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# Guide to the Maureen Stapleton Papers

YCAL MSS 1211



by Rosemary K. J. Davis and Caroline Pryor

April 2019

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1211

**CREATOR:** Stapleton, Maureen (1925-2006), author

**TITLE:** Maureen Stapleton papers

**DATES:** 1935–2006

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 12.83 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Maureen Stapleton Papers, which span from 1935 to 2006, contain extensive correspondence with actors, directors and authors including Elizabeth Taylor and Tennessee Williams. Also contains printed material, photographs of Stapleton and other actors, annotated scripts, and other papers by or relating to Maureen Stapleton's life and work.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.stapleton>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Ken Lopez Bookseller with gifts from David Oestreich, Yale 1954, and Elizabeth Oestreich, Yale 1982, in honor of Katherine Fein, Yale 2014, 2017.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Maureen Stapleton 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Maureen Stapleton Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Maureen Stapleton

Maureen Stapleton (1925-2006) was an award-winning American actress. Born in Troy, New York, Stapleton acted in theater, television, and films. She won two Tony Awards, received a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her work in *Reds* (1981), and earned an Emmy for *Among the Paths of Eden* (1968). Stapleton died in 2006.

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## Scope and Contents

The Maureen Stapleton Papers, which span from 1935 to 2006, contain extensive correspondence with actors, directors and authors including Elizabeth Taylor and Tennessee Williams. Also contains printed material, photographs of Stapleton and other actors, annotated scripts, and other papers by or relating to Maureen Stapleton's life and work.

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## Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Correspondence and personal papers, 1937-2006. II. Printed material, 1947-1997. III. Photographs and film stills, 1935-1992. IV. Scripts, 1958-2006. V. Awards and certificates, 1967-2000.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence and personal papers, 1937–2006

2.58 linear feet (2 boxes)

Contains correspondence to and from Maureen Stapleton including letters from Helen Hayes, Elizabeth Taylor, Mike Nichols, and other actors, directors, and individuals.

Materials maintain organization found at time of acquisition.

b.1	Correspondence with George Abbott (3 folders)	circa 1969-1982
b.1	Letter from Elizabeth Taylor	undated
b.1	Birthday cards from Elizabeth Taylor	circa 1995
b.1	"Bouquets a la Carte" card from Elizabeth Taylor	undated
b.1	Christmas card from Elizabeth Taylor	undated
b.1	<a href="#">Correspondence from Tennessee Williams</a>	circa 1958-1982
b.1	Correspondence, G-H	circa 1955-2000s
b.1	Correspondence with Julie Harris	circa 1960-1995
b.1	Correspondence with Helen Hayes	circa 1971-2000s
b.1	Correspondence with Lillian Hellman	circa 1969-1983
b.1	Correspondence, K-R Contains correspondence with Stapleton's friends, peers, and colleagues including a telegram and letter from Grace Kelly, personal correspondence with members of the Kennedy family, and a telegram invite to Robert F. Kennedy's requiem mass.	circa 1955-2003
b.1	Correspondence with Mike Nichols	circa 1968-1987
b.1	Correspondence, S-W	circa 1969- 2000s
b.1	Correspondence, A-F	circa 1945-2000s
b.1	Letter from Barbara Bush	circa 1989-2000s
b.1	Correspondence with Katharine Cornell	circa 1947-2000s
b.1	Tax returns	circa 1978
b.1	Mailgrams regarding Maureen Stapleton Theater	circa 1981
b.1	Siena College and Troy, New York material	circa 1974-1980s
b.1	Newspaper and magazine clippings	circa 1968-1975

b.1	Playbills	circa 1937-1971
b.1	Theater pamphlets	circa 1953-1976
b.1	Homemade card (blank)	undated
b.1	Receipt for doctor visit	1943
b.1	Notes	circa 1990s
b.2	Photograph of Maureen Stapleton with Neil Simon	undated
b.2	Film still of Stapleton in "For Whom the Bell Tolls"	1959
b.2	State of NY legislation document regarding death of Maureen Stapleton Includes a copy of Maureen Stapleton's funeral program.	2006

**Series II: Printed material, 1947–1997***2.17 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Contains books from Maureen Stapleton's personal library, including some volumes with annotations and inscriptions.

Materials maintain organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 3	On Reflection: An Autobiography	1969
b. 3	All People Are Famous	1974 November 11
b. 3	Method--or Madness?	1978
b. 3	Tryout	circa 1979
b. 3	Remembering Mr. Maugham	1970 August 18
b. 3	When Do I Start? A Memoir	1997
b. 3	Blow Up a Storm	1970 August 11
b. 3	Maybe	circa 1980
b. 3	Detective Story: A Play in Three Acts	1949
b. 3	The Crucible	1953
b. 4	Toys in the Attic	1960
b. 4	Sardi's: The Story of a Famous Restaurant	1953
b. 4	That Shining Hour	1970
b. 4	Stopped Rocking and Other Screenplays	1984
b. 4	The Gingerbread Lady	1971
b. 4	Rewrites: A Memoir	1996
b. 4	Antony and Cleopatra	1947
b. 4	An Actor's Life for Me!	1987
b. 4	Me: A Modern Master's Book for Children	1967 June 16
b. 4	Lena	1965

**Series III: Photographs and film stills, 1935–1992***2.92 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Contains portraits, publicity images, and candid photographs of Maureen Stapleton and other individuals.

