

# Guide to the Norman Weissman Papers

YCAL MSS 1556



by Nora Soto

July 2023

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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 1556

**CREATOR:** Weissman, Norman, 1925- , author

**TITLE:** Norman Weissman papers

**DATES:** 1942–2014

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 15.9 linear feet (16 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English.

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains correspondence, writings, research materials, photographs, printed material, and computer and audiovisual media by or relating to writer and director Norman Weissman.

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

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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.weissman>.

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  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Norman Weissman, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 14 (electronic media): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 15-16 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Norman Weissman 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

Norman Weissman Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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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, 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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## Separated Materials

Printed material received with the collection was removed for separate cataloging and can be accessed by searching the library's online catalog.

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## Norman Weissman (1925–2021)

Norman Weissman was an American writer, director, and producer of over 400 documentary and educational films and television specials. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1948, Weissman began creating films for government agencies, including the United States Information Agency, the Navy, Air Force, and Department of Labor, as well as corporations such as Pfizer, Georgia Pacific, IBM, and Shell Oil, and non-profit groups like the National Heart Association and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Weissman directed his first film, *An Adventure in Friendship*, in 1949. His other films include *Here to There* (1965), which was shown during the 1965 New York World's Fair, *Impulse '90* (1969), *It Happened in Holland* (1970), and *Everybody Knows* (1958), for which he wrote the story and screenplay. Weissman's 1953 film *The School of the Ozarks* was created for dissemination by the United States Information Agency to Europe during the Cold War. Weissman's honors include three American Film Festival Awards, a CHRIS

Award, and an Academy Award nomination. In addition to his career in film and television production, Weissman authored six books, including the memoir *My Exuberant Voyage* (2009).

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## Content Description

The collection contains correspondence, writings, research materials, photographs, printed material, and computer and audiovisual media by or relating to writer and director Norman Weissman. Correspondence consists of personal and professional letters exchanged between Weissman and other writers and educators such as Louis Paul Bénézet and Richard L. Ottinger, as well as third party correspondence between Weissman's family members. Writings contain notes, research materials, proposals, and drafts of Weissman's books, play scripts, and screenplays. Much of Weissman's work focuses on the prevention of terrorism, the Kent State shootings, and the Vietnam War.

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## Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Correspondence, 1942–1949. II. Writings and Research Material, 1948–2014. III. Photographs, circa 1945–2009. IV. Printed Material, 1943–2014. V. Computer and Audiovisual Media, undated.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1942–1999

*2.5 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series contains Weissman's correspondence with writers, educators, friends, and family. Correspondents include educator Louis Paul Bénézet and politician Richard L. Ottinger. Also present is third party correspondence, including letters exchanged between Weissman's family members.

Organized into two subseries: Norman Weissman Correspondence, and Third Party Correspondence. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, with unsorted correspondence filed at the end of the sequence.

#### Norman Weissman Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Bénézet, Louis Paul	1958–1959
b. 1, f. 2	Duncan, Todd	1984
b. 1, f. 3	Federbush, Arnold	1983–1993
b. 1, f. 4	Ottinger, Richard L. (Richard Lawrence)	1957–1973
b. 1, f. 5	Rainat-Deslèves, Max	1966–1981
b. 1, f. 6	Seitzman, Daniel	1973–1976
b. 1, f. 7	Weissman, Emanuel	1942–1946
b. 1, f. 8-18	Weissman family	1942–1946
b. 2, f. 19-23	Weissman family	1942–1946
b. 2, f. 24-25	Unsorted	1943–1999

#### Third Party Correspondence

b. 2, f. 26	Weissman, Bernard to Emanuel Weissman	1940–1946
b. 2, f. 27-32	Weissman, Bernard to Weissman family	1935–1946
b. 3, f. 33-37	Weissman, Bernard to Weissman family	1935–1946
b. 3, f. 38	Various to Bernard Weissman	1942–1946

