Francis Edwin Brennan Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061784

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014024

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2022 March

Collection Summary

Title: Francis Edwin Brennan Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1927-1984
Bulk Dates: 1940-1979
ID No.: MSS61784
Creator: Brennan, Francis Edwin, 1910-1992
Extent: 6,000 items
Extent: 22 containers
Extent: 9.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061784
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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Brennan, Francis Edwin, 1910-1992.
Cousins, Norman--Correspondence.
Hill, Jerome, 1905-1972--Estate.
Luce, Clare Boothe, 1903-1987--Correspondence.
Luce, Henry Robinson, 1898-1967--Correspondence.
Moore, Henry, 1898-1986--Correspondence.
Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. (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 magazine.
Newsweek (magazine)

Occupations
Art directors.
Cartoonists.
Consultants.

Acquisition Information

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 by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of Sherralyn McCoy. 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

Date	Event
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 *Vogue*, Conde Nast Publications
1935-1937	Art director, *House & Garden*, Conde Nast Publications
1937-1938	Associate art editor, *Life* magazine
1938	Married Elizabeth Reid Dewson (divorced)
1938-1942	Art editor, *Fortune*
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, *One World* (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, *McCall's*
1946	Married Frances Margaret Myers
1946	Executive Editor, *New Republic*
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, *McCall's*
1967-1975	Design consultant, *Newsweek*
1975-1980	Maintained office at *Newsweek*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

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	**Diaries and Datebooks, 1939-1965** Datebooks, a diary, and office diaries. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 3-5	**Chronological File, 1927-1983** Correspondence, printed matter, and a list of outgoing documents. Arranged chronologically.
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 21-22	**Design Projects, 1938-1983** Books, booklets, pamphlets, periodicals, and corporate stationery and paper designed by Brennan. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
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.

Container List

Container	Contents
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
	June 1939-Apr. 1941
BOX 2	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	*ABC* 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

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

Container	Contents
	Consolidated Edison, 1963
	Consulting services business
	General, 1962-1964
	Invoices, 1963-1964
	Contract books, 1963-1964, undated
BOX 8	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

Container	Contents
	Hodgins, Eric and Eleanor, 1948-1963
	Hodgkin, Eliot, 1961-1962
	Inventions and new product ideas
	Miscellaneous, 1957-1963, undated
	"Singapores," 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, 1966-1967
	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

Container	Contents
	Langlie, Arthur B., 1966, undated
	Louis Harris and Associates, 1966
	The McCaller, 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

Container	Contents
	Film strips, 1943
	(2 folders)
	Miscellany, 1943-1944, undated
	Opener, 1947, undated
	Study for introduction, circa 1944
	Pacem in Terris, 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
	Quest, 1976-1977 *See also Container 22, same heading*
	Reader's Digest, 1962
	Redbook, 1966
	Restaurant Associates, 1962-1964
	Rockefeller Foundation, 1963-1964, undated
	Rolls-Royce Ltd., 1957-1959
	Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada, 1966-1967
BOX 16	*Saturday Evening Post*, 1962-1963
	Saturday Review
	Cousins, Norman, 1966-1968 *See also Container 8, same heading* ; *Containers 10-12, McCalls*
	Format, 1966-1967, undated
	General correspondence, 1962-1968, undated
	Writings *See Container 21, same heading*
	Schlesinger, Arthur Meier, Jr., 1956-1963
	Selznick, David O., *Portrait of Jennie*, 1947-1948
	Show Magazine, 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

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

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
	The Baby, 1950-1956
	Famous Likeness, 1961, undated
	Mademoiselle editorial, 1967-1968
	Miscellaneous
	Published, 1953-1958, 1965, 1976-1978
	Unpublished, 1954-1974, 1983, undated
	Poetry, 1948-1959, undated
BOX 21	*Saturday Review*, 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.
	ABC prints, 1982, undated
	Art exhibit catalogs, circa 1971-circa 1976
	Booklets and pamphlets, circa 1960-1982, undated *See also Oversize*
	Books, 1966, 1978
BOX 22	Letterheads and corporate paper, circa 1969-circa 1983, undated
	Miscellaneous, 1957, 1966, 1974, undated
	Periodicals
	Fortune, 1938-1940, 1950-1955, 1963 *See also Oversize* (2 folders)
	Life *See Oversize*
	The Little Newspaper *See Oversize*

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