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## Finding Aid for the Jay Leyda Papers, 1925-1956

### Collection number: 460

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

### Contact Information

- Manuscripts Division
- UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Jay Leyda Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1925-1956

**Collection number:** 460

**Creator:** Leyda, Jay, 1910-

**Extent:** 24 boxes (12 linear ft.)

**Repository:** University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Abstract:** Jay Leyda (1910-1988) was a critic, filmmaker, author, editor and educator. Leyda also worked as a technical advisor on Russian subjects for Hollywood and taught at Yale, York University and New York University. The collection consists of manuscripts and page proofs with holographic corrections of Leyda's work relating to Herman Melville and Leyda's study *The Melville Log*, Sergei Eisenstein, Modest Mussorgsky, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

**Physical location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

**Language:** English

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**Restrictions on Access**

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

**Additional Physical Form Available**

A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

- Public Services Division
- UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
- Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
- Box 951575
- Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
- Telephone: 310/825-4988 (10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pacific Time)
- Email: spec-coll@library.ucla.edu

**Provenance/Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Jay Leyda, 1948-1954.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Jay Leyda Papers (Collection 460). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

**Biography**

Leyda was born February 12, 1910 in Detroit; studied filmmaking at State Film Institute, Moscow, with Sergei Eisenstein in 1933; critic, filmmaker, author, editor, educator; translated Eisenstein's theoretical works on cinema; wrote/edited critical studies/biographies of Melville, Dickenson, Mussorgsky, and Rachmaninoff; lifelong film historian and teacher of cinema; during 1940s was technical advisor on Russian subjects for Hollywood; in 1960s and 70s taught at Yale and York University, Toronto; was at New York University from 1973 until his death on February 15, 1988 of heart failure.

**Scope and Content**

Collection consists of manuscripts and page proofs with holographic corrections of Leyda's work relating to Herman Melville and Leyda's study *The Melville Log*, Sergei Eisenstein, Modest Mussorgsky, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. Also includes correspondence and ephemera regarding research for these books.

**Organization and Arrangement**

Arranged in the following series:

1. Typescripts (Boxes 1-6, 11).
2. Correspondence (Boxes 7-8).
3. Notes (Boxes 9-10, 23-24).
4. Ephemera (Boxes 12-13).
5. *The Melville Log* (Boxes 14-22).

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Leyda, Jay, 1910- --Archives.

Eisenstein, Sergei, 1898-1948.

Melville, Herman, 1819-1891.

Mussorgsky, Modest Petrovich, 1839-1881.

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Rachmaninoff, Sergei, 1873-1943.  
Biographers--United States--Archival resources.

Typescripts

Box 1

***The Film Sense.***

**Physical Description:** 269 leaves. Typescript with extensive holograph corrections and annotations. Boxed in wine, cloth slipcase.

**Scope and Content Note**

By Sergei M. Eisenstein, edited and translated by Jay Leyda. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York, 1942.

Box 1

***Film Form.***

**Physical Description:** 288 leaves. Typescript with some holograph leaves and occasional corrections. Boxed in a green, cloth slipcase.

**Scope and Content Note**

By Sergei M. Eisenstein, edited and translated by Jay Leyda. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1949.

Box 2

***Film Form.***

**Physical Description:** 781 leaves. Typescript (mostly carbon) with infrequent corrections and much duplication of material. Envelope.

Box 3

***Kino: a History of the Cinema in Russia from 1896 to the Present Day.***

**Physical Description:** 489 leaves. Typescript (partly carbon) with extensive holograph corrections and inserts. In envelope.

Box 3

***Kino...***

**Physical Description:** Holograph. 1 envelope.

**Scope and Content Note**

Notes and research for this book.

Box 3

***The Portable Melville.***

**Scope and Content Note**

Page proofs. New York, Viking, 1952.

Box 4

***The Complete Stories of Herman Melville.***

**Physical Description:** 263 leaves. Typescript (carbon). All typescripts with holograph corrections. In envelope.

**Scope and Content Note**

Edited, with an introduction and notes by Jay Leyda. Also: Introduction and two copies of Notes on sources, Published by Random House, New York, 1949.

