. 128-129	Publisher
b. 4, f. 130	Quotes for Cole Porter Book
b. 4, f. 131	Recordings
b. 5, f. 132	Reviews (unused)
b. 5, f. 133-134	Reviews
b. 5, f. 135	Riggs, Lawrason
b. 5, f. 136	Rodgers and Hart
b. 5, f. 137	Saints / Spewack
b. 5, f. 138	Schola Cantorum
b. 5, f. 139	Seven Lively Arts
b. 5, f. 140-141	Shows by Porter
b. 5, f. 142	Smith, Madeleine
b. 5, f. 143	Songs/Tapes
b. 5, f. 144-145	Special Collections
b. 5, f. 146	Spewacks
b. 5, f. 147-149	Talks
b. 5, f. 150	Tee, Gerald
b. 5, f. 151	Teilhard de Chardin
b. 5, f. 152	Twenties
b. 5, f. 153	Venice
b. 5, f. 154	Waldorf-Astoria
b. 5, f. 155	Waugh, Evelyn
b. 5, f. 156	Welch, Elizabeth
b. 5, f. 157	Weren't We Fools?
b. 5, f. 158	Will
b. 5, f. 159	Williamstown
b. 5, f. 160	Within the Quota
b. 5, f. 161	Worcester Academy
b. 5, f. 162	Yale
b. 5, f. 163	You're the Top

Series V: Sound Recordings

Sound recordings have been transferred to the Historical Sound Recordings Collection in the Music Library. For further information, please contact the Curator of Historical Sound Recordings.

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.

Names

Porter, Cole, 1891-1964