

Francis Edwin Brennan Papers

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Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of Sherralyn McCoy

Collection Summary

Title: Francis Edwin Brennan Papers

Span Dates: 1927-1984

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1979)

ID No.: MSS61784

Creator: Brennan, Francis Edwin, 1910-1992

Extent: 6,000 items ; 22 containers ; 9.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Art director, editorial consultant, and political cartoonist. Correspondence, diaries, datebooks, printed material, artwork, photographs, and other papers pertaining chiefly to Brennan's World War II service with the U.S. Office of War Information as chief of the graphics divisions in Washington, D.C., Paris, and London, and to his career as an art advisor and design consultant.

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.

People

Brennan, Francis Edwin, 1910-1992.

Cousins, Norman--Correspondence.

Hill, Jerome, 1905-1972.

Luce, Clare Boothe, 1903-1987--Correspondence.

Luce, Henry Robinson, 1898-1967--Correspondence.

Moore, Henry, 1898-1986--Correspondence.

Schlesinger, Arthur M. (Arthur Meier), 1917-2007--Correspondence.

White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899-1985--Correspondence.

Organizations

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Time, inc.

United States. Office of War Information.

Subjects

American periodicals.

Art and war.

Art.

Magazine design.

World War, 1939-1945--Propaganda.

Titles

McCall's (Los Angeles, Calif. : 1921)

Newsweek.

Occupations

Art directors.

Cartoonists.

Consultants.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Francis Edwin Brennan, art director, editorial consultant, and political cartoonist, were given by Brennan to the Library of Congress in 1984.

Processing History

The Brennan Papers were processed in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Many photographs, including from the Office of War Information taken in France during World War II, have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. One audiocassette has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Francis Edwin Brennan Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Francis E. Brennan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Francis E. Brennan are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Francis E. Brennan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1910, July 14	Born, Maywood, Ill.
1927-1928	Attended the experimental college, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
1928-1931	Attended the Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Ill.
1932-1934	Assistant art director, Conde Nast Publications
1934-1935	Art director, British <i>Vogue</i> , Conde Nast Publications
1935-1937	Art director, <i>House & Garden</i> , Conde Nast Publications
1937-1938	Associate art editor, <i>Life</i> magazine
1938	Married Elizabeth Reid Dewson (divorced)
1938-1942	Art editor, <i>Fortune</i>
1942	Chief, Visual Presentation Division, Office of Coordinator of Information, Washington, D.C.

1942	Chief, Graphics Division, Domestic Operations, Office of War Information, Washington, D.C.
1943	Technical Director, <i>One World</i> (unfinished motion picture), Twentieth Century Fox
1944-1945	Chief, Graphics and Exhibitions, European Division, Office of War Information., London and Paris
1945	Assistant to the editor-in-chief, <i>McCall's</i>
1946	Married Frances Margaret Myers
1946	Executive Editor, <i>New Republic</i>
1947-1961	Art advisor to the editor-in-chief, Time, inc.
1961-1962	Vice president, McCann-Erickson, advertising agency
1962-1964	Self-employed consultant
1964	Assistant to architect Edward Durrell Stone
1966-1968	Special assistant to the president, <i>McCall's</i>
1967-1975	Design consultant, <i>Newsweek</i>
1975-1980	Maintained office at <i>Newsweek</i> to draw syndicated political cartoons
1992, Dec. 10	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Francis Edwin Brennan (1910-1922) span the years 1927-1984, with the bulk of the material dating from the 1940 to 1979. Brennan spent most of his career in journalism as an art director and consultant at various magazines. The papers are arranged into four series. The [Diaries and Datebooks](#) series chronicles Brennan's work, not his personal or family activities. The [Chronological File](#) consists mostly of general correspondence with an occasional news clipping or other printed matter. The [Subject File](#) consists of many types of material, including correspondence, art work, and photographs. Samples of Brennan's art work have been placed in the last series, [Design Projects](#).

Brennan began his career at Conde Nast Publications under the tutelage of art director M. F. Agha. In the late 1930s, he began a long association with Time, Inc., first at *Life* and *Fortune* magazines and after World War II as art advisor to Henry Robinson Luce. In addition to consultant and design work on Time, Inc. magazines, Brennan provided a wide variety of services to Luce, such as helping design the new Time-Life buildings in New York and London and assisting Henry and Clare Boothe Luce in building their art collection. Although there is little in the papers prior to World War II, considerable material exists from the 1940s to the 1960s, including correspondence with both the Luces in the [Subject File](#) and [Chronological File](#) series.

