

**John Werner Kluge Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2019**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019035>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Werner Kluge Papers

**Span Dates:** 1793-2002

**Bulk Dates:** 1956-2002

**ID No.:** MSS85331

**Creator:** Kluge, John Werner, 1914-2010

**Extent:** 38,850 items

**Extent:** 111 containers plus 5 oversize

**Extent:** 52.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2006085331>

**Summary:** Businessman and philanthropist. Correspondence, photographs, inventories and catalogs, scrapbooks, clippings, financial records, reports, and printed material documenting Kluge's art collecting, real estate properties, business activities, and philanthropic pursuits.

## 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

Bartholdi, Frédéric Auguste, 1834-1904--Autographs.  
Billington, James H.--Correspondence.  
Fabert, Jacques, 1925-2013--Correspondence.  
Hammer, Armand, 1898-1990--Correspondence.  
Hammer, Armand, 1898-1990--Friends and associates.  
Kluge, John Werner, 1914-2010--Art collections.  
Kluge, John Werner, 1914-2010--Friends and associates.  
Kluge, John Werner, 1914-2010.  
Shergold, Craig, 1979- --Correspondence.

### Organizations

Albemarle House (Charlottesville, Va.)  
Library of Congress.  
Metromedia Art Collection.  
Metromedia, Inc.  
Metropolitan Broadcasting Corporation.  
Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission.  
Virginian (Yacht)

### Subjects

Antiquities--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Art objects--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Art, Aboriginal Australian--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Art--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Art--Private collections--United States.  
Bronze sculpture--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Bronzes--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Carriages and carts--Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Collectors and collecting--United States.  
Endowments--United States.  
Libraries--United States--Gifts, legacies.  
Posters--Collectors and collecting--United States.

Statue of Liberty (New York, N.Y.)  
Statue of Liberty (New York, N.Y.)--Centennial celebrations, etc.  
Telecommunication.  
Television broadcasting--United States.

### **Places**

Mar Lodge (Aberdeenshire, Scotland : Estate)  
Morven Estate (Albemarle County, Va. : Estate)  
Yachts--United States.

### **Occupations**

Businessmen.  
Philanthropists.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of John Werner Kluge were given to the Library of Congress by Kluge in 2006.

## **Processing History**

The papers of John Werner Kluge were arranged and described by Amanda Loeb in 2019.

## **Transfers**

Audiocassettes, videocassettes, and film reels have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the John Werner Kluge Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division in advance of a research visit.

## **Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Werner Kluge in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of John Werner Kluge 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, John Werner Kluge Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1914, Sept. 21	Born, Chemnitz, Germany
1922	Emigrated to the United States
1937	Graduate, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1958	Chairman, Metropolitan Broadcasting Corporation

1961	Founder, Metromedia, Inc.
1981	Married Patricia Rose Gay (divorced 1990)
1984	Leveraged buyout of Metromedia, Inc.
1986	Sold Metromedia television stations to 20th Century Fox
1997	Donated the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection to the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1998	Married Maria Tussi Kuttner
2000	Founded the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress
2001	Donated Albemarle County, Va., estate to the University of Virginia
2010, Sept. 7	Died, Charlottesville, Va.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Werner Kluge (1914-2010) span the years 1793-2002, with the bulk of the material dating from 1956 to 2002. The collection documents Kluge's career in the television industry, particularly as chairman of Metromedia, Inc., his extensive art collection, real estate properties, philanthropic endeavors, and social activities. The papers are organized into the following five series: [Art and Properties](#), [Business Records](#), [Correspondence and Clippings](#), [Events and Philanthropy](#), and [Oversize](#).

