

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Paul Brodeur Papers**  
1941-2004  
MssCol 399

**Leslie Reyman  
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## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	Brodeur, Paul
<b>Title:</b>	Paul Brodeur papers, 1941-2004
<b>Size:</b>	22 linear feet (55 boxes)
<b>Source:</b>	Donated by Paul Brodeur, 1992 with additional material donated in 1999, 2000 and 2001.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Paul Brodeur is a novelist, writer of short-stories, and award-winning author of articles and books on environmental health issues. The collection documents the years 1941-2004 and includes correspondence, manuscript drafts, research material, writings and personal material.
<b>Access:</b>	Advance notice required. Apply at <a href="http://www.nypl.org/mssref">http://www.nypl.org/mssref</a> . Sound and video recordings are unavailable for use at this time pending preservation transfer.
<b>Copyright information:</b>	Paul Brodeur reserves title to all copyrights and literary rights to his papers.
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	Paul Brodeur Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Sound recordings, video recordings

### **Related materials note**

New Yorker records, ca. 1924-1984, MssCol 2236. Manuscripts and Archives Division, New York Public Library.

New Yorker public relations department materials, 1932-1988, MssCol 4801. Manuscripts and Archives Division, New York Public Library.

## Biographical note

Paul Brodeur is a novelist, writer of short-stories, and award-winning author of articles and books on environmental health issues. Born in 1931 in Boston, Brodeur attended Phillips Academy and Harvard. Graduating in 1953 from Harvard, he joined the Army and served in Counter-Intelligence Corps at a ballistic missile site in Germany. After his tour of duty he spent a year studying in France. Brodeur began his writing career in 1957 with the publication in *The New Yorker* of a short story, *The Sick Fox*, a story based upon his time as a spy in Germany. He was hired at *The New Yorker* on a permanent basis the following year. During the 1960s, he wrote mostly *The Talk of the Town* and *Comment* pieces, in addition to several other short stories.

Brodeur wrote two novels: *The Sick Fox*, expanded from his original *New Yorker* short story, published in 1962. He also wrote *The Stunt Man*, in 1970 (which was adapted for the screen by Richard Rush and became an Academy-nominated film in 1980). In addition to the novels, Brodeur also published a volume of short stories, *Downstream*, in 1972.

In 1968, Brodeur wrote a long non-fiction article for *The New Yorker* entitled "The Magic Mineral". The article introduced the public to the asbestos crisis. It became a seminal piece that changed the course of Brodeur's journalistic career. Beginning in 1973 until his retirement in 1994, he wrote almost exclusively multi-issue articles on occupational health hazards including, microwave radiation, enzymes, the ozone layer, Native American land claim rights, treasure hunting, electromagnetic radiation, in addition to asbestos.

He wrote nine books of non-fiction based upon his articles in *The New Yorker*. *Asbestos and Enzymes*, (1972); *Expendable Americans*, (1974); *Zapping of America: Microwaves, Their Deadly Risk, and the Cover-up*, (1977); *Asbestos Hazard*, (1980); *Industry on Trial*, (1984); *Restitution, the Land Claims of the Mashpee, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indians of New England*, (1985); *Outrageous Misconduct: the Asbestos Industry on Trial*, (1985); *Currents of Death*, (1989); *The Great Power-lines Cover-up: How the utilities and the government are trying to hide the cancer hazard posed by electromagnetic fields*, (1993); and a memoir *Secrets: A Writer in the Cold War*, (1997).

In *Secrets* Brodeur recounts the common thread running through all his occupational health stories: the "Cold War" psychology that permitted government and industry to operate under a veil of unanswerable secrecy, and his attempts, as a reporter, to expose those secrets. Brodeur faced secrets in his own life too; learning he had an unknown older half brother, and that he was a surveillance target. The book interweaves both the professional and personal life of one man.

