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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Peter Stone papers

1757-2003 (bulk 1950-2000)

*T-Mss 2010-109

Compiled by Diana Bertolini, March 2011

Summary

Creator: Stone, Peter, 1930-2003

Title: Peter Stone papers, 1757-2003 (bulk 1950-2000)

Size: 85.74 linear feet (209 boxes))

Source: This collection was donated to the New York Public Library by Mary Stone in 2007.

Abstract: Peter Stone (1930-2003) was an American writer of musicals, plays, films and television shows in the second half of the twentieth century. Stone was the first writer to win an Emmy Award, an Academy Award and a Tony Award. The Peter Stone papers (1757-2003, bulk dates 1950-2000) document the professional career and personal life of Peter Stone. This collection consists mainly of scripts for Stone's works. Other materials include correspondence, publicity materials, photographs, scores, contracts and programs.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: Peter Stone papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator history

Peter Stone (1930-2003) was an American writer of musicals, plays, films and television shows in the second half of the twentieth century. Stone was the first writer to win an Emmy Award, an Academy Award and a Tony Award.

Peter Stone grew up in Beverly Hills, the son of a New York City history teacher turned movie producer, John Stone. Stone, who worked at Twentieth Century Fox during the 1930s and 1940s, was known for producing westerns and the popular Charlie Chan mysteries. Peter Stone was interested in show business, and though he loved the movies, he was even more impressed with live theatre when he saw touring productions in their Los Angeles engagements. Knowing he eventually wanted to write for Broadway, he attended Bard College, in upstate New York, which was close enough for him to make frequent trips to the city to catch the latest musicals and plays on Broadway. He also learned the theatre from the ground up, acting in student productions and getting some of his own plays produced at Bard.

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After college he went to Yale University, School of Drama for a Masters Degree, graduating in 1953. Stone spent most of the following decade working as a broadcast journalist and living in France, where his mother Hilda had moved after divorcing John Stone and marring literary agent George Marton. Stone was close with his mother and stepfather for the rest of their lives and occasionally wrote under the name "Pierre Marton."

In the early 1960s, Stone wrote scripts for a few television shows, including The Defenders, for which he won an Emmy Award. During this period he wrote the screenplay for, Charade (1963), directed by Stanley Donen and starring Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. Charade was a huge hit and landed Stone a contract with Universal Studios. This resulted in several more films, including Father Goose (1964), which won Stone an Academy Award. That was followed by Mirage (1965), Arabesque (1966), The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1968), Jigsaw (1969) and the screen adaptation of Sweet Charity (1969).

During this period Stone was also writing the books for Broadway musicals. He had always loved musicals but aspired to be a playwright. Being a book-writer for musicals hadn't occurred to him until he was approached to write the book for Kean, Wright and Forrest's musical based on the life of Edmund Kean, which was to star Alfred Drake. Stone accepted because he was interested in Kean and anxious to work with the creative team. The show was a flop, but the experience helped him discover that he liked being a musical theatre book-writer. His second musical, Skyscraper was somewhat more successful and his third was a tremendous hit, both critically and commercially. Stone considered that show, 1776 (1969) a completely satisfying creative experience and it earned him his first Tony award.

He subsequently wrote the books for Richard Rodgers and Martin Charnin's Two By Two (1970), Jule Styne and Bob Merrill's Sugar (1972). He also wrote several screenplays in the 1970s, for such films as Skin Game (1971), The Taking of Pelham One Two Three (1974), Silver Bears (1978) and Who is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe (1978). Back on Broadway, Stone wrote the book for Kander and Ebb's Woman of the Year (1981), for which he won his second Tony. He also wrote a new book for My One and Only (1983) during its out of town tryout. He wrote the book for Cy Coleman and Comden and Green's The Will Rogers Follies (1991) and picked up another Tony for Maury Yeston's Titanic (1997).

Stone had been working on a musical with Kander and Ebb for many years when he died. That show, Curtains, finally got to Broadway, with an adapted book and lyrics by Rupert Holmes in 2007, after the deaths of both Ebb and Stone. Another posthumous production, Death Takes a Holiday, which Stone wrote with Maury Yeston has been announced for the Roundabout Theatre Company's 2010-2011 season.