The bulk of the collection consists of material related to Kluge's extensive art collection and real estate properties, particularly Albemarle House in Charlottesville, Va., and Morven Estate, Albemarle County, Va., and his collections of ancient bronze sculptures and antique carriages. The collection also documents Kluge's career in television and other industries, particularly his role as founder and chairman of Metromedia, Inc., and in the broader Metromedia empire. The majority of personal correspondence in the collection was received as chronologically compiled scrapbooks, dating from 1976 to 2001. The scrapbooks are comprised of equal parts correspondence and clippings. Correspondence is primarily social, and includes greeting cards and invitations. There is very little family correspondence. There is also material related to Kluge's various philanthropic efforts and contributions, particularly his work on behalf of the Library of Congress and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission, as well as his friendship with Armand Hammer.

The [Art and Properties](#) series constitutes approximately half the collection and contains material related to Kluge's art collecting pursuits and extensive real estate holdings.

The [Business Records](#) series contains material documenting Kluge's role in a variety of industries, particularly as founder and chairman of Metromedia, Inc.

The [Correspondence and Clippings](#) series contains Kluge's correspondence with friends and acquaintances.

The [Events and Philanthropy](#) series documents Kluge's various philanthropic contributions.

The remaining series contains [Oversize](#) material.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Art and Properties, 1956-2001](#)
- [Business Records, 1928-2000](#)
- [Correspondence and Clippings, 1948-2002](#)
- [Events and Philanthropy, 1793-2000](#)
- [Oversize, 1805-1990](#)

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1-55

**Series**  
**Art and Properties, 1956-2001**

The Art and Properties series constitutes approximately half the collection and contains material related to Kluge's art collecting pursuits and real estate holdings. The series includes photographs and snapshots of his various properties, chiefly Albemarle House and Morven Estate in Charlottesville, Va., Mar Lodge in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and the *Virginian* motor yacht. There are also numerous inventories of the items and collections held in each property. Inventories, catalog records, photograph albums, insurance and appraisal reports, and auction records document Kluge's extensive art collection, particularly his collections of aboriginal art, ancient bronze sculptures, antique carriages, historic posters, and the Metromedia Art Collection. There is some correspondence concerning his collecting, including letters exchanged with French artist Jacques Fabert. Material types include photographs, albums, snapshots, inventories, catalog records, insurance reports, appraisals, auction records, and correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 56-81

**Business Records, 1928-2000**

The Business Records series contains material documenting Kluge's role in a variety of industries, particularly as founder and chairman of Metromedia, Inc. Records include material related to Kluge's earlier involvement in the Metropolitan Broadcasting Corporation, the predecessor of Metromedia, the 1984 leveraged buyout of Metromedia, and his role in the wider Metromedia telecommunications empire. The papers also document his earlier business ventures in food distribution, radio, and printing, as well as the Lee-Kluge Corporation and the New York Institute of Dietetics. There is also material related to his later work with Orion Pictures, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, and S&A Restaurant Corporation. Material types include appraisals, legal papers, calendars, clippings, correspondence, financial statements, reports, and printed material. Arranged alphabetically by name and thereunder alphabetically by subject or type of material.

BOX 81-103

**Correspondence and Clippings, 1948-2002**

The Correspondence and Clippings series contains Kluge's correspondence, chiefly with friends and acquaintances, but little with family. Notable correspondents include artist Jacques Fabert, Armand Hammer, and cancer patient Craig Shergold. Correspondence with former Librarian of Congress James H. Billington concerns Kluge's fundraising efforts on behalf of the library. The majority of chronological correspondence was received as scrapbooks, dating from 1976 to 2001 and comprised of equal parts correspondence and clippings. Correspondence is primarily social, and includes greeting cards and invitations. Material types include letters, cards, newspaper and magazine clippings, scrapbooks, and scrapbook pages. Arranged alphabetically by name or chronologically.

BOX 103-111

**Events and Philanthropy, 1793-2000**

The Events and Philanthropy series documents Kluge's various philanthropic contributions. The papers include material related to his work on behalf of the Children's Mental Health Alliance Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and the Princess Grace Foundation. Other material relates to his significant contributions to Columbia University and the Library of Congress, the latter in founding the John W. Kluge Center. Material documenting his role in organizing the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Centennial celebrations includes a collection of nineteenth-century documents, photographs, and ephemera from the 1886

inauguration of the statue. The nineteenth-century material includes several letters from sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, as well as autographed photographs of the statue under construction.