From 1970 to 1980, Brodeur taught a non-fiction writing workshop at the School of Journalism at Columbia University. He has also taught at Harvard, Boston University, and the University of California at San Diego. Brodeur was a prolific lecturer, in the United States, Japan and Europe. He has testified before the New York City Council, state legislatures throughout the United States and the U.S. House of Representatives about environmental issues. Since his retirement from *The New Yorker* in the mid-1990s, Brodeur has focused mainly on writing fiction, his first love. His short stories have appeared in *Playboy*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Shawnee Review*. Currently, Brodeur divides his time between San Diego, CA and North Truro, MA.

## Scope and content note

The Paul Brodeur papers, dating from 1941-2004, chiefly document his professional life and include correspondence, manuscript drafts, research material, and other writings. The majority of the correspondence received by Brodeur concerns his research into the various environmental health issues that provided the basis for his articles and books. There are manuscript drafts of novels (published and unpublished), short stories (published and unpublished), magazine articles (*The New Yorker*, *Family Circle*), non-fiction books, speeches and other writings (letters to the editor and eulogies). Included with this material is a sampling of research files used in his writing of the articles and books. Brodeur's papers also include a small amount of personal materials from Brodeur's adolescence and college years, with additional information about his teaching career and journalism awards.

## Arrangement note

The Paul Brodeur Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence, 1941-2004
- Series II. Writings, 1957-2004
- Series III. Personal Miscellany, 1951-1991

## Series descriptions and container list

### Series I. Correspondence, 1941-2004

#### I.A. General correspondence, 1941-2004

The majority of the correspondence received by Brodeur concerns his research into the various environmental health issues that provided the basis for his articles and books. Regular correspondents also send greetings to his family and inquire about his fishing holidays (Brodeur was an avid angler). Other correspondence includes inquiries and comments about Brodeur's writings along with his responses.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1941-1956
	2-14	1964-1974
2	1-12	1975-1978
3	1-10	1979-1985
4	1-8	1985-1986
5	1-3	1987
	4-10	1988-1989
6	1-7	1989
7	1-9	1989-1990
8	1-7	1990
9	1-6	1990-1991
10	1-7	1992-1993
11	1-7	1993-1994
12	1-8	1994-1995
13	1-7	1996-1997
14	1-9	1997-2000
15	1-2	2001-2004, undated

#### I.B. Subject Correspondence, 1962-2001

Subject correspondence was maintained separately by Brodeur and is arranged by topic and correspondent. Of special note is correspondence related to the negotiation of Brodeur's publishing contracts. The file on Seymour Hersch documents the feud between the two journalists. In 1993 Hersch wrote a pre-publication statement praising Brodeur's book *The Great Power-line Cover-up*. Several years later in an on-air interview (during his own book tour) Hersch disavowed his previous statement about the book, saying he had not read the book, did not agree with its findings and regretted making the statement. Brodeur confronts Hersch about the matter in a letter and copied James Silberman, Robert Gottlieb, and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. among others.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
15	3	Chelsea Forum , 1989
	4-8	Contracts, A-U, 1965-1995 (sorted alphabetically by publisher)
16	1-2	Contracts, V-W, 1965-1995
	3	Davey, Beth, 1993
	4	Dijkstra, Sandra, 1993

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
16	5	Hersch, Seymour, 1993
	6	Literary Agents, 1962-2000
	7	<i>New Yorker, The</i> , 1976-2001
	8	Salt, Gary, 1987-1999
	9	Short story submissions, ca. 1960's
	10	Silberman, James, 1993
	11	Society for Occupational and Environmental Health, 1976
	12	Utah AFL Conference, 1980
	13	Valberg, Peter, 1993
	14	Weinstein, Jack, 1990



## Series II. Writings, 1957-2004

This series contains manuscript drafts of both fiction and non-fiction works including published and unpublished novels, short stories, articles, non-fiction books and speeches. Included with this material are a sampling of research files used in his writing of the articles, short stories and books.