During World War II, Brennan worked for the Office of War Information (OWI), first as chief of the graphics division in Washington, D.C., and then as chief of graphics and exhibitions in London and Paris. Material from this period can be found in the [Subject File](#). Particularly well documented are a policy dispute in 1943 at OWI, which led to the resignation of about twenty writers and artists, and OWI exhibitions in France in 1945.

Other important segments of the papers include material from Brennan's work at *McCall's* during the 1960s, at *Newsweek* during the next decade, and work he did for the opening of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and for the Camargo Foundation. Notable correspondents include Norman Cousins, Henry Moore, Arthur M. Schlesinger (1917-2007), and E. B. White.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries and Datebooks, 1939-1965](#)
- [Chronological File, 1927-1983](#)
- [Subject File, 1934-1984](#)
- [Design Projects, 1938-1983](#)
- [Oversize, 1938-1973](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>Diaries and Datebooks, 1939-1965</u> Datebooks, a diary, and office diaries. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 3-5	<u>Chronological File, 1927-1983</u> Correspondence, printed matter, and a list of outgoing documents. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5-21	<u>Subject File, 1934-1984</u> Correspondence, photographs, maps, financial material, drawings, and news clippings and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or name of individual or organization.
BOX 21-22	<u>Design Projects, 1938-1983</u> Books, booklets, pamphlets, periodicals, and corporate stationery and paper designed by Brennan. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize, 1938-1973</u> Oversize booklet and periodicals. Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2	Diaries and Datebooks, 1939-1965 Datebooks, a diary, and office diaries. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Datebooks, 1959-1965 (2 folders) Diary
BOX 2	June 1939-Apr. 1941 May 1941-Feb. 1948 (2 folders) Office diaries, 1954-1958 (2 folders)
BOX 3-5	Chronological File, 1927-1983 Correspondence, printed matter, and a list of outgoing documents. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3	1927-1962 (6 folders)
BOX 4	1963-1979 (10 folders)
BOX 5	1980-1983 (3 folders) List of outgoing documents, 1947-1958, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5-21	Subject File, 1934-1984 Correspondence, photographs, maps, financial material, drawings, and news clippings and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or name of individual or organization.
BOX 5	<i>ABC</i> prints Correspondence, 1972-1983 Miscellany, 1972-1976, undated Agha, M. F., 1962 Akers, Anthony B., 1954 American Brake Shoe Co., 1963 American Federation of Arts, New York, N.Y. Correspondence, 1966-1975 (2 folders) Miscellany, 1953-1959, 1973-1979, undated American Heritage Publishing Co., 1963-1964 American Motors Corp., 1963

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

- Anderson isometric maps, 1963-1976, undated
- Angel, Marie, "Bestiary," undated
- Apartment
 - Leases, 1958-1964
 - Miscellany, 1953-1964
 - (2 folders)
- Armory show, New York, N.Y., fiftieth anniversary, 1962-1963
- Art Directors Club, New York, N.Y., 1946, 1966, undated
- Awards
 - Legion of Honor, 1960-1961
 - Ordre du Mérite Commercial, 1949-1951
 - Pulitzer Prize, submission, 1978
- "Babes in Bed," 1948-1951, 1958, 1968
- Banker's Trust, 1963, undated
- Biographical material, 1934-circa 1970, undated
- BOX 6** Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N.Y., inspiration gala, 1955
- Callaway family, 1973-1978
- Camargo Foundation (re Jerome Hill) *See also Container 9, Hill, Jerome*
 - Appraisal of Jerome Hill art collection, 1973
 - Barrett, John, 1973-1974
 - Christie, Manson and Woods
 - Auction book for Jerome Hill art collection, 1974
 - Estimates for Jerome Hill art collection, 1974
 - Miscellany, 1974, undated
 - General correspondence, 1973-1980
 - (3 folders)
 - Inventories of estate of Jerome Hill, 1973-1974, undated
- BOX 7** Miscellany, 1973-circa 1976, undated
- Photographs of Jerome Hill art collection, 1973, undated
- Sotheby Parke Bernet, 1974, undated
- Storage and moving, 1974
- Trustees, 1973-1976
- Canfield, Cass, Jr. and Sr., 1963-1964
- Casson, Hugh, 1961-1964, undated
- Century Association, New York, N.Y., 1951, 1958-1964, 1972-1981, undated
 - (2 folders)
- Chambord, Jacqueline, 1961-1963
- Chesebrough-Pond's, 1961-1964
- Chrysler Corp., 1962-1963, undated
- City Rent and Rehabilitation Administration, New York, N.Y., 1963-1964
- Client list, 1962, undated
- Coffee House, New York, N.Y., 1965, 1973-1981
- Collegiate School, New York, N.Y., 1964, undated
- Columbia Broadcasting System
 - Salant, Richard, 1963
 - Stanton, Frank, 1962-1964
- Communications facilities, undated

