Finding Aid for the Eddie Cantor Papers, 1915-1964

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Note
Arts and Humanities --Film, Television and Broadcasting
Arts and Humanities --Performing Arts --Music
Geographical (By Place) --United States (excluding California)
Geographical (By Place) --California --Los Angeles Area
Finding Aid for the Eddie Cantor Papers, 1915-1964

Collection number: 861

UCLA Library Special Collections
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Eddie Cantor Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1915-1964
Collection number: 861
Creator: Cantor, Eddie, 1892-1964
Extent: 75 boxes (37.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles, Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Abstract: Eddie Cantor (1892-1964) was a vaudeville performer and singing waiter. He turned to radio in the 1930s and was the highest paid radio star by 1936. The collection consists of radio and television scripts, sheet music, orchestrations, photographs, awards, tributes, correspondence, and scrapbooks.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library 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
Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Natalie Metzger, 1964.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Eddie Cantor Papers (Collection 861). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 709577

Biography
Cantor was born Edward Israel Iskowitz on January 31, 1892 in New York City; he was orphaned at age of two and raised by his grandmother; was a vaudeville performer and singing waiter; appeared in Gus Edwards' Kid Kabaret; appeared in Ziegfeld's Midnight Frolics in 1916; became star in successive Ziegfeld Follies, 1917-1919, and also starred in the producer's shows, Kid Boots and Whoopie; starred in two silent films, Kid Boots (1926) and Special Delivery (1927): had own radio show through the 1930s, and was the highest paid radio star by 1936; semi-retired after heart attack in 1952; given Academy Award in 1956 for distinguished service to film industry; was married to Ida Tobias for 48 years and had 5 daughters; died on October 10, 1964 in Hollywood, California.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of materials related to Cantor's career, including radio and television scripts, sheet music, orchestrations, photographs, awards, tributes, correspondence, and scrapbooks. Sound recordings which were a part of the original gift were transferred to UCLA Theater Arts Department.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Radio and television scripts.
2. Music orchestrations and scores.
3. Publications.
4. Correspondence and scrapbook.
5. Awards, testimonials.
6. Photographs.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog. Cantor, Eddie, 1892-1964--Archives. Entertainers--United States--Archival resources. Motion picture actors and actresses--United States--Archival resources. Radio plays. Television plays. Scores.

Guest Spots and Television Specials

Box 1  September 27, 1936-April 27, 1939.
Box 2  June 29, 1939-August 17, 1942.
Box 3  August 23, 1942-April 10, 1944.
Finding Aid for the Eddie Cantor Papers, 1915-1964

| Box 4 | April 23, 1944-March 4, 1945. |
| Box 5 | March 22, 1945-December 26, 1946. |
| Box 6 | January 1947-December 25, 1948. |
| Box 7 | January 3, 1949-January 12, 1957. |

**The Eddie Cantor Show**

| Box 8 | no.1-40 (short no.16) Also included is the Special Christmas Show for December 23, 1955 and the Special New Years Show for December 30, 1955. |
| Box 9 | no.41-75 (short no.55). |
| Box 10 | no.76-115. |
| Box 11 | no.116-160. |
| Box 12 | no.161-200. |
| Box 13 | no.201-240. |
| Box 14 | no.241-258 plus duplicates of above scripts. |

**Show Business Old and New**

| Box 15 | no.1-45 (October 2, 1952-October 1, 1953) Abstract: Also included is an Index to Show Business Old and New and an Index to Eddie Cantor's column for the Bell Syndicate. |
| Box 16 | no.46-86 (October 8, 1953-July 1, 1954). |
| Box 17 | Duplicate scripts for Show Business Old and New (unarranged) and show number 48 on large type cue sheets. |

**Eddie Cantor Comedy Theatre**

| Box 18 | Scripts 1-13. |
| Box 19 | Scripts 16-28. |
| Box 20 | Scripts 29-38. Also, 3 early draft screenplays, 1955. |

**March of Dimes Scripts**

| Box 21 | For the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1948. |

**Colgate Comedy Hour**

| Box 22 | September 30, 1951-May 18, 1952. |
| Box 23 | June 7, 1952-March 15, 1953. |
| Box 24 | April 12, 1953-January 31, 1954. |

