



Guide to the Douglas MacKinnon Papers, 1917-1982

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Summary

Collection Title:

Douglas MacKinnon papers, 1917-1982

Creator:

MacKinnon, Douglas, 1903-1984

Abstract:

Douglas MacKinnon was a radio program director, businessman, and music aficionado. The collection includes materials from MacKinnon's many ventures in music and radio, including his work at Harvard University, his leadership at the WQXR radio station in New York, his service in the U.S. Army during World War II, his work with Radio Free Europe, his writings for Opera News, and numerous other interests and pursuits. Also present are MacKinnon's diaries, datebooks, personal correspondence, and autobiographical writings.

Extent:

14 Linear Feet
10500 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00834

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/mackinnondouglas/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Douglas MacKinnon Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection includes a wide range of materials documenting MacKinnon's many pursuits in radio and music. Collection contains diaries, correspondence, financial papers, photographs, printed materials and news clippings related to MacKinnon's radio broadcasting and business career, as well as his personal life. The collection includes materials from MacKinnon's work for WQXR radio, the Armed Forces Master Records, Radio Free Europe, Investors Overseas Services, and Career Protectors. Also included are notes, ephemera, programs, and his personal critiques of operas he saw around the world; drafts and notes about his autobiography; an assortment of writings and article drafts; photographs from his World War II service; personal documents; extensive correspondence; and other miscellaneous items.

Biographical/Historical

Douglas MacKinnon studied music at Harvard University. He was musical founder and director of New York's music station WQXR. As assistant to the National Broadcasting Company's Music Counsel, Dr. Walter Damrosch, he helped produce *The Children's Hour*, did research for the NBC Symphony, and wrote its scripts. In World War II he was a founder of the Armed Forces Master Records (AFMR) which sent disks of classical music to military bases. In the South Pacific he served with the Office of War Information, broadcasting to troops. He also worked as chief of music production for Radio Free Europe.

Other career ventures later in life included Career Protectors, a music agency; he also reviewed operas throughout the world for the Metropolitan Opera's magazine, *Opera News*.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

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Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Douglas MacKinnon Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1987.

Processing Information

Processed by Sara Reams, April 2014

Updated by Meghan Lyon, May 2015

Accession(s) described in this collection guide: 1987

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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Names and Subjects

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Music and the war

- Music -- History and criticism
- MacKinnon, Douglas, 1903-1984
- MacKinnon, Douglas, 1903-1984
- Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)
- Radio Free Europe
- United States. Army
- WQXR (Radio station : New York, N.Y.)

Collection Inventory

Autobiographical Files and Diaries, 1917-1980s and undated

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

The bulk of this series consists of MacKinnon's diaries, which range in format from loose typescript pages to small bound manuscript volumes. This series also includes MacKinnon's drafts, research, and notes regarding his autobiography, which he never published.

Personal Files, Research, and Drafts of Autobiographies

Early schoolwork, 1917 and undated	Box 1
Programs and invitations for performances and life events, 1918-1930s and undated	Box 1
Clippings about MacKinnon, 1940s-1970s	Box 1
Miscellaneous: baby hair, photographs, advertisements, undated	Box 1
Materials re: MacKinnon's amphibious Jeep, "Duck", 1948	Box 1
Career sketches, undated	Box 1
Autobiography drafts and notes, 1950s-1970s and undated	Box 1
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Research and correspondence re: funding autobiography, undated	Box 1
Photographs (snapshots), 1920s-1960s	Box 20

Scope and Contents

Box 20 includes loose snapshots of MacKinnon's life, including army service, European travel, his youth and college years, and formal portraits. Many of the photographs do not have captioned and have not been arranged beyond being sleeved for preservation.

Guestbook, 1916-1920	Box 21
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The University Double Quartet, Harvard University, 1926-1933 and undated	Box 21
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Physical Description: 5 folders

Scope and Contents

Includes programs, advertisements, and other publicity materials from MacKinnon's time as manager of the campus group.