Material types include correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, albums, invitations, programs, printed material, and ephemera.

Arranged alphabetically by name or subject.

**BOX OV 1-OV 5**

**Oversize, 1805-1990**

The Oversize series consists of scrapbooks, cartoon paintings, a nineteenth-century birth certificate, and photographs. Scrapbooks contain clippings, correspondence, and printed material.

Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and housed by size.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-55	<p><b>Art and Properties, 1956-2001</b></p> <p>The Art and Properties series constitutes approximately half the collection and contains material related to Kluge's art collecting pursuits and real estate holdings. The series includes photographs and snapshots of his various properties, chiefly Albemarle House and Morven Estate in Charlottesville, Va., Mar Lodge in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and the <i>Virginian</i> motor yacht. There are also numerous inventories of the items and collections held in each property. Inventories, catalog records, photograph albums, insurance and appraisal reports, and auction records document Kluge's extensive art collection, particularly his collections of aboriginal art, ancient bronze sculptures, antique carriages, historic posters, and the Metromedia Art Collection. There is some correspondence concerning his collecting, including letters exchanged with French artist Jacques Fabert. Material types include photographs, albums, snapshots, inventories, catalog records, insurance reports, appraisals, auction records, and correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 1	<p>Aboriginal art, 1991-1999 (7 folders)</p> <p>Albemarle House, Charlottesville, Va. David Anthony Easton Inc.</p>
BOX 2	Book I, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Book II, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Book III, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Book IV, undated
BOX 3	Checklists, 1983-1987
BOX 3	Correspondence and memoranda, 1988
BOX 3	Decorating summary, Dec. 1985
BOX 3	Estimate 500, 1986
BOX 3	Inventory, 1983-1987
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1986-1987
BOX 3	Paintings, 1986-1987
BOX 3	Photographs, circa 1988-1990 (1 folders)
BOX 4	Photographs, circa 1988-1990 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Wendell Wood, et al. v. John Werner Kluge Properties t/a Albemarle Farms, 1988
BOX 4	<p>Ancient bronzes</p> <p>1993.0012 [?], Oct. 1993 (2 folders)</p>
BOX 4	Cataloging project, 1989-1990
BOX 4	Classical art, main house, circa 1988-1994

## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

Container	Contents
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BOX 5	Miscellaneous statues, circa 1988-1990, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Royal-Athena Galleries Acquisitions, 1988 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Acquisitions, 1988-1989 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Ancient master bronzes, 1993
BOX 6	Gods and Mortals exhibition, 1989
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BOX 6	Roman emperor Septimius Severus statue, 1996
BOX 6	Roman imperial bronze female bust, undated
BOX 6	Upgrading, 1989-1990
BOX 6	Vases, 1980-1991
BOX 6	Treasures of Deceit exhibit, Bayly Art Museum, Charlottesville, Va., 1997
BOX 7	Volume 1, 81-44 - 84-11, circa 1981-1984 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Volume 2, 88-1 - 88-16, circa 1988 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Volume 3, 88-17 - 88-49, circa 1988
BOX 7	Volume 6, 88-82 - 88-114, circa 1988 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Volume 7, 89-01 - 89-59, circa 1989 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Volume 8, 89-66 - 89-94, circa 1989 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Volume 9, 90-01 - 90-16, circa 1990
BOX 8	Volume 10, 90-17 - 91-01, circa 1990-1991
BOX 9	Volume 12, Near East, 88-23. . . , circa 1988-1990 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Volume 13, catalog, 1992
BOX 9	Apartments Munich, Germany, 1999-2001 (5 folders)
BOX 10	New York, N.Y., 2000 (3 folders)
BOX 10	Art offered, no sale, 1985-1986
BOX 10	Balance sheets, 1968-1975
	Carriages Carriages from original Albemarle Farms house
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BOX 10	Volume 2, circa 1986 (2 folders)



## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

Container	Contents
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BOX 11	Volume 4, circa 1986 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Volume 5, circa 1987-1988
BOX 12	Volume 6, circa 1985-1988
BOX 12	Carriage house, circa 1987-1998
BOX 12	Carriage house exhibition development photographs, circa 1998
BOX 12	Carriage house upstairs, log cabin, car barn storage, 1988
BOX 12	Carriage inventory, 1990 , June
BOX 12	Carriage museum at Viewmont, circa 1987-1989 (2 folders)
BOX 13	Conservation report, model carriage, 1997
BOX 13	Full and detailed photographs, circa 1985-1988 (4 folders)
	Morven carriage house
BOX 13	Accessories, undated
BOX 13	Exhibit scenes and guidelines, undated
BOX 14	Negatives, 1993
BOX 14	Photographs, carriage details, clothing items, carriage house model, assorted horse-building snaps, circa 1987-1988 (2 folders)
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BOX 15	1985.0003-1987.0001
BOX 16	1987.0001-1988.7016
BOX 17	1987.7016-1990.7026
BOX 18	1990.7026-1994.0022
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BOX 20	1996.0028-2000.0001
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BOX 20	MMA022
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BOX 22	MM0792-MM0984
BOX 23	MM0987-MM1195
BOX 24	MM1200-MM1630
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## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

Container	Contents
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BOX 25	1991, May 16
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BOX 25	1991, Aug.
BOX 25	1991, Sept. 27
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## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

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BOX 32	Lighting, 1989 (2 folders)
BOX 33	Mirrors, sofas, tables, etc., 1990 (2 folders)
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BOX 33	Report on condition of repair and projected costings, 1989
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## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

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## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

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## Art and Properties, 1956-2001

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## Business Records, 1928-2000

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## Business Records, 1928-2000

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## Business Records, 1928-2000

Container	Contents
BOX 68	Leveraged buyout, volume IV, 1984 (1 folder)
BOX 69	Leveraged buyout, volume V, 1984 (1 folder)
BOX 70	Leveraged buyout, volume VI, 1984 (1 folder)
BOX 71	Leveraged buyout, volume VII, 1984 (1 folder)
BOX 72	Leveraged buyout, volume VIII, 1984 (1 folder)
BOX 73	Metromedia Broadcasting Corporation, 1984
BOX 73	Metromedia Entrepreneur Program, undated
BOX 73	Metromedia Fiber Network, Inc., 1998-2000
BOX 73	Metromedia Hotels of New York, Inc., 1996
BOX 73	Metromedia International Group, Inc., 1995-1999 (5 folders)
BOX 73	Metromedia International Telecommunications, Inc., 1995
BOX 74	Metromedia Technologies, Inc., 1987-1988, 2000 (3 folders)
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	Metropolitan Broadcasting Corporation
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BOX 74	Bylaws, 1957-1962
BOX 74	Cohn and Marks, law offices, 1960
BOX 74	Corporate expenses, 1961
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BOX 75	Federal Communications Commission data, 1961-1963
BOX 75	Investment services, 1959-1962
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BOX 78	Miscellany, 1990-1995
BOX 78	Product master directory, undated (2 folders)
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BOX 79	Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., of Washington, D.C., Inc., 1956-1963 (3 folders)
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BOX 80	Saint Louis County Broadcasting Company, 1957-1958
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BOX 81	Theresa Friedman & Sons, Inc., pension plan, 1959
BOX 81	Ukrop's Own Beef joint venture, 1992-1993 (2 folders)
BOX 81	Washington Planograph Co., Inc., 1956-1961
BOX 81	WROR 98 1/2 FM Boston, 1982
BOX 81-103	<b>Correspondence and Clippings, 1948-2002</b> The Correspondence and Clippings series contains Kluge's correspondence, chiefly with friends and acquaintances, but little with family. Notable correspondents include artist Jacques Fabert, Armand Hammer, and cancer patient Craig Shergold. Correspondence with former Librarian of Congress James H. Billington concerns Kluge's fundraising efforts on behalf of the library. The majority of chronological correspondence was received as scrapbooks, dating from 1976 to 2001 and comprised of equal parts correspondence and clippings. Correspondence is primarily social, and includes greeting cards and invitations. Material types include letters, cards, newspaper and magazine clippings, scrapbooks, and scrapbook pages. Arranged alphabetically by name or chronologically.  Alphabetical
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## Correspondence and Clippings, 1948-2002

