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# Guide to the William A. Henry Papers

GEN MSS 1954



March 2022

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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:** GEN MSS 1954

**CREATOR:** Henry, William A., 1950- , author

**TITLE:** William A. Henry papers

**DATES:** 1950-1995

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 18.79 linear feet (31 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** This collection consists of correspondence, writings, research files, professional papers, awards, artwork, childhood papers, scrapbooks, memorials, condolence letters, audiovisual materials, and computer media documenting the work and life of critic and journalist William A. Henry III. Writings consist of corrected proofs for *The Great One: The Life and Legend of Jackie Gleason* (Doubleday, 1992) and *In Defense of Elitism* (Doubleday, 1994); scripts and other documentation from "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat," and shorter writings.

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

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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.henry>.

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  
    item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Gail Manyan Henry, 2021.

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 29 (audiovisual materials): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 30, 31 (computer media): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of computer files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William A. Henry 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

William A. Henry Papers. General Collection, 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 or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## William A. Henry

William A. "Bill" Henry, III (1950-1994) was an American journalist and cultural critic. A 1971 graduate of Yale University, Henry wrote for the Boston Globe in the 1970s, earning Pulitzer Prizes in 1975 for coverage of school desegregation in Boston and in 1980 for television criticism. In the 1980s Henry was an art critic for Time. He wrote three books, *Visions of America: How We Saw the 1984 Election* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1985), *The Great One: The Life and Legend of Jackie Gleason* (Doubleday, 1992), and *In Defense of Elitism* (Doubleday, 1994), and won an Emmy in 1990 for *Steam Heat*, a video documentary on Bob Fosse. He passed away from a heart attack June 28, 1994, just before the publication of *In Defense of Elitism*.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, writings, research files, professional papers, awards, artwork, childhood papers, scrapbooks, memorials, condolence letters, audiovisual materials, and computer media documenting the work and life of critic and journalist William A. Henry III. Writings consist of corrected

proofs for *The Great One: The Life and Legend of Jackie Gleason* (Doubleday, 1992) and *In Defense of Elitism* (Doubleday, 1994); scripts and other documentation from "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat," and shorter writings.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into nine series: I. Correspondence, 1966-1994. II. Writings, 1981-1994. III. Professional papers, 1979-1994. IV. Artwork, 1982, undated. V. Awards, 1966-1995. VI. Memorials and condolence letters, 1994-1995. VII. Personal papers, 1950-1971. VIII. Audiovisual materials, 1983-1994. IX. Computer media, 1993-1994.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1966–1994

*0.67 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Correspondence consists of letters to William A. Henry from notable correspondents, including Clive Barker, Tom Brokaw, Lloyd Richards, Neil Simon, Garry Trudeau, and others, and general correspondence.

Letters from notable persons are arranged alphabetically by correspondent. General correspondence is in the order in which it was received.

|     |                       |                               |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| b.1 | Barker, Clive         | 1993 February 8,<br>undated   |
| b.1 | Brokaw, Tom           | 1982 April 6,<br>1987 March 9 |
| b.1 | Cronyn, Hume          | 1986 September<br>11          |
| b.1 | Giamatti, A. Bartlett | no year February<br>5         |
| b.1 | Gurney, A. R.         | 1988 November<br>28           |
| b.1 | Kennedy, X. J.        | 1977 March 5                  |
| b.1 | Kramer, Lloyd         | 1980 September<br>7           |
| b.1 | Kurtz, Swoosie        | undated                       |
| b.1 | Loudon, Dorothy       | 1991 September<br>16, undated |
| b.1 | MacLaine, Shirley     | undated                       |
| b.1 | Norton, Elliot        | 1992, 1998                    |
| b.1 | Richards, Lloyd       | 1991 January 11               |
| b.1 | Rogers, Fred M.       | 1980 July 1                   |
| b.1 | Seldes, Marian        | 1999 November<br>21           |
| b.1 | Scofield, Paul        | 1986 April 13                 |
| b.1 | Simon, Neil           | 1991                          |
| b.1 | Trudeau, Garry        | undated                       |
| b.1 | Walters, Barbara      | 1982 August 9                 |
| b.1 | Webber, Andrew Lloyd  | 1989 March 16,<br>1989 May 19 |

|     |                                    |                       |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| b.1 | Correspondence<br><i>3 Folders</i> | 1966-1994,<br>undated |
| b.2 | Correspondence<br><i>7 Folders</i> | 1980-1994             |