**Show Business Scripts**

| Box 25 | October 14, 1951-May 13, 1952 (Short numbers 4, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18) Also, unidentified parts of other scripts. |

**Music**

**Orchestrations and Scores**

| Box 26 | An index-book of music used by Eddie Cantor. Songs arranged alphabetically by title, but are not necessarily included in this collection. Box contains eight orchestrations (numbers 1, 3-7, 14, 15). |
| Box 27 | Nine orchestrations (numbers 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26a, 26b, 27). |
| Box 28 | Twelve orchestrations (numbers 28, 29, 33, 41, 42, 43, 44a, 44b, 45, 46, 47. |
| Box 29 | Four orchestrations. Two miscellaneous orchestrations. Songs by Eddie Cantor. |
| Box 30 | Miscellaneous orchestrations, sheet music (Cantor and non-Cantor). |
| Box 31 | Lyrics, arranged alphabetically by first line. |
| Box 32 | Lyrics, unarranged. |

**Eddie Cantor Publications**
Box 33

Box contains Cantor authored magazine articles, scenario synopses and anecdotes gathered by Cantor for use in his Bell Syndicate column.

Abstract: Also contains two books by Eddie Cantor, As I Remember Them and The Way I See It, along with a typescript copy of several chapters from a ghost written autobiography. Also: Caught Short! by Eddie Cantor. (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1929).

Miscellaneous items

Box 34

Fan mail 1953-1954, Eddie Cantor publicity, Mother Contest mail, momentoes, programs, show projects.

Box 35

Eddie Cantor publicity, awards and citations, miscellaneous items.

Abstract: Included also is a letter from Dwight Eisenhower, a letter and a telegram from Franklin D. Roosevelt, and telegrams from Byrd and Reinhardt. Also, material on Jimmy Durante.

Box 36

Two Israeli photo albums and one publicity scrapbook.

Box 37

Scrapbooks (2), photo album (1), testimonial (1).

Plaques, Awards and Testimonials

Box 38

Spectacles and tie worn in Whoopee.

Box 38

Plaques (5):

Scope and Content Note
n.d. Radio Stars Award for Distinguished Service.
1939 Annual Humanitarian Award, Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 210.
1949 War Veterans
1952 65th Birthday Testimonial
1954 National Broadcasting Corporation

Box 39

Plaques (6):

Scope and Content Note
1945 General Maurice Rose Memorial Medal for Humanitarian Service
1952 Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity (Honorary Member)
1954 Hall of Fame Award
1959 Brandeis University (Honorary Fellow)

Box 40

Plaques (7):

Scope and Content Note
n.d. U.S. Treasury Department War Finance Committee for Ohio
1935 St. Paul Police Detective Association (Honorary Member)
1937 Radio Guide Weekly: 25 Years Distinguished Contribution To The Show World
1949 B'nai B'rith Mr. and Mrs. American Citizen
1955 Mt. Sinai Childrens Aid (Eddie Cantor an Honorary Father)
1955 National Safety Council Award for Exceptional Service to Safety
1959 Eleanor Roosevelt Institute for Cancer Research
Plaques (4):

Scope and Content Note
n.d. March of Dimes Service Award
1946 Jewish War Veterans of the United States Citation
1956 Burbank Jewish Community Center
1958 National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. 10th Annual Emmy Awards Ceremony (for presenting)

Scope and Content Note
n.d. American Trucking Association Incorporated for safe driving
n.d. Modern Screen Radio Award (30 Years in Show Business)
1946 National Retail Dry Goods Association
1963 March of Dimes (25th Anniversary of March of Dimes)

n.d. Richmond Fifth War Loan Drive.
Scope and Content Note
1952 Cleveland Show People’s Committee for the Diner in Honor of Eddie Cantor (Get Well Message)
1952 Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Tribute (scroll)
1957 Happy Birthday Scroll. Bay Area Jewish Women’s Israeli Bond Campaign
1957 Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt and the Salute Luncheon to Eddie Cantor. Bond solicitation for Israel, Miami. (Scroll)
1962 Screen Actors Guild Annual Award (First). Good Citizenship, Acting Ideals