Financial ledger, 1929-1930	Box 21
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Documents re: vehicles, transportation during cancer treatment, 1980s	Box 16
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Ephemera, 1945-1980 and undated	Box 16
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Post card album, 1900s	Box 16
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Programs/ephemera featuring Douglas MacKinnon as performer, 1923-1930	Box 16
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Programs/ephemera attended by Douglas MacKinnon, 1920s-1970s	Box 16
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Financial documents, 1940s-1980s	Box 16
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Diaries, 1930s-1980s

Miscellaneous diary pages and notes, 1930s-1960s	Box 15
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European diary, 1930	Box 15
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Diary, 1933	Box 15
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Food diary, 1934-1935	Box 15
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Europe diary, 1954-1956	Box 15
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Diary and to-do lists, 1956 Apr.	Box 15
Diary: Trip to Spain and Yugoslavia, 1965 July-Aug.	Box 15
Travel diary pages, 1967-1971	Box 15
Diary, 1971-1973	Box 15
Diary pages, 1975	Box 15
Diary pages, 1980 Feb.-May	Box 15
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Diary pages, 1980 Jun.-Nov.	Box 15
Diary, 1981 June-July	Box 15
Diaries (bound volumes), 1916-1980s	Box 17
Diaries (bound volumes), 1916-1980s	Box 19

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Writings, 1940s-1980s and undated

Le Paquet au Front (address at World Theatre), 1940 Feb 26	Box 5
Letters to the Editor, 1942, 1949	Box 5
Song of Faith, by MacKinnon, 1956-1957	Box 5
Notes and corrections on WQXR article, 1979 and undated	Box 5
Opera News drafts, correspondence, 1958-1981	Box 5
Articles about opera, 1964-1969	Box 5
Work for the Geneva Weekly Tribune, 1966-1968	Box 5
Prisoner in the Congo drafts and article, 1960-1980s	Box 5
Beecham drafts, undated	Box 5

MacKinnon's notes about Rebel in Radio, by Elliott Sanger, along with DM's copy of the book, 1973 and undated	Box 5
Miscellaneous drafts and essays, undated	Box 5
Ideas and notes for articles to develop, undated	Box 16
Research notes, undated	Box 16
Miscellaneous notes, undated	Box 16

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Name Files

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Includes files with MacKinnon's correspondence and collectibles from his relationships with various musicians, public figures, and organizations. Arranged alphabetically.

Bartok, Bela, and Georges Enesco	Box 9
Bastianini, Ettore	Box 9
Bayreuth, 1963	Box 9
Blair, David	Box 9
Bordeaux	Box 9
Bregenz	Box 9
Flueli-Ranft	Box 9
Jochum, Eugen	Box 9
Garrison (N.Y.) Art Center	Box 9
Havas, K.	Box 9
Melancon, Louis (photographs)	Box 9
National Folk Festival, 1941	Box 9

Orff, Carl	Box 9
Orr, Janice	Box 9
Ormandy, Eugene	Box 9
Rusch, Cecile	Box 9
de Saram, Rohan	Box 10
Physical Description: 5 folders	
Sergio, Lisa	Box 10
Stravinsky, Igor, 1925-1971	Box 10
Szasz, Tibor	Box 10
Takahara, Memore	Box 10
Vesco, Robert	Box 10
Williams, Ralph Vaughn	Box 10
Yablonskaya, Oxana	Box 10
Zander, Benjamin	Box 10

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Radio, 1936-1958

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Photographs, correspondence (including fan mail), scripts, radio programs, press, employment information, and other miscellaneous materials relating to MacKinnon's work at various radio stations. The majority of the series relates to MacKinnon's work as music director for W2XR and WQXR in New York. The series also contains correspondence, notes, and writings by MacKinnon about his employment (and termination) from WXQR in 1941. Other stations represented include Australian Broadcasting Company and WGHF. There is some overlap between this series and the World War II series. Materials from Radio Free Europe are filed under Postwar Employment.

Columbia Concerts Corporation, 1934-1935	Box 2
W2XR reviews, 1936	Box 2

WQXR Book-of-the-Month Club concerts, 1939	Box 2
WQXR Nothing New to Music scripts, 1940	Box 2
WQXR Nothing New to Music fan mail, 1940	Box 2
WQXR radio interview transcripts, 1940-1941	Box 2
WQXR correspondence, 1937-1941	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Photographs of MacKinnon, undated	Box 2
Medical problems, departure from WQXR, 1941	Box 2
WQXR correspondence, claims, disputes over employment, 1942-1950s	Box 2
Interstate Broadcasting Company/WQXR copyright disputes	Box 2
WQXR reviews, press, and clippings, 1930s-1970s	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
MacKinnon to Arthur Hays Sulzberger re: WQXR, 1948-1957	Box 3
WQXR maps and program schedules, undated	Box 3
W2XR and WQXR radio programs, 1936-1942, 1951	Box 4
Physical Description: 6 folders	
Australian Broadcasting Commission, 1944	Box 3
Scope and Contents	
Transcript, draft, and research for "Lincoln the Man" talk.	
WHIN Geneva inaugural broadcast transcript, 1947	Box 3
WGHF radio programs, 1958	Box 4

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World War II/Army Life

Physical Description: 1 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Includes materials from MacKinnon's U.S. Army service during and after World War II. Also includes his work with Armed Forces Master Records, Inc., an organization that distributed music to servicemen.