**Series II: Writings, 1981–1994***4.5 linear feet (9 boxes)*

The writings series consists of foul matter for *The Great One: The Life and Legend of Jackie Gleason* (Doubleday, 1992), research materials and foul matter for *In Defense of Elitism* (Doubleday, 1994), scripts, notes, printed material, and other papers relating to Great Performances: Dance in America, "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat," articles, essays, and other writings by William A. Henry.

Organized into three subseries: Books, 1991-1994; Great Performances: Dance in America, "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat", 1987-1990; and Shorter writings, 1981-1994.

|                  |  |                 |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
|                  | Books<br><i>3.83 linear feet (7 boxes)</i>   | 1991–1994       |
|                  | The books subseries consists of foul matter for <i>The Great One: The Life and Legend of Jackie Gleason</i> (Doubleday, 1992) and research materials and foul matter for <i>In Defense of Elitism</i> (Doubleday, 1994). |                 |
| b. 3             | Great one: the life and legend of Jackie Gleason: foul matter<br><i>12 Folders</i>   | circa 1992      |
| b. 4             | Great one: the life and legend of Jackie Gleason: foul matter  | circa 1992      |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Great one: the life and legend of Jackie Gleason: foul matter  | circa 1992      |
| b. 5             | In defense of elitism: research files<br><i>8 Folders</i>  | 1992-1994       |
| b. 6             | In defense of elitism: research files<br><i>12 Folders</i>   | 1992-1994       |
| b. 7             | In defense of elitism: research files<br><i>2 Folders</i>  | 1991-1994       |
| b. 7             | In defense of elitism: foul matter<br><i>4 Folders</i>   | 1994            |
| b. 8             | In defense of elitism: foul matter<br><i>2 Folders</i>   | 1994            |
|                  | Great Performances: Dance in America, "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat"<br><i>0.42 linear feet (1 box)</i>   | 1987–1990       |
|                  | This subseries consists of scripts, notes, printed material, and other papers relating to Great Performances: Dance in America, "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat," which Henry wrote.  |                 |
| b. 9             | Contract   | 1989 October 16 |
| b. 9             | Disc version   | 1989 November 6 |
| b. 9             | Fosse, Bob: autograph note signed  | undated         |
| b. 9             | Notes<br><i>3 Folders</i>  | undated         |
| b. 9             | Printed material   | 1987, 1990      |
| b. 9             | Screening schedule   | 1989            |



## Great Performances: Dance in America, "Bob Fosse: Steam Heat" (continued)

|       |  |                   |
|-------|--|-------------------|
| b. 9  | Screening notes  | 1989, undated     |
| b. 9  | Script   | 1989 November 30  |
|       | Shorter writings<br><i>0.25 linear feet (1 box)</i><br>Shorter writings consist of articles, essays, and introductions by William A. Henry.<br>Arranged alphabetically by title. | 1981–1994         |
| b. 10 | American institutions and the media. Introduction  | 1985 November     |
| b. 10 | Gay rights-William Henry III   | undated           |
| b. 10 | George Will among the polysyllabus   | 1987 January      |
| b. 10 | Is TV getting better or worse?   | 1988 February     |
| b. 10 | Lee laocca   | 1990 September 15 |
| b. 10 | Network difficulties   | 1981 Summer       |
| b. 10 | Oklahoma celebrates 50 years   | 1993 July 16      |
| b. 10 | Peanut   | 1994 June 13      |
| b. 10 | Personal glimpses  | undated           |
| b. 10 | Rape and the courtroom: the victim on trial  | 1984 March 29     |
| b. 10 | Tarnished childhoods   | 1993 December 14  |
| b. 10 | There's no going back  | 1984 Fall         |
| b. 10 | Trial by mire  | 1994 January 24   |