### II.A. Fiction, 1957-2004

The sub-series Fiction contains manuscript drafts of the published novels *The Sick Fox* and *The Stunt Man*, along with background research material. Also included is an early version of *The Stuntman* entitled "Dead To The World," with a different theme and characters. Shorter versions of both stories were originally written for *The New Yorker*. A movie based upon *The Stuntman* was produced in 1980. Additional files include documents about the negotiation of rights and on-screen credit, and reviews, with promotional material for a campaign for the Academy Awards (the movie was nominated for Best Picture and Peter O'Toole for best actor).

Also available here are drafts of three unpublished novels: "The Short Season" written in 1953, "Pandora" in 1999 and "Retribution" in 2004. "Pandora" was the final version of a story that changed character names and themes. Early versions were called "The Lost Harmonic," "Countermeasures" and "The Apsotat." Two short stories (see "Auction" and "Down In the Bahamas") were loosely used as chapters in the book. "Retribution" was the final version of another novel that went unpublished. It too started out as a slightly different version called "Coral Sea."

There are also drafts of the published short story anthology *Downstream*, 1972, as well as drafts of short stories that were published (*The New Yorker*, *Seventeen*, *Playboy*, and *Ploughshares*) and unpublished. Included also is research material used in the writing of these stories.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		Novels, 1963-2004
17	1-2	"The Apostate," 1996 Aug.
		"Coral Sea," 2000 (unpublished novel, later retitled <i>Retribution</i> )
	3-4	Manuscript draft
	5	Correspondence
	6	Research notes
		"Countermeasures," 1981-1987 (unpublished novel later retitled <i>Pandora</i> )
18	1-3	Manuscript drafts
	4-8	Research notes
		"Dead to the World," 1965
19	1	Manuscript draft
	2-3	Research notes
	4	"The Lost Harmonic," 1978-1979 (early version of unpublished book <i>Pandora</i> )
		"Pandora," 1997-1999 (unpublished)
	5-6	Version one, 1998, Jan.
20	1	Version one, 1998, Jan.
	2-4	Version two, 1998, Nov.
	5-6	Version three, 1999, Jan.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
21	1	Version three, 1999, Jan.
	2-5	Correspondence, 1997-1999
	6-9	Notes, undated
22		"Retribution," 2002-2004
	1-2	Manuscript draft, 2002
	3-4	Manuscript draft, 2004
	5	Correspondence, 2002-2003
23	6	"The Short Season," 1953
	6	Manuscript draft, 1953
23	1-5	Manuscript draft, 1953
	6-7	Manuscript draft, undated
24		<i>The Sick Fox</i> , 1963
	1-2	Manuscript draft, undated
	3	Research material, undated
	4	Correspondence, 1957-1967
		<i>The Stuntman</i> , 1970
25	5-7	Manuscript draft, undated
	1-2	Research notes, undated
26	3-4	The Movie, 1973-1982
		Short Stories, 1957-1969, undated
	1	"Above the Wind," undated
	2-3	"Aftermath," undated
	4	"Alternate Side," undated
	5	"Angel of Death," undated
	6-7	"Auction," undated
	8	"Behind the Moon" undated (originally titled <i>Dear Sisyphus</i> )
	9	"Blue Lawns," undated
	10	"The Chauvinists," undated
27	1-2	"D-Day," 1994-1996
	3-4	"Down In The Bahama," 1996
	5	"Downstream," 1972 (short story anthology)
28	1-2	"Eighty Hours," undated
	3	"Fishing," undated
	4-5	"Flotsam," undated
	6	"Fog Behind the Moon," undated
	7	"A Hard Year's End," undated ( <i>Show</i> magazine article)
29	1-2	"History," undated
	3	"Hydrography," 1965 Feb. 13 ( <i>The New Yorker</i> )
	4	"Interlude in Basque Country," undated
	5	"Interpreter, The," undated
	6	"Intruder, The," undated
	7	"Island In A Shallow Sea," undated
	8	"Maneuver," undated
	9	"New Year's Eve," undated
	30	1-3
4		"Proposal, The," undated
5		"Retribution," undated
6-7		"Rose Bowl," undated
8		"Sabotage," undated
31	1	"Salting The Wreck," undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>		
31	2	"Saltmarsh Caper" undated (originally titled <i>The Game Warden</i> )	
	3	"Secret, The," undated	
	4-5	"Sick Fox, The," 1957, June 15 ( <i>The New Yorker</i> )	
	6	"Signs," undated	
	7	"Siphon, The," undated	
	8	"Ski Lesson, The," undated	
	9	"Snow in Petrograd, The," 1966, Jan. 8 ( <i>The New Yorker</i> )	
	10	"Space, Symmetry, Structure," undated	
	11	"Spoiler, The," 1967, Feb. 11 ( <i>The New Yorker</i> )	
	12	"Summer of the Bass," undated	
	13	"Surveillance," undated	
	32	1	"Toll, The," undated
		2	"Turtle, The," undated
3		"Warriors' Other Halves, The," undated	
4		"A War Story," 1959, Nov. 7 ( <i>The New Yorker</i> )	
5		Short story log, 1997	
6		Story ideas, undated	
7		Short story journal, 1990-1994	