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## Correspondence and Clippings, 1948-2002

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BOX 95	1994, Dec.-1995, Aug. (9 folders)
BOX 96	1995, Aug.-1996 (9 folders)
BOX 97	1996, Mar.-Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 98	1996-1997, May (8 folders)
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BOX 103	Internet research study, 1999 (3 folders)
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BOX OV 2	Scrapbook, circa 1965-1980 <i>See Container OV 2, same heading</i>
BOX 103-111	<b>Events and Philanthropy, 1793-2000</b> The Events and Philanthropy series documents Kluge's various philanthropic contributions. The papers include material related to his work on behalf of the Children's Mental Health Alliance Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and the Princess Grace Foundation. Other material relates to his significant contributions to Columbia University and the Library of Congress, the latter in founding the John W. Kluge Center. Material documenting his role in organizing the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Centennial celebrations includes a collection of nineteenth-century documents, photographs, and ephemera from the 1886 inauguration of the statue. The nineteenth-century material includes several letters from sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, as well as autographed photographs of the statue under construction. Material types include correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, albums, invitations, programs, printed material, and ephemera. Arranged alphabetically by name or subject.
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## Events and Philanthropy, 1793-2000

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BOX 105	Exhibits, 1990-1991
BOX 105	Future contributions, 1961-1962
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BOX 110	Scrapbooks, circa 1934, 1963, 1981, undated <i>See also Container OV 4, same heading</i> (2 folders)

## Events and Philanthropy, 1793-2000

Container	Contents
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BOX 111	Bartholdi, Frédéric Auguste, autographs, 1890-1903, undated <i>See also Container OV 5, same heading</i>
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BOX 111	USS Lexington tour, 1971
BOX 111	"Voices from the Inside," the Claremont Graduate School Institute For Education in Transformation, 1995
BOX OV 1-OV 5	<b>OverSIZE, 1805-1990</b> The Oversize series consists of scrapbooks, cartoon paintings, a nineteenth-century birth certificate, and photographs. Scrapbooks contain clippings, correspondence, and printed material. Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and housed by size.  Business Records BOX OV 1 Scrapbooks, 1959-1979 (Container 80, same heading) Correspondence and Clippings BOX OV 5 Cartoon paintings, 1954 (Container 103, Miscellaneous material) Two cartoon paintings depicting John W. Kluge as a lion hunter. Signed by Dan Strother, 1954. BOX OV 2 Scrapbook, circa 1965-1980 (Container 103, same heading) Events and Philanthropy BOX OV 5 Birth and baptismal certificate, Lancaster County, Penn., 1805 , Jan. 14 (Container 109, Manuscripts) Printed engraving with handwriting in German. BOX OV 3 Library of Congress, Madison Council meeting scrapbook, 1990 , Apr. 24 (Container 109, same heading) BOX OV 4 Scrapbook, "John Kluge, of Columbia University, introduces his fellow student, James Lin, son of the President of China, to Detroit, during Christmas holidays, 1934 " (Container 110, same heading) Statue of Liberty Ellis-Island Centennial BOX OV 5 Bartholdi, Frédéric Auguste, autographed prints depicting the Statue of Liberty under construction, 1876-1881 (Container 111, same heading) BOX OV 5 Group photograph, captioned "Trip to Niagara falls for Aug. Bartholdi and the French Commission, Inauguration of the Statue of Liberty, 1886 " (Container 111, Ephemera) BOX OV 3 Scrapbook, undated (Container 111, same heading)