Stone served as President of the Dramatists' Guild from 1981-1999. Stone married Mary O'Hanley in 1961. He died on in New York on April 25, 2003.

Scope and content note

The Peter Stone papers (1757-2003, bulk dates 1950-2000) document the professional career and personal life of American writer Peter Stone. This collection consists mainly of scripts for Stone's works. Other materials include correspondence, publicity materials, photographs, scores, contracts and programs. The production files consist of materials on stage, film, and television productions with scripts by Stone. The bulk of this series is made up of multiple handwritten and typed revisions of scripts. Other materials include correspondence, background research materials, outlines, financial statements, programs, publicity materials, cast lists/contact sheets, contracts, photographs, sheet music and notes. The personal papers include correspondence with family and friends; family papers and photographs; and items from Stone's childhood, high school college years. Also held in this series are professional files from administrative organizations Stone was involved in, most notably the Dramatists Guild, of

which he was President for 18 years. Stone's political involvements and travels are well documented. Notable items in this collection include Stone's correspondence with many prominent figures in theatre and politics, the early drafts of familiar works and scripts for unpublished works and the drafts of wonderful speeches and toasts which Stone wrote for tributes to various friends and colleagues.

Arrangement

The Peter Stone papers are organized into the following series:

Series I: Production Files, 1757-2003 Series II: Personal Files, 1870-2003

Key terms

Subjects

Broadway -- New York (N.Y.)
Motion picture authorship -- United States
Musical films -- United States
Musical theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Musicals
Musicals -- Writing and publishing -- United States

Names

Coleman, Cy, 1929-2004 Comden, Betty, 1917-2006 Dramatists Guild of America Ebb, Fred, 1928-2004 Edwards, Sherman, 1919-1981 Green, Adolph, 1915-2002 Kander, John, 1927-Stone, Peter, 1930-2003 Yeston, Maury, 1945-

Occupations

Dramatists -- United States. Librettists -- United States. Screenwriters -- United States. Television writers -- United States.

Container list

Series I: Production Files, 1757-2003

The Production Files, arranged alphabetically, and not separated by medium pertain to works written by Peter Stone for film, theatre and television. This covers notable musicals, including Curtains, My One and Only, 1776, Skyscraper, Sugar, Titanic, Two by Two, The Will Rogers Follies, Woman of the Year. Stone also did uncredited script-doctoring for many shows, most notably Grand Hotel, but also Goodtime Charlie, Georgy and Blitz. In the cases of certain shows, the production files also cover London productions, regional productions, film or television adaptations and revivals. Unproduced musicals like In the Beginning, a collaboration with Maury Yeston; Changes, with Ed Kleban; and Love Me, Love My Dog, with Jimmy Webb; are also represented in this series.

Stone's film and television production include well known projects, but also documents many unproduced projects like Baby on Board, Capitol Hill, Club Fed, Csardas, The Grand Defiance, Hollywood and LeVine, The Late, Great Creature, Loch Ness Monster, a TV version of Pat and Mike, Speak No Evil, Summer on a Mountain of Spices, (Under)cover Girl, Wanting of Levine and Wintertime.

Stone meticulously maintained his drafts, from the original version, always handwritten, to the final product, with multiple drafts along the way. The majority of this series consists of scripts. Other materials consist of notes on casting and research; outlines, synopses and treatments; correspondence, photographs; programs and playbills; royalty statements; contracts and agreements; sheet music and annotated copies of source material. Publicity materials, such as clippings, reviews, posters and advertisements are also included.

This series also has separated scripts for productions which Stone did not officially work on, but may possibly have provided unaccredited advice or assistance. Most notable of these is a treatment for The Chorus Girl Mystery, an unproduced film idea by Stephen Sondheim and Anthony Perkins.

Includes theatre, film and television productions

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Annie Get Your Gun, 1999

The Pro... (cont.)

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The Defenders, 1961-1962 (cont.)

