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## Finding Aid for the Robert Ardrey Papers, 1935-1960

### Collection number: 957

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

#### Contact Information

- Manuscripts 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](mailto:spec-coll@library.ucla.edu)
- URL: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/scweb/>

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Online finding aid edited by:

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Robert Ardrey Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1935-1960

**Collection number:** 957

**Creator:** Ardrey, Robert

**Extent:** 4 boxes (4 linear ft.)

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

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Abstract:** Robert Ardrey (1908-1970) was born in Chicago, Illinois. He studied the natural and social sciences at University of Chicago and lectured on anthropology for two years, but later found himself more interested in drama. He became a Hollywood screenwriter and wrote film scripts, novels, and plays. The collection consists of correspondence, clippings, ephemera and motion picture scripts written by Ardrey.

**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 Helen Ardrey, 1963.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Robert Ardrey Papers (Collection 957). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

**Biography**

Robert Ardrey was born October 16, 1908 in Chicago; studied natural and social sciences at University of Chicago and lectured on anthropology for two years, but later found himself more interested in drama, where he was influenced by Thornton Wilder; his first plays had brief runs, but led to his becoming a Hollywood screenwriter, 1938; wrote film scripts, novels, and plays, including *Thunder Rock*, which was successful in London and filmed in Hollywood; returned to the study of anthropology in 1955, and later produced four works: *African Genesis* (1961), *The Territorial Imperative* (1966), *The Social Contract* (1970), and *The Hunting Hypothesis* (1976) all arguing that man was innately aggressive creature; continued to write screenplays, including *Khartoum*; finished autobiography shortly before his death in Kalk Bay, South Africa in 1980.

**Scope and Content**

Collection consists of letters from Ardrey to his wife and children, business correspondence, 14 motion picture scripts written by Ardrey, clippings, and ephemera.

**Indexing Terms**

Ardrey, Robert--Archives.

Screenwriters--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.

Film scripts.

Box 1            **Ephemera relating to Robert Ardrey.**

**Physical Description:** 16 items.

Box 1            **Newspaper clippings relating to Ardrey.**

**Physical Description:** 25 items.

- Box 1      **Office of War Information scripts by Ardrey. New York, ca.1943.**  
**Physical Description:** 3 items.
- Box 1      **Photographs relating to Robert Ardrey and family.**  
**Physical Description:** 64 items.
- Box 1      **Ardrey, Robert. *The Stevenson Story*. Los Angeles, 1952. Also related items.**
- Box 1      **X-ray pictures of Ardrey. Switzerland, 1958.**
- Box 1      **Ardrey, Robert. *Casey Jones*. New York, 1936.**  
**Physical Description:** 130 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 1      ***Eric Batter*. n.p., n.d.**  
**Physical Description:** 106 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 1      ***Eric Batter* (notes).**  
**Physical Description:** 40 leaves. Typescript.
- Box 1      ***God and Texas*. n.p., ca.1943.**  
**Physical Description:** 23 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 1      ***House on Fire*. n.p., n.d.**  
**Physical Description:** 118 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 1      ***How to Get Tough About it*. New York, 1937.**  
**Physical Description:** 152 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 1      **Revised version.**  
**Physical Description:** 148 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 2      ***Jeb*. New York, 1945.**  
**Physical Description:** 131 leaves. Typescript (carbon) with holograph corrections.
- Box 2      ***Leuchtfueer* (German translation of *Thunder Rock*). Berlin, 1954.**  
**Physical Description:** 112 p.
- Box 2      ***My Friends and I*. New York, n.d.**  
**Physical Description:** 132 leaves. Typescript (carbon).
- Box 2      ***Salome*. Los Angeles, c.1950.**  
**Physical Description:** 201 leaves. Typescript on loose sheets.
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- Box 2      ***Shadow of Heroes*. London: Collins, 1958.**  
**Physical Description:** 127 pp. Mimeographed.
- Box 2      ***Sometimes I Love You*. Los Angeles, 1951.**  
**Physical Description:** 138 leaves. Mimeographed.
- Box 2      ***Strangerman's Bay*. n.p., n.d.**  
**Physical Description:** 83 leaves. Typescript on loose sheets.
- Box 2      **Lavery, Emmet. *Fenelon*. Munich, Germany, n.d. 191pp. Gift of the author to Robert and Helen Ardrey.**
- Box 3      **Correspondence with Brandt & Brandt, New York. v.p., 1934-1937.**  
**Physical Description:** 49 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with George Abbott. v.p., 1935.**  
**Physical Description:** 23 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons relating to business and the Guggenheim Fellowship. v.p., 1936-1937.**  
**Physical Description:** 41 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1943.**  
**Physical Description:** 4 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1946-1950.**  
**Physical Description:** 20 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1951.**  
**Physical Description:** 30 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1952.**  
**Physical Description:** 10 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1953.**  
**Physical Description:** 44 items.

- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1954.**  
**Physical Description:** 14 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence relating to loyalty. v.p., 1954.**  
**Physical Description:** 9 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1955.**  
**Physical Description:** 28 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons relating to business. v.p., 1956-1967.**  
**Physical Description:** 33 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1956-1958.**  
**Physical Description:** 30 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., 1959.**  
**Physical Description:** 7 items.
- Box 3      **Correspondence with various persons, personal. v.p., n.d.**  
**Physical Description:** 25 items.
- Box 3      **Christmas cards. n.p., v.d.**  
**Physical Description:** 18 items.
- Box 4      **Contracts and related correspondence. v.p., 1931-1938.**  
**Physical Description:** 15 items.
- Box 4      **Contracts and related correspondence. v.p., 1944-1947.**  
**Physical Description:** 7 items.
- Box 4      **Business and tax records for 1950.**  
**Physical Description:** 22 items.
- Box 4      **Business and tax records for 1951.**  
**Physical Description:** 44 items.
- Box 4      **Bank stubs for 1951-1952.**
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- Box 4      **Bank stubs for 1953-1954.**
- Box 4      **Business and tax records for 1956.**  
**Physical Description:** 6 items.
- Box 4      **Business and tax records for 1957.**  
**Physical Description:** 29 items.
- Box 4      **Business and tax records for 1958.**  
**Physical Description:** 19 items.