**Series III: Professional papers, 1979–1994***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Professional papers consist of contracts, records of appearances, an address list, photographs, printed material, and other papers.

|       |   |                              |
|-------|---|------------------------------|
| b. 11 | Appearances                                     | 1983-1993                    |
| b. 11 | Books to which William A. Henry III contributed | undated                      |
| b. 11 | Contracts                                       | 1986-1992                    |
| b. 11 | Crossfire                                       | 1993 December 23, 1994-06-15 |
| b. 11 | New York Drama Critics Circle address list      | undated                      |
| b. 11 | Norman Rockwell                                 | undated                      |
| b. 11 | Photograph: William A. Henry III                |                              |
| b. 11 | Printed material<br><i>2 Folders</i>            | 1980-1994                    |
| b. 11 | Time magazine                                   | 1986-1990                    |

**Series IV: Artwork, 1982, undated***1.67 linear feet (1 box)*

This series consists of three pieces of art owned by William A. Henry.

|                  |  |                 |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Lard, M. G.: untitled ink drawing      | 1982 January 24 |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Szep, Paul: Turning the corner         | undated         |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Unidentified artist: Bill Henry leaves | undated         |

**Series V: Awards, 1966–1995***9.29 linear feet (10 boxes)*

This series consists of awards recognizing Henry's work as a journalist and critic, as well as a scrapbook of clippings related to Henry's 1980 Pulitzer Prize for television criticism.

|                  |  |                  |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| b. 12            | Distinguished criticism award  | 1980 April 14    |
| b. 12            | Duke University citation   | 1983-1984        |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Emmy award: Dance in America. Bob Fosse. Steam Heat  | 1989-1990        |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge award   | 1966 February 22 |
| b. 19            | GLAAD media award outstanding feature writer   | 1991             |
| b. 20            | Hofstra University television conference   | 1985 November    |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Lowell Mellett Award: Journalism under fire  | 1983             |
| b. 12            | Mag. opinion writing/Henry III: certificates   | 1966-1994        |
| b. 21            | New England Associated Press Editors' first place  | 1975-1976        |
| b. 12            | New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame   | 1995 October 22  |
| b. 22            | New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame   | 1995             |
| b. 12            | North Plainfield High Scholl Alumni Hall of Fame first annual induction and awards ceremony: program | 1995 October 6   |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | North Plainfield High Scholl Alumni Hall of Fame first annual induction and awards: certificate      | 1995 October 6   |
| b. 23            | Ohio State award: Bob Fosse. Steam Heat  | 1991 April 11    |
| b. 12            | Pulitzer Prize: certificate  | 1980             |
| b. 24            | Pulitzer Prize Boston Globe: award   | 1980             |
| b. 24            | Pulitzer Prize 75th anniversary Columbia University: award   | 1991             |
| b. 25            | Pulitzer Prize: desk organizer   | undated          |
| b. 28 (Oversize) | Pulitzer prize scrapbook and clippings   | 1979-1981        |

**Series VI: Memorials and condolence letters, 1994–1995***3.75 linear feet (6 boxes)*

Memorials and condolence letters consist of correspondence received by Henry's widow Gail after his passing, papers related to his memorial service, and a scrapbook of obituaries.

|                  |                                    |                       |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| b. 13            | Addresses                          | undated               |
| b. 13            | Correspondence<br><i>7 Folders</i> | 1994                  |
| b. 14            | Correspondence<br><i>4 Folders</i> | 1994                  |
| b. 15            | Correspondence<br><i>9 Folders</i> | 1994                  |
| b. 16            | Correspondence<br><i>9 Folders</i> | 1994-1995,<br>undated |
| b. 17            | Guest book<br><i>3 Folders</i>     | 1994 September<br>20  |
| b. 17            | Program                            | 1994 September<br>20  |
| b. 17            | Program: artwork                   | undated               |
| b. 27 (Oversize) | Program: artwork                   | undated               |
| b. 27 (Oversize) | Scrapbook: obituaries              | 1994                  |

**Series VII: Personal papers, 1950–1971***2.08 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Personal papers consist of a baby book, childhood school papers, a scrapbook, and papers from Henry's time as an undergraduate at Yale.