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

- Consolidated Edison, 1963
Consulting services business
 General, 1962-1964
 Invoices, 1963-1964
- BOX 8** Contract books, 1963-1964, undated
Corning Glass Works, Steuben Glass and Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., 1962-1964, 1976
Cousins, Norman, 1966-1967, undated *See also Containers 10-11, McCall's ; Container 16, Saturday Review*
Couturier, M. A., 1949-1951, undated
Cruises, 1967-1968
DeCroisset, Philippe, 1949-1962
Defense Department, 1950-1952, undated
Dreyfuss, Henry, 1961-1964
Earl Newsom and Co., 1955, 1962-1963
Ebasco Services, 1963
Encyclopedia Britannica Educational Corp.
 General, 1967
 Notebooks, 1967, undated
English, Gene, 1963-1965
Family papers
 Brennan, Christopher, 1962-1965, 1973-1979, undated
 Brennan, Frances, 1963
 Brennan, Jean Ford, 1963, undated
 Brennan, Richard, 1962, 1973-1977, undated
 Brennan, William, 1962-1963, undated
 Miscellaneous, 1946-1955, 1963, undated
 Smith, Elizabeth ("Twig"), 1962-1964, 1969
 Swanson, Liza, 1962-1964, undated
Fenwick, Philippe R., 1950, 1962-1963
Feuer and Martin, 1962-1963
Financial material, 1961-1964, undated
- BOX 9** Fort Worth National Bank, Fort Worth, Tex., 1963, undated
Fulton, Walter and Halley, 1948-1951, undated
General Learning Corp., 1966
General Motors Corp., 1965-1967, undated
Gerould, Mireille, 1962-1968, undated
Giacometti, Alberto, sculpture, 1964-1968, undated
Glenn Advertising Agency, Dallas, Tex.
 General, 1962-1963
 (2 folders)
 Lone Star copy ideas, 1963
 Marcus, Stanley, 1962-1964
 Working information, 1962-1963, undated
Grossman, Dick, 1962-1964
Grover, Allen and Bea, 1959-1967, undated
H. Huntsman and Sons, London, England, 1961-1962
Hill, Jerome, 1963-1964 *See also Containers 6-7, Camargo Foundation*

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

- Hodgins, Eric and Eleanor, 1948-1963
- Hodgkin, Eliot, 1961-1962
- Inventions and new product ideas
 - Miscellaneous, 1957-1963, undated
 - "Singapore," 1955-1956
 - "Topkick," 1968-1978, undated
- Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington, D.C., 1977
- Jarvis, Alan, 1962-1964
- Javits, Jacob K., 1962-1963
- Job candidates and letters of recommendation, 1966-1968, 1983, undated
- Job search
 - General correspondence, 1960-1969
 - (2 folders)
- BOX 10**
 - Miscellany, 1968-circa 1970
 - RCA Corp., 1968, undated
 - Reader's Digest*, 1968-1969
 - Time, Inc., 1967-1968
 - John Peter Associates, 1962-1967
 - Kennedy, John F., 1961-1964
 - Lapham, Lewis A., 1964
 - Laporte, Raymond, 1963
 - Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, N.Y.
 - Correspondence, 1962-1963
 - (2 folders)
 - Financial material, 1962-1963, undated
 - Miscellany, 1962, undated
 - The Little Newspaper*, 1968-1969
 - London, England, 1961
 - Look*, 1962-1964
 - Magazine Publishers' Association, 1960-1961, undated
 - Marcus, Stanley, 1961-1968
 - McCall's*
 - Annual reports, 1966-1967
 - Book division
 - American women project, 1966-1968
 - General correspondence, 1965-1967
- BOX 11**
 - Gift of Love*, 1966-1967, undated
 - Miscellany, 1966, undated
 - Centennial, 1967-1968
 - Children's magazines, 1966
 - Corporate trademark, 1966-1968, undated
 - Critiques, 1966-1967, 1983, undated
 - Editorials, 1967-1968
 - General correspondence, 1965-1968
 - (2 folders)
 - History, 1967-1968, undated
 - Information Services Co., 1967, undated