Box 4

***The Complete Stories of Herman Melville.***

**Physical Description:** In blue cardboard box.

**Scope and Content Note**

Page proofs.

- Box 5            ***The Mussorgsky Reader; a Life of Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky in Letters and Documents.***  
**Physical Description:** 577 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections. Boxed in a red, cloth slipcase.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Edited and translated by Jay Leyda and Sergei Bertensson. Published by W.W. Norton, New York, 1947.
- Box 6            ***The Mussorgsky Reader.***  
**Physical Description:** 626 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections. In two envelopes.
- Box 11           **Miscellaneous short manuscripts. By Jay Leyda. v.p., v.d.**  
**Physical Description:** Typescripts, 10 items.
- Box 11           **Miscellaneous short manuscripts.**  
**Physical Description:** Typescripts, 5 items. In two envelopes.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
By various authors, including Muriel Rukeyser and John W. Earnshaw.
- Box 11           ***Sergei Rachmaninoff, a Lifetime in Music.***  
**Physical Description:** 147 leaves. Typescript (partly carbon) and holograph. Incomplete manuscript, irregular pagination.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
By Sergei Bertensson and Jay Leyda, with the assistance of Sophia Satin. Published by the New York University Press, New York, 1956.

**Correspondence**

Boxes 7 & 8

**Correspondence.**

**Physical Description:** In 3 envelopes.

**Scope and Content Note**

Pertaining to research on Herman Melville, primarily with regard to the Melville Log. 1944-52.

Box 8

**Correspondence.**

**Scope and Content Note**

- 1 envelope regarding The Mussorgsky Reader, 1943-48.
- 1 envelope regarding Film form and The Film Sense, 1941- .
- 1 envelope of miscellaneous correspondence, 1940- .

**Notes**

Boxes 9 & 10

**Notes.**

**Physical Description:** 6 envelopes.

**Scope and Content Note**

Miscellaneous, in mixed order. 1925- .

Box 23 & 24

**Notes.**

**Physical Description:** In 5 envelopes.

**Scope and Content Note**

On Herman Melville, primarily pertaining to the Melville Log.

**Ephemera**

Box 12

**Ephemera.**

**Scope and Content Note**

1 envelope of miscellaneous photostats; 1 envelope on the Russian theatre; and 1 envelope of advertising materials, prospectuses, book jackets, newspaper clippings, etc.

Box 13

**Ephemera.**

**Scope and Content Note**

1 envelope and 1 roll of materials pertaining to the Melville Log; 3 envelopes of photostats and negatives for the Melville Log.

**The Melville Log**

Boxes 14 & 15

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** 1352 leaves. Typescript. In three envelopes.

**Scope and Content Note**

Printer's copy with corrections and deletions, etc. Includes introduction and index with printer's notations. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York, 1951.

Box 16

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** 874 leaves. Typescript with copious corrections. In two envelopes. Irregular pagination.

Box 17

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** 1352 leaves. Typescript (carbon). Corrections on first 8 leaves only. In two envelopes.

Box 18

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** 403 leaves. Incomplete typescript (partly carbon) with extensive holograph corrections and much duplication of parts.

**Scope and Content Note**

Early draft.

Box 18

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** 360 leaves. Incomplete typescript with holograph corrections.

**Scope and Content Note**

Early draft.

Box 18

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** Incomplete typescript (carbon). pp.1-94 only.

Box 19

**The Melville Log.**

**Scope and Content Note**

First galley proofs with extensive corrections and annotations.

Box 20

**The Melville Log.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Revised galleys (second proofs) with extensive corrections and annotations.

Box 20

**The Melville Log.**

**Physical Description:** 1 envelope.

**Scope and Content Note**

Miscellaneous materials from printer, including proofs of plates.

Boxes 21 & 22

***The Melville Log.***

**Physical Description:** 2 copies. In two envelopes.

**Scope and Content Note**

Uncut page proofs with some corrections.