**Series II: Writings and Research Material, 1948–2014***3 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series consists of notes, drafts, shooting scripts, project proposals, and research materials pertaining to Weissman's books, films, and television specials. Common research topics include terrorism, the Vietnam War, the Kent State shootings, and Israel.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 4, f. 39	<i>The Cry of Vietnam</i> , poetry by Thich Nhat Hanh, drawings by Vo-Dinh	1968
b. 4, f. 40	<i>Israel's Strategic Doctrine</i> , Yoav Ben-Horin and Barry Posen	1981 September
b. 4, f. 41-42	New Futures initiative	1987 July
b. 4, f. 43	"Brooklyn is My Paris," original television play	1952 December 31
b. 4, f. 44	"The Holocaust," Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem	1977
b. 4, f. 45	"Phobia," television series proposal	undated
b. 4, f. 46	"Recognition and Management of Depression," complete uncredited transcript	undated
b. 4, f. 47	"Poems.1"	undated
b. 4, f. 48	Kent State	1970–2010
b. 4, f. 49	Miscellaneous clippings	circa 1990
b. 4, f. 50	In memory of Joe Arnold and Fred Flach	2006 November
b. 4, f. 51	Charles Duncan	1994–2004
b. 4, f. 52	"Look Back With Love (A Family Memoir)"	undated
b. 4, f. 53	<i>The Patriot</i>	2017 July 18
b. 4, f. 54	Vladimir Jabotinsky	2000
b. 4, f. 55	Personal notebook	undated
b. 4, f. 56	Research on counterterrorism protection information	undated
b. 4, f. 57	"The Third War," script	undated
b. 4, f. 58	Bibliographies, motion film agreements	1979
b. 4, f. 59	Research for "Terrorist Incident Analysis"	1985–1986
b. 4, f. 60-61	Treatments for terrorism counteraction programs	1986
b. 4, f. 62-63	Research on terrorism	1978–1986
b. 4, f. 64	"Choices: A Professional Approach to Quality Assurance"	1987 May 22
b. 5, f. 65	"Powered Industrial Truck Safety"	1988 November 28

b. 5, f. 66	Kent State annotated bibliography	1990
b. 5, f. 67	"Ballads for Americans"	undated
b. 5, f. 68	Proposal for television series on Black heritage in American history	1973 December 11
b. 5, f. 69	"Through White Eyes" and "Portraits of the Vanishing West"	undated
b. 5, f. 70	"Development of a Medical Education Curriculum for the Olympus Satellite"	1989
b. 5, f. 71	"Creating an Addiction-Free Workplace"	1989 May 5
b. 5, f. 72	"Management Choices: Terrorist Threat Assessment"	1989 May 22
b. 5, f. 73	Story treatment: "Enterprise" (Task Force 77)	1968 October 10
b. 5, f. 74	"Everybody Knows," scenario of a sound picture in color	1958 January 21
b. 5, f. 75	"John Corridan: Waterfront Priest"	undated
b. 5, f. 76	"Meet Clifford Case"	1973
b. 5, f. 77	Petition to President Nixon to declare Dr. Samuel A. Mudd innocent	1970–2001
b. 5, f. 78-79	Kent State research	1990–1993
b. 5, f. 80	"Michael Dukakis Speaks"	1988 September 9
b. 5, f. 81	Edith Stein research	1979
b. 5, f. 82	"Men for All Seasons," research	undated
b. 5, f. 83	"Phung Hoang" ("The Phoenix Program")	1974–1975
b. 5, f. 84	"The Documentary Film"	1948 March 3
b. 5, f. 85	Lt. David Trujillo, My Lai witness	undated
b. 5, f. 86-87	Colonel William C. Bishop	circa 1983
b. 5, f. 88	Brainard draft	undated
b. 5, f. 89	"Les imposteurs," Roman par Max M. Rainat	undated
b. 5, f. 90	<i>The Patriot</i> , draft	2017 June 30
b. 5, f. 91	"Reel 3," transcript	undated
b. 6, f. 92	Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy	2010–2014
b. 6, f. 93-94	China folder	1987–1992
b. 6, f. 95	"The Incredible Mina Hubbard" (comments)	undated
b. 6, f. 96	Israel clippings folder	1988–2013
b. 6, f. 97	<i>The Patriot</i> , research	2003–2013