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aka Til Death Do Us Part and Thriller

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b.133 f.4-9	Scripts
b.134 f.1	Source material
	Wanting of Levine, 1979, 1980
b.134 f.2	Contracts
b.134 f.3-6	Scripts
b.135 f.1-5	Scripts
b.136 f.1-5	Scripts
b.137 f.1	Source material
	Who Is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?, 1975
b.137 f.2	Agreements
b.137 f.3-4	Clippings
b.137 f.5	Outlines
b.137 f.6	Photographs
b.197 f.1	Posters
b.137 f.7-8	Press kit
b.138 f.1-6	Scripts
b.139 f.1-6	Scripts
b.140 f.1-6	Scripts
b.141 f.1-5	Scripts
b.141 f.6	Source material
	Why Would I Lie?, 1979, 1990 (aka The Fabricator and Trust Me)
b.142 f.1	Clippings

The Pro... (cont.) Why Would I Lie?, 1979, 1990 (aka The Fa... (cont.) b.142 f.2 Contracts b.142 f.3 **Photographs** b.142 f.4 Reviews b.142 f.5-9 Scripts b.143 f.1-6 Scripts b.144 f.1-6 Scripts b.145 f.1 Source material The Will Rogers Follies, 1991-1994, 2002 b.145 f.2 Biographical information b.145 f.3 Cast album b.145 f.4-7 Clippings b.146 f.1-7 Contracts and agreements b.146 f.8-9 Correspondence b.146 f.10 Memorabilia b.146 f.11 Notes b.146 f.12-13 Opening night b.147 f.1-3 **Photographs** b.198 f.3 **Photographs** b.197 f.1 **Posters** b.199 **Posters** b.147 f.4-7 Press materials b.147 f.8 Scripts b.148 f.1-10 Scripts b.149 f.1-7 Scripts b.150 f.1-9 Scripts b.151 f.1-8 Scripts b.152 f.1-5 Statements Wintertime, 1991-1992 (aka Bridge of Sighs) Agreements b.152 f.6 b.152 f.7 Outlines and original play b.153 f.1-6 Scripts

The Witness, 1960 (Script)
Woman of the Year, 1941-2002
Stage production, 1941, 1981-1987, 2002
Agreements

b.156 f.1 Agreements b.156 f.2-4 Clippings

Scripts

Scripts

Source material

b.154 f.1-6

b.155 f.1-4

b.155 f.5

b.155 f.6

	The Pro (cont.)
	Woman of the Year, 1941-2002 (cont.)
	Stage production, 1941, 1981-1987, (cont.)
b.156 f.5	Christmas special proposal, A Katz Christmas
b.156 f.6	Contracts
b.156 f.7	Correspondence
b.157 f.1-5	Foreign productions (Includes scripts in translation)
b.157 f.6	Opening night
b.157 f.7-8	Photographs
b.197 f.1	Posters
b.157 f.9	Programs
b.157 f.10	Revival negotiations, 2002
b.157 f.11	Royalty statements
b.202 f.2	Score
b.158 f.1-5	Scripts
b.159 f.1-4	Scripts
b.160 f.1-6	Scripts
b.161 f.1-7	Scripts
b.162 f.1-4	Scripts
b.162 f.5-6	Source material
b.163 f.1	Television version
b.163 f.2	Tony awards
b.163 f.3-5	Television series, 1973 (Scripts)
	Various, Undated
b.163 f.6	Buttons
b.163 f.7	Outlines
b.163 f.8	Scripts
b.164 v.1-3	Various collected scripts and outlines, 1945-1993
b.165 v.1-4	Various collected scripts and outlines, 1945-1993
b.166 v.1-3	Various collected scripts and outlines, 1945-1993
b.167 v.1	Various collected scripts and outlines, 1945-1993
	Non-Stone productions, 1928-2000 Scripts for productions Stone did not officially work on. He may have served as an uncredited script-doctor or consultant on some.
	Programs, 1964-2000 These files occasionally include correspondence
b.167 f.1-4	1964-1974
b.168 f.1-4	1974-1986
b.169 f.1-4	1987-1992
b.170 f.1-5	1993-1961
	Scripts
b.171 f.1	The Awful Truth

The Pro... (cont.)

Non-Stone productions, 1928-2000

Scripts... (cont.)

