Title: Playscript about the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg espionage trial
Collection number: MS.M.054
Contributing Institution: University of California, Irvine. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557

Language of Material: English.
Storage Unit: MS-S Box 001
Physical Description: 0.1 Linear feet (1 folder)
Date: circa 1975
Abstract: The collection is comprised of one untitled playscript (50 pages) written by Barbara Clairchilde, Leslie Hoag and Dudley Knight. The play deals with the espionage trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (1951) and the couple's resulting execution (1953).

creator: Clairchilde, Barbara
creator: Hoag, Leslie
creator: Knight, Dudley

Scope and Content
The collection is comprised of one untitled playscript (50 pages) written by Barbara Clairchilde, Leslie Hoag and Dudley Knight. The play deals with the espionage trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (1951) and the couple's resulting execution (1953). The first half of the play recounts the events leading up to the trial. The second half is comprised mainly of letters written by the Rosenbergs during their imprisonment. Letters are to each other, their lawyer Emanuel "Manny" Bloch, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and their children.

The play was probably originally written to be performed on KPFK radio station in Los Angeles. It was adapted in part by Robert Carl Cohen for the Rally to Reopen the Rosenberg Case, Santa Monica, California, February 2, 1975.

Historical Background
Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951. They were convicted when the court determined they had provided information about the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. In 1953 they were executed for the crime, an event that was and remains controversial.

Barbara Clairchilde, Leslie Hoag and Dudley Knight were associated with KPFK, a politically progressive radio station in the Los Angeles area, in the 1970s. Knight was an actor who became a member of the faculty in the Department of Drama at the University of California, Irvine, in 1981.

Acquisition Information
Acquired in 2009.

Access
The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation
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Processing History
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
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Rosenberg, Julius, 1918-1953 -- Archives
Activists.
Actors.
Cold War -- Archives

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