AFMR American Broadcasting in Sydney, Australia, 1943-1944	Box 3
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AFMR correspondence, 1940s	Box 3
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Physical Description: 2 folders

AFMR lists of available music and proposed programs, 1940s	Box 3
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Personal military documents and identification cards, 1940s	Box 6
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Miscellaneous WWII writings and drafts, 1942-1945	Box 6
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Clippings, 1940s	Box 6
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Ephemera, 1940s	Box 6
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Correspondence, 1940s	Box 6
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Army printed materials, memos, 1943-1945	Box 6
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Scope and Contents

Includes issues of The Garble, a 5th AACS comedy newsletter.

Photographs (snapshots), 1940s	Box 20
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Scope and Contents

Box 20 includes loose snapshots of MacKinnon's life, including army service, European travel, his youth and college years, and formal portraits. Many of the photographs do not have captioned and have not been arranged beyond being sleeved for preservation.

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Correspondence, 1922-1985 and undated

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Series includes MacKinnon's incoming and outgoing correspondence to a wide range of professional and personal contacts. Arranged in loose chronological order by five-year increments. The remainder of the collection also has correspondence filed with specific events or periods of MacKinnon's life.

Correspondence, 1921-1980 Box 11

Physical Description: 11 folders

Correspondence, 1980-1985 and undated Box 12

Christmas/New Year's letters to friends and family, 1960s-1980s Box 12

Physical Description: 2 folders

Postcards from MacKinnon to his sister, Mrs. Robert West, 1945-1970 Box 12

Correspondence with publishers, 1954-1973 Box 12

Correspondence re: autobiography, with Bernice Rodgers, 1974 Box 12

Correspondence kept by DM for autographs (photocopies), 1950s-1980s Box 12

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Postwar Employment

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Includes materials documenting MacKinnon's work with Investors Overseas Services Management (IOS), Career Protectors, and his financial and other employment records following his work with the U.S. Army. His work with the Metropolitan Opera is documented in the Musical Events series.

Radio Free Europe

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Includes correspondence, scripts, schedules, programming suggestions, publicity, and other materials relating to the operation of Radio Free Europe.

Press on RFE, 1951-1956 Box 7

Editors Bulletin Program Forecast, 1951 Sept.-
Dec. Box 7

Scope and Contents

Issue numbers 10-12, 14-17, 19-20.

Editors Bulletin Program Review: Main
Polemical Programs, 1952 Box 7

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Issue numbers 1-9.

Listeners Research Bulletin (Czechoslovak
desk), 1951 July-Sept. Box 7

Scope and Contents

Issue numbers 1-2.

Scripts for women's programs (English
versions for Czechoslovak desk), 1951 Box 7

Music programs and program preparations,
1951-1952 Box 7

Miscellaneous documents and notes, undated Box 7

Studio schedules, 1951 Apr.-May Box 7

Miscellaneous RFE technical and procedural
documents, undated Box 7

Clippings re: RFE, politics, and culture,
1951-1952 Box 8

Physical Description: 3 folders

Radio schedules and programs (all desks:
Polish, German, Czech, and Hungarian),
1951-1952 Box 8

Correspondence and interoffice memoranda, 1951 Apr.-1952 May	Box 8
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Crusade for Freedom materials, 1951	Box 8
Inaugural broadcast to Czechoslovakia: transcript and press, 1951 May 1	Box 9
Inaugural broadcast to Hungary: transcript and press, 1951 Oct. 6	Box 9
Inaugural broadcast to Poland: transcript and press, 1952 May 3	Box 9

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European Festivals and Scenic Tours (EF+ST), 1955-1958

Scope and Contents

Contains itineraries, administrative materials, hotel and travel plans, and programs from MacKinnon's operation of a tour through Europe's music festivals in summer of 1956 and 1957.