Scripts (cont.)

b.171 f.2	Babes in Arms, 1989
b.171 f.3	The Chorus Girl Murder Case, 1974 (By Stephen Sondheim and Anthony Perkins)
b.171 f.4	Cold Feet, 1980
b.171 f.5	Come Up 'N See Me, 1990
b.171 f.6	Flora the Red Menace
b.172 f.1	The Girl from Maxim's, 1967
b.172 f.2	Gone With the Wind, 1939
b.172 f.3	High Button Shoes, 1960 (Revised version)
b.172 f.4	In Old Arizona, 1928
b.172 f.5	A lesson from Aloes, 1980
b.172 f.6	The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo, 1935
b.172 f.7	Ninety Two in the Shade
b.172 f.8	One, Two, Three
b.173 f.1	A Piece of Cake, 1978
b.173 f.2	Rancho Deluxe, Undated
b.173 f.3	The Secret of My Success, 1986 (aka Making It)
b.173 f.4	Smile, 1983
b.173 f.5	Surfacing, 1974
h 170 f 1	By Margaret Atwood, screen adaptation of her 1972 novel.
b.173 f.1	Tomorrow's Another Night
b.174 f.2	The Traitor and the Spy, 1975 (Includes research materials)
b.174 f.3	Vinegaroon (By Jo Swerling and Niven Busch)
b.174 f.4	The Witch of Wall Street

The personal files pertain to Stone's family and personal life, as well as professional involvements outside of specific productions. Family files include photographs of Stone's parents as children, family papers, documents and family trees. Files on Stone's early life include photographs, correspondence with his parents from camp, elementary school reports and report cards and high school diplomas. His time as an undergraduate at Bard College is even more extensively covered, with school publications, photographs and his regular correspondence with his parents. These letters provide valuable insights into Stone's development as a writer at this crucial stage, as he got performing and writing experience in theatre at Bard and with his regular show on the campus radio station. These letters also document his frequent visits to New York and his opinions of the many plays and musicals he saw there.

The general correspondence files, which are largely unsorted, contain letters from many prominent theatrical figures of the day, but Stone's most frequent correspondents were his future wife, Mary O'Hanley, prior to their 1961 marriage, his father, John Stone and his mother and stepfather, Hilda and George Marton. The business correspondence files contain contracts, agreements and other legal and financial documents. They occasionally refer to financial aspects of productions and to general legal and financial matters.

Writings include poems and short stories written by Stone as well as ideas for other writing projects and his masters' thesis from Yale University. A highlight of this series is the extensive collection of witty, poignant, touching, raunchy and irreverent speeches and toasts. During the latter part of his career Stone was frequently asked to host awards ceremonies and to write and deliver award tributes and memorial tributes to friends and colleagues.

Personal ephemera holds maps, notes, schedules and photographs relating to Stone's travels in Europe, Africa and the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s. Stone was politically active his whole life and he corresponded with many prominent politicians, most notably President and Mrs. Clinton, with whom he formed a personal relationship. This series also documents Stone's activities as an administrator and board member for many arts organizations though correspondence, publications, contracts and other negotiations. The most extensively represented organization is the Dramatists' Guild, of which Stone served as President from 1981-1999.

Correspondence, 1930s-2000s

Personal

Alphabetical Correspondence, 1960s-1980s

b.209 f.1 A-G

Includes Bella Abzug, Leonard Bernstein, Sammy Cahn, Jimmy Carter, Cy Coleman, Betty Comden and Adoph Green, Bobby Darin, Mel Ferrer, and Tammy Grimes.

b.209 f.2 H-P

Includes Ethel Kennedy, Garson Kanin, John V. Lindsay, Harold Prince and Phyllis Newman.