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

- Langlie, Arthur B., 1966, undated
Louis Harris and Associates, 1966
The McCallers, 1966-1967
- BOX 12** Miscellany, 1966-1967, undated
Murphy, Arthur R., 1958, 1966-1967, undated
National Educational Television, 1966
New York World's Fair promotion proposal, New York, N.Y., 1962
Notebook, 1966-1968, undated
Public relations proposals, 1967
Zip code, 1966, undated
McCann-Erickson Advertising
General correspondence, 1960-1964
(2 folders)
Miscellany, 1961, undated
National Broadcasting Co.
Advertisements, 1961, undated
Audience promotion, 1961, undated
Campaign strategy, 1961, undated
General correspondence, 1961
Slogans, 1961, undated
- BOX 13** Miller, Irving D., 1962-1966, undated
Miscellaneous, 1943-1950, 1963, 1971, 1984, undated
Moderator, 1966-1968
Moon, 1958-1967
Moore, Henry Spencer, 1951-1952, 1984
Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y., 1961-1964, 1973
Museum of the City of New York, New York, N.Y., 1964
National Broadcasting Co., 1962-1963 *See also Container 12, McCann-Erickson*
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y., 1975-1976, undated
New York Herald Tribune, 1957
New York Life Insurance, 1963
New York Post, 1956, 1972, undated
New York Stock Exchange building proposal, New York, N.Y., 1963-1964
New York Times, 1961-1977
Newsweek *See also Containers 3-4, Chronological File*
Art collection, 1974-1977
Auchincloss, Kenneth, 1973-1975
Building office directory, 1971-1972, undated
Elliott, Osborn, 1962-1976, undated
General correspondence, 1963, 1969-1983, undated
International, 1973-1974, undated
Miscellany, 1970-1977, undated
Typeface and photocomposition, 1972, undated
- BOX 14** Notebook re books, artists, and art sources, circa 1952
Ogilvy, Benson and Mather, 1961-1964
One World film project

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

	Film strips, 1943 (2 folders)
	Miscellany, 1943-1944, undated
	Opener, 1947, undated
	Study for introduction, circa 1944
	<i>Pacem in Terris</i> , 1963
	Photographs, undated
	Political drawings
	Correspondence, 1975-1984, undated (2 folders)
	Exhibitions, 1975-1978
	Financial material, 1977-1978, undated
	Miscellany, 1974-1980, undated
BOX 15	News clippings, circa 1974-circa 1984 (4 folders)
	Photographs with commentary, 1975-1980, undated
	Query to editors, undated
	Promotional material, 1976-1979, undated
	Psychological warfare report for operations research office, 1951, 1968
	<i>Quest</i> , 1976-1977 <i>See also Container 22, same heading</i>
	<i>Reader's Digest</i> , 1962
	<i>Redbook</i> , 1966
	Restaurant Associates, 1962-1964
	Rockefeller Foundation, 1963-1964, undated
	Rolls-Royce Ltd., 1957-1959
	Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada, 1966-1967
BOX 16	<i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , 1962-1963
	<i>Saturday Review</i>
	Cousins, Norman, 1966-1968 <i>See also Container 8, same heading ; Containers 10-12, McCalls</i>
	Format, 1966-1967, undated
	General correspondence, 1962-1968, undated
	Writings <i>See Container 21, same heading</i>
	Schlesinger, Arthur Meier, Jr., 1956-1963
	Selznick, David O., <i>Portrait of Jennie</i> , 1947-1948
	<i>Show Magazine</i> , 1962-1964
	Simon and Schuster, 1949-1951
	Social security, 1975-1979
	Sonnenberg, Benjamin, 1962-1964
	Speeches
	Notes, 1959-1964, undated
	Responses, 1959-1960
	Texts, 1951-1960 (2 folders)
	Stevenson, Adlai E., II, 1955-1963, undated
	Stone, Edward Durell, 1964-1966, undated
	Thomson, Sandy, 1967