Materials maintain organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 5	Photograph album	circa 1979
b. 5	Photographs from "The Gin Game"	circa 1970s-1980s
b. 5	Framed photographs (4 folders) Includes photographs of Helen Hayes, Spangler Arlington Brugh, Errol Flynn, Barbra Streisand, and Natalie Wood.	circa 1942-1987
b. 5	Photographs from "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"	circa 1969-1976
b. 6	<a href="#">Photograph album featuring colleagues and film career</a>	circa 1935-1990
b. 6	<a href="#">Photograph album featuring Elizabeth Taylor and Tennessee Williams</a>	circa 1967-1981
b. 7	Photograph album featuring photos of Stapleton and friends	circa 1943-1992



**Series IV: Scripts, 1958–2006***1.08 linear feet (1 box)*

Materials maintain organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 8	"Child, Childbirth, Childhood, Children" by William Saroyan	1992
b. 8	"Angela" by Rebecca Miller	1992
b. 8	"Broadway" by Philip Dunning and George Abbott	1974
b. 8	"The Big Shot" by George Abbott	1970 May 28
b. 8	Letters to Kathy Bamberry regarding Stapleton's death	2006
b. 8	"Lonelyhearts" by Dore Schary	1958
b. 8	"The Gingerbread Lady" by Neil Simon	1970 December 13
b. 8	"Jake's Women" by Neil Simon	1988
b. 8	Letter to Stapleton regarding "Cocoon" script	1987
b. 8	"A Second Epiphany for my Friend Maureen" by Tennessee Williams	1973
b. 8	"Stopped Rocking" by Tennessee Williams, 2nd draft	1973
b. 8	"Stopped Rocking" by Tennessee Williams, 1974 revision	1974
b. 8	"Stopped Rocking" by Tennessee Williams, 1975 revision	1975
b. 8	"Stopped Rocking" by Tennessee Williams, revision	undated
b. 8	"Stopped Rocking" by Tennessee Williams, 1977 revision	1977
b. 8	"Stopped Rocking" by Tennessee Williams	1979 April 19

**Series V: Awards and certificates, 1967–2000***4.08 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Contains awards, nomination certificates, and other documentation primarily related to Maureen Stapleton's work as an actress.

Materials maintain organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 9	Emmy Award "Outstanding Single Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Drama" nomination for "Among the Paths to Eden"	1967
b. 9	Drama Desk Award for "The Gingerbread Lady"	1970–1971
b. 9	Nomination for Antoinette Perry Award	circa 1970-1971
b. 9	"Best Spoken Word, Documentary or Drama Recording" Grammy nomination for "To Kill a Mockingbird"	1975
b. 9	The Rose Blimler Award	1975
b. 9	Honorary degree from Russell Sage College	1976 May 23
b. 9	Charter Member Certificate for Hollywood Stuntmen's Hall of Fame	1976 December 14
b. 9	The Hard Flint Boys award	circa 1976-1977
b. 9	Emmy nomination for "The Gathering"	1977
b. 9	Golden Globe Best Supporting Actress nomination for "Interiors"	1978
b. 9	Antoinette Perry Award nomination for "The Little Foxes"	circa 1980-1981
b. 9	Distinguished Citizen Award	1981 December 15
b. 9	Dedication plaque for Maureen Stapleton Theater	circa 2000
b. 10	Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination for "Airport"	1970
b. 10	Certificate of recognition for "Maureen Stapleton Day"	1974–1979
b. 10	Los Angeles Film Critics Association Best Supporting Actress award for "Interiors"	1978
b. 10	Best Actress in a Supporting Role Certificate of Nomination for "Interiors"	1978
b. 10	Award for Best Supporting Actress in "Red" from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association	1981
b. 11	Annual Award for Best Supporting Actress in "Reds," from 1981 National Society of Film Critics	1981
b. 11	British Academy Award for "Reds"	1982
b. 11	Citation of award for "Reds"	1982
b. 11	Photographs from ABC's "Night of 100 Stars"	1982
b. 11	Award of Honor for Arts and Culture	1983 May 3

## **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**

Actresses  
Actresses -- Correspondence  
Actresses -- United States  
Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States -- 20th Century  
Television actors and actresses -- United States

### **Occupations**

Actresses -- United States -- 20th Century