The pers... (cont.) Correspondence, 1930s-2000s (cont.) Personal (cont.) Alphabetical Correspondence, 1... (cont.) b.209 f.3 R-Z Includes Richard Rodgers, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Neil Simon. Stephen Sondheim, Jule Styne, Gwen Verdon, Barbara Walters and Jack Warner. b.175 f.1 Camp, 1930-1943 b.175 f.2-4 Christmas cards and gift lists, 1980-2001 b.209 f.4 Family Correspondence and Documents, 1970s-1990s b.175 f.5-7 George and Hilda Marton, 1930s-1980s (Stone's mother and stepfather) b.176 f.1-2 George and Hilda Marton, 1930s-1980s George and Hilda Marton, 1949-1973 b.208 f.1 1949-1953 b.208 f.2 1954-1955 b.208 f.3 1956-1957 b.208 f.4 1958-1959 b.208 f.5 1960-1961 b.208 f.6 1962-1963 b.208 f.7 1964-1965 b.208 f.8 1966-1967 b.208 f.9 1968-1969 b.208 f.10 1970-1973 b.209 f.6 Stone, David, 1961, 1964, undated Stone's brother. To George and Hilda Marton. b.176 f.3 Mary (O'Hanley) Stone, 1950s, 1960s (Stone's wife.) b.209 f.5 Stone, Mary, 1950s-1980s (To George and Hilda Marton.) b.176 f.4 John and Hilda Stone, 1947-1951 Letters from Stone to his parents while he attended Bard College b.208 f.11 John and Hilda Stone, 1947-1951 Letters from Stone to his parents while he attended Bard College b.176 f.5 John Stone, 1956-1961 (Stones father) b.177 f.1-3 Various correspondents, 1950s-2000s b.209 f.7 Various, 1950s-1980s **Business** These files include contracts, agreements and legal files. They may include materials pertaining to productions. b.177 f.4-8 1960s b.178 f.1-6 1960s-1970s b.179 f.1-5 1970s b.180 f.1-5 1970s b.181 f.1-5 1980s b.182 f.1-4 1980s b.183 f.1-5 1980s

The pers... (cont.)

Correspondence, 1930s-2000s (cont.)

Business

	Business
	These files include contra (cont.)
b.184 f.1-4	1980s-1990s
b.185 f.1-5	1990s
	Writings, 1950s-2000s
b.186 f.1-4	Awards and tributes to Stone
b.186 f.5-8	Dramatists' Guild Stone served as President of the DG from 1981-1999
b.186 f.9-10	Ideas and research, 1950s-2000s
b.187 f.1-2	Ideas and research, 1950s-2000s
b.187 f.3	Interview, 1996 (Oral history interview conducted at NYPL)
b.187 f.4	Letters to the Editor, 1989-2000
b.187 f.5-10	Panels, lectures, conferences, classes and seminars, 1975-1999
b.187 f.11	Poetry, Undated
b.187 f.12	Speeches, toasts and tributes written and/or delivered by Stone, 1970s-2000s
b.188 f.1-4	Speeches, toasts and tributes written and/or delivered by Stone, 1970s-2000s
b.189 f.1-2	Stories, 1950s
b.189 f.3	Thesis, On the Nature of Tragedy, 1953 (Yale University)
b.189 f.4	Tony Award shows, 1990, 1992
b.189 f.5	Various, 1950s-1980s
	Personal ephemera
b.189 f.6	Awards and tributes, 1960s-1990s
b.189 f.7	Bard College, 1947-1951, 1971
b.190 f.1-2	Bard College, 1947-1951, 1971
b.190 f.3-6	Birthdays, 1980-2000
b.190 f.7	Elementary school reports, 1930s
b.191 f.1-6	Family history and documents, 1870-1990s
b.191 f.7	Fraud
	Report on fake "Peter Stone" in Australia
b.191 f.8	High School, 1943-1947, 1992 (University High School, Los Angeles)
b.191 f.9	Miscellaneous desk items and notes, 2003
b.191 f.10	Notebooks, 1950s
b.192 f.1-3	Political involvements, 1960s-2000s Includes correspondence with Barbara Boxer, George Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Charles DeGaulle, Al Gore, Ted Kennedy, Ed Koch,
b.192 f.4	Properties, 1970s
b.209 f.8	Reunions, 1990s
b.203 v.1	Scrapbook
b.204 v.1	Scrapbook
b.205 v.1	Scrapbook
b.206 v.1	Scrapbook
	Travels, 1950s and 1960s

The pers... (cont.)

Personal ephemera (cont.)

Travels. 1950s and 1960s (cont.)

	rraveis, 1950s and 1960s (cont.)
b.192 f.5-6	Africa
b.193 f.1-4	Europe
b.194 f.1	Europe
b.194 f.2	Yale University, 1953 (Masters degree)
b.194 f.3	Wills, 1998-2003
	Photographs, 1880s-2000s
b.194 f.4-6	Stone and friends
b.195 f.1-5	Stone's family and youth
b.196 f.1-5	Stone's family and youth
b.198 f.2	Stone's family and youth
b.200 f.3	Photo album, personal, 1972-1974