Scope and Content Note
1938 Eaton Paper Corporation. Winner of Eaton’s Nation-Wide Radio Poll
1948 Advertising Club of San Francisco. Showman of the Year Award
1957 American Heart Association. Heart and Torch Award
1960 American Heart Association. Gold Heart Award

Testimonials (3):

Scope and Content Note
1952 State of Israel Bonds (On occasion of Eddie Cantor’s 60th birthday)
1957 Birthday congratulations. (Signed) Ben Gurion. (Silver scroll case, hand painted map on parchment)
1957 To Eddie Cantor in warm appreciation of rare devotion and dedicated friendship for Israel. Ben Gurion. Silver bound book in Hebrew

Photographs


Photographs of the personalities listed below:

Scope and Content Note
Allen, Gracie
Baker, Belle
Belasco, David
Ben Gurion, David
Benny, Jack
Berlin, Irving
Bernie, Ben
Brice, Fanny
Burns, George
Burke, Billie
Cohan, George M.
Correll, Chas. (Amos)
Dempsy, Jack
Donaldson, Walter
Durante, Jimmy
Durbin, Deanna
Edwards, Gus
Errol, Leon
Fairbanks, Douglas
Fields, W.C.
Freeman, F.F. (Andy)
Gershwin, George
Jessel, George
Kay, Danny
Lasky, Jesse L.
Lawrence, Gertrude
Leonard, Benny
Lewis, Ted
Lili, Beatrice
Lloyd, Harold
Harris, Sam
Meighan, Tom
Miller, Marilyn
Morris, William
Pennington, Ann
Richman, Harry
Rogers, Will
Roosevelt, Eleanor
Schenck, Joe
Shore, Dinah
Smith, Alfred E.
Steel, John
Tucker, Sophie
White, George
Whitman, Paul
Winchell, Walter
Van, Gus

Ziegfeld, Florenz

Also contains seven photographs of unidentified persons all inscribed to Eddie Cantor.
**Box 49**  
Five audio-tapes and unidentified photographic negatives.

**Box 50**  
7 taped recordings. Taped by Dr. Shaw, 1976.

**Flat Box 51**  
Photographs of Eddie Cantor’s family with celebrities and Ida Candor.

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**Trophies**

**Carton 52**  
1958: Conference of Jewish Women’s Organizations of Los Angeles.  
Physical Description: (10 × 20).

**Flat Box 53**  
n.d.: Palm Springs Jewish Community Center on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.  
Physical Description: (24 × 18).

**Flat Box 54**  
Physical Description: (20 × 7).

**Flat Box 54**  
1939: National Safety Council Award.  
Physical Description: (20 × 7).

**Flat Box 54**  
n.d.: Watercolor by David Gilboa.

**Carton 52**  
1955: Torch Bearer Award, City of Hope.  
Physical Description: (13 × 6 × 6).

**Carton 52**  
Physical Description: (10 × 9).

**Flat Box 55**  
1962: State of Israel Bond Organization.  
Physical Description: (23 × 12).

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**Portrait**

**Flat Box 56**  
1955: Portrait of Eddie Cantor by Caristar.

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**Phonorecordings**

**Flat Box 56**  
[Taped] Twenty nine recordings of other performers from the Cantor collection. Included are Al Jolson, Eddie Gorme, Sammy Davis Jr., and Edward R. Murrow.

**Flat Box 56**  

**Flat Box 56**  
[Taped] Phonorecordings of Show Business Old and New.

Scope and Content Note  
Some dates are missing from the albums. Opening and closing dates for the albums run:

1) October 2, 1952 - May 7, 1953 (complete).
2) May 28, 1953-July 16, 1953
3) October 1, 1953-December 3, 1953
4) July 23, 1953-September 24, 1953
5) December 10, 1953-February 11, 1954
6) February 18, 1954-April 24, 1954
7) May 13, 1954-July 1, 1954

**Flat Box 56**  
56 phonorecordings of Eddie Cantor and his material.

**Flat Box 56**  
Phonorecordings of Cantor in The Colgate Palmolive Hour, Time to Smile and in a duet with Al Jolson’s voice in For me and my gal.
**Phonorecordings**

Flat Box 56  
**Phonorecordings of Time to Smile, assorted shows 1940-1943 and My 40 Years in Show Business from Carnegie Hall.**

**Assorted recordings.**

Abstract: Included are Franklin D. Roosevelt's Thanksgiving Message of 1938, the Sister Elizabeth Kinney Foundation Guest Star Time (with Rudy Vallee), Cantor's 39th Wedding Anniversary Show, and 19 unidentified and miscellaneous recordings.