b. 6, f. 98	"Phobia," television pilot transcript	undated
b. 6, f. 99	"Brooklyn is My Paris," play script	1972
b. 6, f. 100-101	"The Closest Kin There Is," screenplay	1961, undated
b. 6, f. 102	"Fridericus," screenplay	1981
b. 6, f. 103	"Development of Immunological Capacity in the Newborn" and "Norpax," shooting scripts	1963-1974
b. 6, f. 104	"The Pursuit of Happiness," shooting script	undated
b. 6, f. 105	"The Un-Americans," screenplay	1950
b. 6, f. 106	"Frame Up," screenplay	undated
b. 6, f. 107	"The Man on the Mountain," screenplay	undated
b. 6, f. 108	"Miracle in San Juan," screenplay	undated
b. 6, f. 109	"Rickie," screenplay	1981
b. 6, f. 110	"Ninety Days to Somewhere," shooting script	undated
b. 6, f. 111	"Stagecoach Mary," screenplay	undated
b. 6, f. 112	"Bose Ikard-Cowboy," screenplay	undated
b. 6, f. 113	Untitled partial script	undated
b. 6, f. 114	"Reel 1," transcript	undated

**Series III: Photographs, circa 1945–2009***5.3 linear feet (4 boxes)*

The series contains photographic prints and negatives used in Weissman's productions, as well as images promoting his books. Also included are photographic reproductions mounted on foam board.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 7, f. 115	"Truth Victorious," Muhammad Ali	undated
b. 7, f. 116-117	Photographs of Norman Weissman in the Navy	undated
b. 7, f. 118	Marbial Valley, Haiti	undated
b. 7, f. 119	JFK and Bill Clinton	undated
b. 7, f. 120-123	Various photographs	undated
b. 7, f. 124-125	Vietnam, David Trujillo	1970s
b. 7, f. 126-127	"The Man on the Mountain"	undated
b. 8, f. 128-130	Photographs from <i>Snapshots USA</i>	undated
b. 9, f. 131-133	Photographs from <i>Snapshots USA</i>	undated
b. 10, f. 134	Robert Frost seminar	1945 October
b. 10, f. 135	"Korea 1950"	1950 August 28
b. 10, f. 136	Abraham and Isaac, Kent State Memorial	undated
b. 10, f. 137	Unidentified woman	
b. 10, f. 138	Unidentified nuns	undated
b. 10, f. 139-141	<i>My Exuberant Voyage</i> , book jacket photographs	circa 2009

**Series IV: Printed Material, 1943–2014***4 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series contains clippings, circulars, government publications, reports, and magazines, many of which were utilized by Weissman in his work as a filmmaker. The majority of material is related to research topics such as terrorism, the military, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. There are publications from the United States Department of State, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Overseas Security Advisory Council, and the Department of the Army.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 11, f. 142	<i>New York Times, "A Reply to Miss Ozick"</i>	1978 March 26
b. 11, f. 143	Newspaper clippings on nuclear weapons	1977–1978
b. 11, f. 144	Newspaper clippings on the Holocaust, Nazism, WWII	1978
b. 11, f. 145	Newspaper clippings on Palestine and Israel	1978
b. 11, f. 146	Newspaper clippings on terrorism	1978–1986
b. 11, f. 147	Newspaper clippings on the CIA	1977
b. 11, f. 148	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	1977–2000
United States Department of State		
b. 11, f. 149	<i>Overseas Security Advisory Council</i>	circa 1993
b. 11, f. 150	<i>Political Violence Against Americans</i>	1998–1999
b. 11, f. 151-153	<i>Patterns of Global Terrorism</i>	1985–2002
b. 11, f. 154	<i>Security Guidelines for American Enterprises Abroad</i>	1988 November
b. 11, f. 155	<i>Private Sector Liaison Staff Anniversary Date List</i>	1989
b. 11, f. 156	<i>Americans Abroad: What You Should Know Before You Go!</i>	undated
b. 11, f. 157-158	<i>Significant Incidents of Political Violence Against Americans</i>	1989–1997
b. 11, f. 159	<i>Bureau of Diplomatic Security 1987 Progress Report</i>	1988 January
b. 11, f. 160	<i>Lethal Terrorist Actions Against Americans, 1973–1986</i>	undated
b. 11, f. 161	<i>Security Guidelines for American Families Living Abroad</i>	undated
b. 11, f. 162	<i>Countering Terrorism</i>	1999
b. 11, f. 163	<i>Guidelines for Protecting U.S. Business Information Overseas</i>	1992 November
b. 11, f. 164	<i>Survey of the Counterintelligence Needs of Private Industry</i> Includes letters to Norman Weissman from Overseas Security Advisory Council (August 1995).	1995 June 7
b. 11, f. 165	<i>Issues in Global Crime</i>	1998
b. 11, f. 166	<i>Terrorist Attacks on US Businesses Abroad</i>	1986 March