Events and performances in Europe: programs, notes, and reviews, 1956	Box 22
Tour itineraries and documentation, 1955-1957	Box 22
Itinerary, 1956	Box 22
Hotel accommodations, 1956	Box 22
Expenses and receipts, 1956	Box 22
Travel information, 1956	Box 22
Transportation, 1956	Box 22
Festival tickets, 1956-1957	Box 22
Applicants correspondence, 1956-1957	Box 22
Physical Description: 2 folders	

Events and performances in Europe: programs, notes, and reviews, 1958	Box 22
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Inquiries, 1958	Box 22
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Investors Overseas Services (IOS)

Scope and Contents

MacKinnon worked for IOS while based in Geneva. This subseries documents his work in the financial sector, during which time he traveled widely through Europe attending opera and music performances.

Correspondence, research, 1959-1972	Box 13
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Inside IOS: 12 Exciting and Agonizing Years, by MacKinnon, 1973	Box 13
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Case against DM by Swiss Federal Department of Finance and Customs for smuggling a Chrysler, 1968	Box 13
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IOS reports, 1969-1972	Box 13
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IOS termination correspondence, 1970	Box 13
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Career Protreptors

Scope and Contents

MacKinnon operated Career Protreptors, a music representation agency, for a short period of time. The subseries includes drafts and early documentation of the agency, as well as ephemeral materials from some of his clients.

Annexes, promotional material, notes, etc., 1972-1981 and undated	Box 13
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IRS forms, 1972	Box 13
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Miriam Burton account, 1970s	Box 13
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Miriam de Saram corespondence, 1970s	Box 13
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Simon Rattle account, 1980	Box 14
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Kronos String Quartet account, 1980-1982	Box 14
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Musical talent research/notes, 1980s	Box 14
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Founding, philosophy, introduction to CP, 1967-1982 and undated	Box 14
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Correspondence, 1972-1973, 1981	Box 14
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Miscellaneous clippings, promotional materials, and notes, 1970s-1980s	Box 14
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Other Employment

Agent for Balazs Nadas, 1946, 1956	Box 14
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Star Broadcasting Company, 1947	Box 14
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Events and performances in Europe: programs, notes, and reviews, 1958	Box 15
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Physical Description: 2 folders

Miscellaneous professional endeavors: tour guide, lecturer, etc.	Box 15
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Operas, 1950s-1970s

Scope and Contents

MacKinnon's notes, programs, ticket stubs, and other ephemera from his travels to various musical events, largely operas in European cities. Files are arranged by location, either city or country, and often include MacKinnon's handwritten notes about particular operas or performances he attended. Some of these files include his drafts for Opera News articles. Some files also include MacKinnon's press copies of opera performances or theaters, usually intended for circulation and labeled with his name.

Douglas MacKinnon's schedules of European opera performances, 1963-1965	Box 23
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Athens, 1969	Box 23
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Baden Baden, 1970	Box 23
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Basel, 1966	Box 23
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Bergen, 1954-1972	Box 23
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Berlin, 1959, 1972	Box 23
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Bern, 1964-1966	Box 23
Bielefeld, 1961	Box 23
Brno, 1965	Box 23
Darmstadt, 1962	Box 23
Denmark, 1970	Box 23
Florence, 1964	Box 23
Freibourg, 1964	Box 23
Geneva, 1960s-1971	Box 23
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Great Britain, 1960-1970	Box 23
Helsinki, 1954-1970	Box 23
Karlsruhe, 1963	Box 23
Lausanne, 1961-1965	Box 23
Lisbon, 1960	Box 24
Lyon, 1964-1970	Box 24
Marseille, 1964	Box 24
Milan, 1962, 1967	Box 24
Miscellaneous opera notes, 1959-1968	Box 24
Montreal Festival, 1941	Box 24
Montreux, 1968-1970	Box 24
Munich, 1961-1963	Box 24
New York City, 1958-1967	Box 24
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Includes two folders about the Metropolitan Opera House.	

Paris, 1952-1971	Box 24
Prague, 1963-1964	Box 18
Salzburg, 1964-1970	Box 18
Schwetzingen, 1967	Box 18
South Africa, 1956-1961	Box 18
Stockholm, 1962	Box 18
Stuttgart, 1961	Box 18
Trieste, 1967	Box 18
Venice, 1959-1966	Box 18
Verona, 1963-1966	Box 18
Vienna, 1955-1970	Box 18
Wiesbaden, 1963-1970	Box 18
Yugoslavia, 1959-1960	Box 18
Zurich, 1959-1968	Box 18

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