Arranged chronologically.

|                  |  |                       |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Baby book  | 1950                  |
| b. 18            | School papers<br><i>3 Folders</i>                              | 1963-1966,<br>undated |
| b. 18            | Scrapbook  | 1965-1970             |
| Yale             |  |                       |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Degree   | 1971                  |
| b. 18            | George Farquhar and the rise of naturalism<br><i>2 Folders</i> | 1971 September        |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Twin-rivals. A comedy: poster                                  | undated               |
| b. 18            | Yale papers<br><i>5 Folders</i>                                | undated               |

**Series VIII: Audiovisual materials, 1983–1994***1.08 linear feet (1 box)*

Audiocassette recordings of radio and other appearances by Bill Henry constitute the bulk of audiovisual materials. Also includes audiocassette recordings from Henry's memorial and a videocassette recording of "Bob Fosse Steam Heat," which was produced by Henry.

Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of audiovisual materials may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Arranged chronologically.

|                               |   |                |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911174 | 1/9 SOE: William Henry 1/S William Henry<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | undated        |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911182 | 3CHAUT93-55 The rise and reigned of the middle class drama, William A. Henry, III<br>Arts & humanities: the human play c p 1993 Chautauqua Institution recorded and<br>duplicated by Audio Magic 6455 Portage Road. Westfield, N. Y. 14787<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | 1993           |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911190 | A Beauty & the beast Apr 24/94 Sunday Morning Sunday Morning CBC Radio For<br>personal use only. Not for broadcast Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Box 500,<br>Station A Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.   | 1994 April 24  |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911208 | Newsmark Dec. 1983 Part I Newsmark Dec. 1983 Part II<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i>  | 1983 December  |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911216 | Stonewall-echoes of a revolution 6/27/92 Gay Pride weekend 1992 WBAI Allen<br>Ross, David Rosenberg and Randy Wicker talk about coming out and what<br>Stonewall meant. Stonewall Part 2 Discourses in action Karen Thompson interview<br>Stonewall-echoes of a revolution Stonewall Part 2, Discourses in action<br><i>1 Audiotape</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information. | 1992 June 27   |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911224 | Larry King show 8/27/85 1 Mutual Broadcasting System 1755 Jefferson Davis<br>HWY., Arlington, VA 22202<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | 1985 August 27 |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911232 | Larry King show 8/27/85 2 Mutual Broadcasting System 1755 Jefferson Davis<br>HWY., Arlington, VA 22202<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | 1985 August 27 |

|                               |  |                   |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911240 | Performance today 10-18-88 Meyers "Kingfish" segment Bill on NPR 10/18/88 re: Kingfish Kingfish segment Performance Today 10-18-99 NPR-Meyers<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.   | 1988 October 10   |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911299 | WNET/Thirteen Great Performances Dance in America "Bob Fosse Steam Heat" Episode # 1541 DUB 01/29/90 PB/11 R/COR Telestar Editing 29 West 38th Street New York, NY 10019 (212) 730-1000 WNET/Thirteen Great Performances Dance in America "Bob Fosse Steam Heat" Episode # 1541 DUB 01/29/90 PB/11 R/COR Telestar Editing 29 West 38th Street New York, NY 10019 (212) 730-1000<br><i>1 Videocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | 1990 January 29   |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911257 | Bill on Larry King 6/16/92 Gleason<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.  | 1992 June 16      |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911265 | Larry King Show, The Great One<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.  | 1992 June 16      |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911273 | Bill's memorial<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.   | 1994 September 20 |
| b. 29, IIII<br>39002140911281 | Bill (from Craig) Bill Henry<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.  | 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**

Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Critics -- United States -- 20th Century --  
Archives  
Journalists -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Born digital  
Scrapbooks

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Critics -- United States -- 20th Century  
Journalists -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Henry, William A., 1950-