

John Steinbeck Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81041285>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007068>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2022 May

Collection Summary

Title: John Steinbeck Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1939-1990

Bulk Dates: 1939-1941

ID No.: MSS41285

Creator: Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968

Extent: 20 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 1.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81041285>

Summary: Author. Typescripts and galleys of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Sea of Cortez*, printed matter and reference material, correspondence by John Steinbeck and Elaine A. Steinbeck, and photographs.

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

Ricketts, Edward Flanders, 1897-1948, *Sea of Cortez*: a leisurely journal of travel and research, with a scientific appendix comprising materials for a source book on the marine animals of the Panamic faunal province. 1941.

Steinbeck family--Correspondence.

Steinbeck family.

Steinbeck, Elaine A.--Correspondence.

Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968, *Sea of Cortez*: a leisurely journal of travel and research, with a scientific appendix comprising materials for a source book on the marine animals of the Panamic faunal province. 1941.

Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968.

Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968. *Grapes of Wrath*. 1940.

Steinbeck, John, IV, 1946-1991.

Subjects

American literature.

Ethics--United States.

Literature.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Voyages and travels.

Places

Europe--Description and travel.

Sag Harbor (N.Y.)--Social life and customs.

United States--Politics and government.

Occupations

Authors.

Acquisition Information

The papers of John Steinbeck, author, were given to the Library of Congress by Viking Press in 1943 and transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division in 1964. Additional material was purchased from 2001 to 2022.

Processing History

The papers of John Steinbeck were housed and listed circa 1965. The papers were revised and expanded in 2007 by Karen Linn Femia and in 2022 by Pang H. Xiong.

Other Repositories

Other papers of John Steinbeck and the Steinbeck family can be found in the Wells Fargo Steinbeck Collection at the Department of Special Collections in the Cecil H. Green Library at Stanford University.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1902, Feb. 20	Born, Salinas, Calif.
1919	Graduated Salinas High School, Salinas, Calif.
1919-1926	Attended Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
1926	Moved to New York City, N.Y., worked as laborer on construction of Madison Square Garden, and reporter for <i>New York American</i>
1927-1928	Estate caretaker in Lake Tahoe, Calif.
1929	Published <i>Cup of Gold: A Life of Sir Henry Morgan, Buccaneer, with Occasional Reference to History</i> . New York: R. M. McBride
1930	Married Carol Henning (divorced 1943)
1935	Published <i>Tortilla Flat</i> . New York: Covici-Friede
1936	Published <i>In Dubious Battle</i> . New York: Covici-Friede
1937	Published <i>Of Mice and Men</i> . New York: Covici-Friede Published <i>Red Pony</i> . New York: Covici-Friede
1939	Published <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> . New York: Viking Press
1940	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> .
1941	Published with Edward Flanders Ricketts <i>Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research</i> . New York: Viking Press Wrote screenplay for <i>The Forgotten Village</i>
1943	Married Gwyn Conger (divorced 1948)
1945	Published <i>Cannery Row</i> . New York: Viking Press
1947	Published <i>The Pearl</i> . With drawings by José Clemente Orozco. New York: Viking Press

1948	Elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters
1950	Married Elaine Anderson (died 2003)
1952	Published <i>East of Eden</i> . New York: Viking Press Wrote screenplay for <i>Viva Zapata!</i>
1962	Awarded Nobel Prize for literature Published <i>Travels with Charley: In Search of America</i> . New York: Viking Press
1964	Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom
1966-1967	Traveled to Vietnam and reported on Vietnam War for <i>Newsday</i>
1968, Dec. 20	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Steinbeck (1902-1968) span the years 1939-1990, with the bulk of the material dating from 1939 to 1941. Of his literary work, the collection includes typescripts with holograph corrections and galleys of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research*, the latter coauthored by Edward Flanders Ricketts, together with related material. A letter by Steinbeck to friends Cynthia Rogers Wallsten and Robert Wallsten describes his stay on Capri Island, Italy, in 1962.

The 2022 Addition includes correspondence from Elaine A. Steinbeck to her mother, Libbie Adeline Anderson, and other family members. Letters and postcards include details and updates about Elaine A. Steinbeck's daughter, Waverly Scott Kaffaga, and John Steinbeck's sons, Thomas Steinbeck and John Steinbeck IV; John Steinbeck's health; John Steinbeck IV's departure to Vietnam as an army specialist; life in Sag Harbor, New York; and traveling in England, France, and Italy. Correspondence from John Steinbeck to Eugene Istomin notes his refusal to take part publicly in American politics, and Steinbeck's published letter to Adlai E. Stevenson II in the March 1960 issue of *Coronet* addresses the topic of immorality in the United States. Photographs include an Associated Press image of Steinbeck with John Steinbeck IV in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1966.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or title with the 2022 Addition listed last and arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Books
BOX 1	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
BOX 1	Galleys, circa 1939 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellaneous printed matter, 1940-1941
BOX 1	Typescripts, circa 1939
BOX 1	Chapters 1-15 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Chapters 16-30 (4 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Sea of Cortez</i> , circa 1941
BOX 2	Galleys
BOX 2	Reference material
BOX 3	Reference material (2 folders)
BOX 3	Typescripts (4 folders)
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1962
BOX 4	2022 Addition
BOX 4	Correspondence
BOX 4	Steinbeck, Elaine A., 1959-1966
BOX 4	Steinbeck, John, 1961, 1968
BOX 4	Photographs, 1961-1966, 1990