Note  
UCLA Radio Archive.

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**Scrapbooks**

Flat Box 57  
Three scrapbooks, mostly press clippings.

Flat Box 58  
Three scrapbooks, mostly press clippings.

Flat Boxes 54, 59  
Three scrapbooks, mostly press clippings.

Flat Box 60  
**Scrapbook of clippings and messages concerning Cantor's heart attack in 1952.**

Abstract: Included are letters and cards from national, state and local leaders and other admirers, including Dwight D. Eisenhower.

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**Photograph Albums**

Flat Box 61  
**Contains these photo albums:** 1) Testimonial Dinner for Eddie Cantor and George Jessel, May 5, 1951; 2) The Eddie Cantor Story stills of the Pacific Coast Premier, December 29, 1953; 3) Mr. and Mrs. Cantor's visit to Israel, 1950.

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**Plaques, Awards and Testimonials**

Box 62  
**Plaques (5):**

Scope and Content Note

n.d. Award of Merit. United Jewish Appeal.


1949 To Eddie Cantor. City of Hope, National Award Dinner.

1949 Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Award. Midwood High School.

Box 63  
**Plaques (3):**

Scope and Content Note

1950 Citation and testimonial. Massachusetts Committee of Catholics, Protestants and Jews.


1952 In appreciation. United Jewish Appeal, also signed by David Ben Gurion.

Box 64  
**Plaques (3):**

Scope and Content Note

1954 Certificate of Merit, Al Jolson Award Medal. Veterans of Foreign Wars.

1955 Man of the Year. Women's American O.R.J.

1956 Plaque. Temple Beth Hillel.
Music

Plaques, Awards and Testimonials

Box 65

**Plaques (5):**

Scope and Content Note
1959 City of Hope. Biennial Convention.
1959 Brandeis University. Fellow of Brandeis.
1960 Gold Heart Award. American Heart Association.
1961 Medallion of Valor. State of Israel Commendation Dinner.
1964 Commendation. Issued and signed by the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson.

Box 66

**Plaques (2):**

Scope and Content Note
1952 Tribute (on occasion of Cantor's 60th birthday). State of Israel Bonds.

Box 67

**Plaques (5):**

Scope and Content Note
n.d. American Legion
1937 To Eddie Cantor from his friends in appreciation and recognition of 25 years in public service.
1954 City of Hope.
1957 In recognition of Distinguished Achievement in Theatrical Arts. The Lambs.

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**Honorific Occasions**

Box 69

1953: Honor Roll of Friends and Admirers who have purchased $1,000 of Israeli Bonds on the occasion of Eddie Cantor’s birthday.

Box 68

Photographs and script from Eddie Cantor’s appearance on the television program *This Is Your Life*.

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**Awards, Testimonials**

Box 70

A collection of certificates of thanks, awards of merit, testimonials, etc. all addressed to Eddie Cantor for his philanthropic activities.

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**Pictorial Materials**

Box 51

Cariacatures, cartoons and sketches of Eddie Cantor.

Abstract: Also contains photos of Cantor on stage, inscribed photos from entertainment personalities and early photos of Cantor in private life.

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**Audiotapes**

Box 72

Three audiotapes.

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**Publications by Eddie Cantor**

Box 73

Four copies of *The Way I See It*.
Consisting of an album of letters whose title reads In tribute to Eddie Cantor on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Under the auspices of State of Israel Bonds. Miami Beach, February 16, 1957.

Physical Description: Typescript letters, signed.