## **II.B. Non-fiction, 1957-2004**

This sub-series contains manuscript drafts of Brodeur's published books. They are arranged chronologically by year of publication. Most of these works were expanded versions of articles written for *The New Yorker*. The sampling of research material gathered and referenced by Brodeur includes correspondence, court documents, brochures, interviews, article, newsletters and medical reports. Particularly notable are materials utilized by Brodeur while researching *Outrageous Misconduct*, his book about the dangers of asbestos. Included are documents that came to light during litigation against asbestos companies in 1977. These documents, which Brodeur received from a lawyer for the plaintiffs, date from 1935 and reveal that asbestos industry executives had long-known about the health hazards associated with this fibrous mineral.

Of special note is the memoir, *Secrets: A Writer in the Cold War*. Published in 1997, it originally was conceived as an article for *The New Yorker* in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. Robert Gottlieb, editor of *The New Yorker* bought the story and set it into galleys. When Tina Brown became the editor of *The New Yorker* later that same year (1992), she declined to publish the story. Brodeur spent several months trying to get the article published in other magazines. The story was finally lengthened to become a book published by Farber & Farber.

The fourteen sound and video recordings associated with this series include interviews with Brodeur on radio call-in shows, television newscasts and a locally produced public television show addressing issues related to electromagnetic radiation and asbestos. Articles written for *The New Yorker* are represented here as drafts and galleys. This material contains early story pitches by Brodeur and requests for stories from the editors.

There are letters to the editor mostly written after Brodeur's retirement from the *New Yorker*, to such publications as *Brill's Content*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *The Nation*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. Other writings include pieces written for publications other than *The New Yorker* (*Family Circle*, *Mademoiselle*) and eulogies for friends.

Sound and video recordings are unavailable for use at this time pending preservation transfer. Contact Division staff for additional information.

Box	Fol	
		Books, 1974-1989
		<i>Expendable Americans</i> , 1974
33	1-2	Drafts
	3	Notes
		<i>Zapping of America</i> , 1977
	4-7	Drafts
34	1	Photos
	2-4	Research
	5	<i>The Asbestos Hazard</i> , 1980
		<i>Outrageous Misconduct: An Industry on Trial</i> , 1985
	6-8	Drafts
35	1-2	Drafts
	3-5	Research notes
36	1-4	Research notes
		<i>Restitution</i> , 1985
	5	Draft
	6-8	Research notes
		<i>Currents of Death</i> , 1989
37	1-7	Draft
	8	Correspondence
		<i>The Great Power-Line Cover-Up</i> , 1993
38	1-5	Draft
	6-7	Research notes
39	1	Research notes
		<i>Secrets. A Writer In The Cold War</i> , 1997
	2	"Capers and Calamities" undated
	3-7	Drafts
40	1-2	Drafts
	2-4	Correspondence
	5-8	Research notes
		<i>New Yorker, The</i> , 1960-1992
		Feature articles, 1968-1992
41	1	"A Reporter At Large Untitled," 1964
	2-7	"A Reporter At Large: The Magic Mineral" , 1968, Oct. 12
	8-9	"The Enigmatic Enzyme" , 1971, Jan. 16
42	1-5	"Annals of Industry, Casualties of the Workplace," 1973, Oct. 29-Nov. 19
	6	"Annals of Chemistry, Inert," 1975, Apr. 7
	7-8	"Annals of Chemistry, A Compelling Intuition," 1975, Nov. 24
	9-10	"A Reporter At Large," 1976, Dec. 13-20
43	1	"A Reporter at Large: The Mashpees," 1978, Nov. 6
	2	"Annals of Chemistry: In the Face of Doubt," 1982, Sept. 30
	3	"Annals of Law: Restitution," 1982, Oct. 11
	4-7	"Annals of Law: The Asbestos Industry on Trial," 1985, June 10-July 1
	8	"Annals of Chemistry: In The Face of Doubt," 1986, June 9
44	1-5	"A Reporter At Large: The Treasure of the DeBraak," 1988, Aug. 15