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

- Time, Inc.
- Architecture tour, 1956
 - Book division, 1962-1967
- BOX 17
- Chinese art treasures
 - Correspondence, 1952-1961
(2 folders)
 - Miscellany, 1952-1961
 - Critique of magazines, 1960
 - Donovan, Hedley, 1962-1967
 - Fortune*
 - Art market, 1955, undated
 - Critiques, 1963-1964
 - Fiftieth anniversary, 1979-1980, undated
 - Miscellany, 1939-1940, 1963-1964
 - "N.Y./H.Q./U.S.A." advertising insert
 - General correspondence, 1963
 - Lenahan, E. P. ("Pat"), 1963
 - Reports, 1963
 - General correspondence, 1951-1973, undated
(2 folders)
- BOX 18
- Kricke, Norbert, 1956-1960, undated
 - Life*
 - Correspondence with artists, 1954-1956, undated
 - Critiques, undated
 - General, 1954-1963
 - Oral history interview, 1956-1957
 - World War II artists, 1960, undated
 - Luce, Henry R., 1949, 1960-1967
 - Miscellany, 1951-1980, undated
 - National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., 1957-1960 *See also Oversize*
 - Publications, nonperiodical, 1948, 1961-1965
 - Sports Illustrated*, 1953-1957 *See also Container 22, same heading*
 - Story suggestions, 1959-1960
 - Time-Life buildings, 1951-1965, 1984
- BOX 19
- Trudeau, Arthur G., 1961-1962
 - United Hospital Fund, art auction committee, 1949-1950
 - United States Travel Service, 1963-1964, undated
 - University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo., 1973-1974
 - Viking Press, 1971-1977
 - War posters, 1975-1976, 1983
 - Warwick and Legler, 1959, undated
 - Washington Post*, 1972-1977
 - White, E. B., 1977-1980
 - White, Theodore, 1961-1964
 - Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, N.Y., 1961
 - Wolcott, Carlson and Co., 1966-1967

Subject File, 1934-1984

Container

Contents

	World War II
	Coordinator of Information, 1942-1943, 1966, undated
	Film projects, 1943-1944
	General correspondence, 1942-1945, undated
	Maritime posters, 1941
	Miscellany, 1942-1945, undated
	Office of War Information
	Domestic Operations
	Correspondence, 1942-1944, undated
BOX 20	Graphic Division, production reports, 1942-1943, undated
	Transcripts of meetings, 1943
	European Division
	Correspondence and reports, 1944-1945
	Exhibits, 1945, undated
	News clippings, 1942-1943, undated
	Weinberg, Sydney, 1963-1968
	World's fairs, 1957-1959
	Writings
	<i>The Baby</i> , 1950-1956
	<i>Famous Likeness</i> , 1961, undated
	<i>Mademoiselle</i> editorial, 1967-1968
	Miscellaneous
	Published, 1953-1958, 1965, 1976-1978
	Unpublished, 1954-1974, 1983, undated
	Poetry, 1948-1959, undated
BOX 21	<i>Saturday Review</i> , 1966-1967, undated
	"A Trip to Russia, pre-U2," 1960-1963, 1977, undated
	Writers, 1966-1968
	Young and Rubicam, 1961-1963
	Zadok, Charles, 1962
BOX 21-22	Design Projects, 1938-1983
	Books, booklets, pamphlets, periodicals, and corporate stationery and paper designed by Brennan.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
	<i>ABC</i> prints, 1982, undated
	Art exhibit catalogs, circa 1971-circa 1976
	Booklets and pamphlets, circa 1960-1982, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
	Books, 1966, 1978
BOX 22	Letterheads and corporate paper, circa 1969-circa 1983, undated
	Miscellaneous, 1957, 1966, 1974, undated
	Periodicals
	<i>Fortune</i> , 1938-1940, 1950-1955, 1963 <i>See also Oversize</i>
	(2 folders)
	<i>Life</i> <i>See Oversize</i>
	<i>The Little Newspaper</i> <i>See Oversize</i>

Design Projects, 1938-1983

Container

Contents

Miscellaneous, circa 1957, 1968-1971, undated
Newsweek, 1961-1983, undated *See also Oversize*
Quest, 1948
Sports Illustrated, 1953-1954

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1938-1973

Oversize booklet and periodicals.
Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1

Design Projects (Container 22)

Booklets

"A Great Church for the Nation's Capital," undated

Periodicals

Fortune, 1938-1940

Life, 1948

The Little Newspaper, 1969

Newsweek, 1970-1973, undated