Scope and Content Note
The authors are listed below in the following categories:
Governor Gordon Allott (Colorado).
Governor Victor E. Anderson (Nebraska).
Governor J. Hugo Aronson (Montana).
Senator J. Glenn Beall (Maryland).
Yul Brynner.
Governor Homer E. Capehart (Indiana).
Sen. Clifford P. Case (New Jersey).
Margaret Chase Smith (Maine).
Justice Tom C. Clark.
Governor LeRoy Collins (Florida).
Cecil B. deMille.
Governor George Docking (Kansas).
Governor Orval E. Faubus (Arkansas).
Abba Eban.
Abraham Feinberg.
Rosemary &
Jose Ferrer.
Louis Finkelstein.
Mirion B. Folsom.
Governor Joe Foss (South Dakota).
Dave Garroway
Governor Raymond Gary (Oklahoma).
Governor Marvin Griffin (Georgia).
Governor Harold W. Handley (Indiana).
Governor Hubert H. Humphrey (Minnesota).
Senator Irving M. Ives (New York).
Senator Jacob K. Javits (New York).
Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (Texas).
Governor Goodwin J. Knight.
Lawerence G. Lasky.
Herbert H. Lehman.
Governor Earl K. Long (Louisiana).
Governor Herschel C. Loveless (Iowa).
James G. McDonald.
Senator Pat McNamara (Michigan).
Golda Meir.
Governor Robert B. Meyner (New Jersey).
Lewis Milestone.
George Murphy.
Senator James E. Murray (Montana).
Edward R. Murrow.
Governor Edmund S. Muskie (Maine).
Richard Nixon.

Arthur E. Summerfield.
Cables, Wires, Telegrams

Members of the Israeli Cabinet:
Scope and Content Note
Israel Baryehuda (Interior).
Israel Barzilai (Health).
David Ben Gurion.
Joseph Berg.
Moshe Carmel (Communications).
Levi Eshkol (Finance).
Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog.
Kaddish Luz (Agriculture).
Morredehai Namir (Labor).
Pinhas Rosen (Justice).
Pinhas Sapir (Commerce & Industry).
Moshe Shapira (Religion).
Behor Shalom Shitreet (Police).
William Carmen Natinal Commander, Jewish.
War Veterans Of the United States.
Senator Francis Case.
Arthur Godfrey.
Samuel Goldwyn.
Jennie Grossinger.
Israel Actors Union.
Jennifer Jones.
Sen. William F. Knowland (California).
Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (California).
Governor George M. Leader (Pennsylvania).
Kim Novak.
Sen. Frederick G. Payne (Maine).
Gregory Peck.
Lily Pons.
David O. Selznick.
Governor William G. Stratton (Illinois).
Leonard Sues.
Sophie Tucker.
John Wayne (signed by secretary Mary St. John).
Robert F. Wagner, Mayor New York City.
Sinclair Weeks, U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Holograph Letters

Box 74
Jascha Heifitz.
Fannie Hurst.
Basil Rathbone.
Miscellaneous Letters and Telegrams

Box 74
1952 Paul A. Dever, Governor of Massachusetts. Proclamation of an Eddie Cantor Blood Donor Day.
Box 74
1955 Mamie Doud Eisenhower. Reply to get well note for President Eisenhower.
Box 74
1964 Lyndon Johnson. Telegram reply.
Box 74
n.d. David Moore. Thank you letter on behalf of Person To Person television show.
Box 74
Box 74
Box 74
1940 Franklin D. Roosevelt. Reply to message from Cantor.
Box 74
1964 Mordechai Shalev, Israeli Consul General, Los Angeles. Condolences to Cantor family.
Box 74

Scrapbooks

Box 71
Scrapbooks--Charity work.

Poster

Box 71
Israeli poster, 1950(?) in Hebrew advertising showing of Cantor film Show Business.

Phonorecordings

Box 74
Assorted recordings (14).
Note
UCLA Radio Archive.

Box 75
Unmarked package.

Box 75

Box 75
Presented to Eddie Cantor by Theater Jewish app.

Box 75
Portfolio of drawings by Harry Davids--Committee to spread Jewish Art.

Box 76
Package of renderings.

Scope and Content Note

1) NBC March 12, 1940.

2) Bob Hope Pepsodent Show April 1, 1947.

3) Motion Picture Relief Fund radio program December 31, 1939.
Israeli Poster for film Show Business.