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
44	6-8	"Annals of Radiation: The Hazards of Electromagnetic Fields," 1989 June 12
	9	"Annals of Radiation: Calamity on Meadow Street," 1990, July 9
45	1	"Department of Amplification," 1990, Nov. 19
	2-3	"Annals of Radiation: Cancer At Slater School," 1992, Dec. 7
	4-13	"Talk of the Town" pieces, 1960-1971 1960-1969
46	1	1970-1971
	2	Galleys, various
	3	"Comment," "Round-up" and "Shouts and Murmurs" pieces, 1961-1993 1961-1966
	4-8	1968-1993
	9-20	Letters to the Editor, 1976-2004 1976-1990
47	1-5	2004, undated
	6	Other Writings, undated
	7-9	Alicia Patterson Foundation Fellowship
	10	Eulogies, undated
	11	<i>Family Circle</i> , 1990
	12	<i>Frontline</i> , 1994
	13-14	<i>The Health Hazards of Radiofrequency, Microwave and Laser Raditation</i> , ca. 1980
	15-16	<i>Mademoiselle</i> , 1994, undated
	17-18	<i>The New Yorker</i> "Curtain Raiser" never published
48	1	Poetry, undated
	2	Press releases, undated
	3-6	Proposals, ideas, outlines, treatments, 1957, undated
	7	<i>Ramazzini</i> newsletter, <i>Public Participation: The Role of Public Interest Organizations</i> , 1990, Mar.
	8	Robson, Barbara, The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy
	9	Schiller, Robert, undated

### II.C. Speeches, 1973-1995

This sub-series contains drafts of speeches given at conferences and workshops throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan, grouped chronologically. Collateral information related to his speaking engagements includes correspondence, payments, conference brochures and itineraries.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
48	11	1973-1974
	12	1976-1979
	13	1980-1982
49	1-2	1985-1986
	3	1987
	4	1988-1989
	5-6	1990
50	1-2	1991
	3	1992
	4	1993
	5	1994
51	1-4	1995

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
51	5	Undated
52	1	Unidentified, undated
	2	List of speeches, 1985-1995
	3	<i>Women and the Workplace: An Historic Conference</i> , 1976

**Series III. Personal Miscellany, 1951-1991**

This series contains materials documenting Brodeur's college years at Harvard and includes papers, transcripts and his diploma. There is also information about awards given for his writing, a certificate from the Counter-Intelligence Corps, lists of press coverage about himself, information about his North Truro home, and information about his teaching a course at Columbia University. Of special note is a fishing journal Brodeur kept in 1950 and a photograph of Brodeur with his class at Phillips Academy.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
52	4	Accounts, 1978-1987
	5	Awards, 1976-1991
53	1	Counter-Intelligence Corps School-Ft. Holabird, 1954
	2	Fishing journal, ca. 1950
	3-6	Harvard University, 1951-1953 (includes diploma, see box X-17)
	7	North Truro house, 1977-1992
X-17		Phillips Academy, ca. 1946
53	8	Press coverage, undated
	9	Teaching, 1966-1977