Anti-Defamation League		
b. 11, f. 167	<i>1998 Hate Crimes Laws</i>	1998
b. 11, f. 168	<i>Danger: Extremism</i>	1996
b. 11, f. 169	<i>The Web of Hate: Extremists Exploit the Internet</i>	1996
b. 11, f. 170	"Aerial Tactics of World War I: A Brief and Somewhat Factual Historical Presentation" by Greg Keshishian	undated
b. 11, f. 171	"Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy: Then & Now"	2014
b. 11, f. 172	U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, <i>Terrorism Counteraction</i>	1984 July 15
United States Army Military Police School		
b. 11, f. 173-174	Field circulars	1984
b. 12, f. 175	<i>Military Police Operations</i>	1976
United States Department of the Army		
b. 12, f. 176	<i>Countering Terrorism and Other Major Disruptions on Military Installations</i>	1983
b. 12, f. 177	<i>Physical Security Field Manual</i>	1979 March
b. 12, f. 178	<i>FORSCOM Security Enhancement Plan</i>	1985 April 12
b. 12, f. 179	<i>Countering Terrorism on US Army Installations</i>	1983 April
b. 12, f. 180	<i>US Army Operational Concept for Terrorism Counteraction</i>	1984 March 19
b. 12, f. 181	United States Department of Defense, <i>Protection of DoD Personnel Against Terrorist Acts</i>	1983 April
b. 12, f. 182	Naval Air Primary Training Command, <i>Wartime Military Courtesy</i>	circa 1944
b. 12, f. 183	International Association of Chiefs of Police, <i>Clandestine Tactics and Technology</i>	circa 1984
b. 12, f. 184	Various publications on terrorism	1977-1982
b. 12, f. 185	<i>Film Culture</i> , Number 50-51	1970
b. 12, f. 186	<i>Sea Power</i>	1943
b. 12, f. 187-188	<i>Naval Aviation News</i>	1943-1945
b. 12, f. 189	The Mark III Slipstream Yearbook, Aviation Cadet Regiment U.S. Naval Air Training	circa 1940s
b. 13 (Oversize), f. 190	<i>Life</i>	1943 April 19
b. 13 (Oversize), f. 191	<i>New York Times</i> , supplement	circa 1956

**Series V: Computer and Audiovisual Media, undated***1.1 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series contains compact discs, audiocassettes, microcassettes, and videocassettes.

Box 14 (electronic media): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 15-16 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Organized into two subseries: Computer Media, and Audiovisual Media. Audiovisual Media is arranged alphabetically by format.

Computer Media		
b. 14, f. 192	Computer media	
Audiovisual Media		
b. 15, f. 193	Audiocassette: Bishop I	undated
Microcassettes		
b. 15, f. 194	#11, #12	undated
b. 15, f. 195	Paul #1, #2	undated
b. 15, f. 196	Paul #3, #4	undated
b. 15, f. 197	R-1 Fred, R2 Alex	undated
b. 15, f. 198	Sachs #8	undated
b. 15, f. 199	Stark #5, #6	undated
b. 15, f. 200	[Illegible] at Home, #2	undated
Videocassettes		
b. 16, f. 201	Bishop (reel two)	undated
b. 16, f. 202	Bishop reel #3	undated
b. 16, f. 203	Col. Bishop Interview, reel #1 and #2	undated

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## 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

Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Kent State Shootings, Kent, Ohio, 1970  
Motion picture producers and directors --  
United States  
Screenwriters -- United States -- 20th Century  
-- Archives  
Terrorism -- Prevention  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975

### Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials  
Photographs  
Screenplays

### Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Motion picture producers and directors --  
United States -- 20th Century  
Screenwriters -- United States -- 20th Century

### Names

Bénézet, Louis Paul, 1878-1961  
Ottinger, Richard L. (Richard Lawrence), 1929-  
Weissman, Norman, 1925-