

Brandt, Thomas O.; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Title: Thomas O. Brandt Papers

ID: ger001

Date [inclusive]: 1906-1971

Physical Description: 2.0 cubic ft.

Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.

Language of the

German.

Material:
Abstract:

This collection contains biographical materials, correspondence with publishers, 1958-1966, hand-corrected manuscripts of published and unpublished novels including "Stern in Nebel,"which concerns the 1933-1938 period), short stories, essays, literary criticism, children's literature, and poetry, 1947-68, and offprints of journal, magazine, and

newspaper articles.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows: Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Thomas O. Brandt Papers, 1906-1971. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Brandt Papers).

Biographical / Historical

Thomas O. Brandt was born on November 18, 1906, in Vienna, Austria. After completing his doctoral degree in Germanic and English languages and literatures in 1933 at the University of Vienna, he worked in Vienna as a freelance writer, editor, critic and lecturer. His publications included Der Ewige Kreis, an anthology of modern Austrian poetry, and Der Froehliche Gasthof, a novel.

In 1938, Brandt emigrated to the United States and found a position as a research assistant in German Literature at Harvard University. From 1939-1943, he served as Senior Master at the Lakeside Preparatory School in Seattle, Washington. He married Esther L. Myhre (Heidi) in 1942 and became a

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U.S. citizen in 1943. The birth of sons Christopher (1943), Andrew (1946) and Peter (1947) followed. From 1943-1944, Brandt was a German instructor at Oregon State College and then professor and department chair at William and Mary College from 1945-1947. He spent 1944-1945 working for the U.S. Office of War Information, first as a field representative and editorial assistant in London, and then as editor and chief of the German translation section in New York.

From 1947 to 1966 Brandt taught German at Colorado College where he eventually became full professor and Chair of the Department of German and Russian. There he initiated several foreign student and teaching exchange programs and founded the Max Kade Deutsches Haus. From 1967 to 1968, the year of his death, Brandt was a professor of German at the University of New Hampshire at Durham.

Brandt had a diverse and active career. From the mid 1950s to the late 1960s, he presented many lectures on topics related to Germanic studies and American culture as experienced by Europeans, including a lecture series funded by the U.S. Department of State (1957, 1965) and one at the Goethe Institut in Mexico City (1966). Both series included lectures broadcast on local radio stations. In 1954 and 1956, he led American graduate study groups in Europe and, in 1961, he was invited by the government of the Federal Republic to lead a study tour through Germany. He spent 1956-1957 on a leave of absence from Colorado College as a visiting professor for the University of Maryland in Stuttgart, where he published several articles in the Stuttgarter Zeitung. Brandt also taught at Middlebury College (Vermont), Deutsche Sommerschule during the summers of 1960 and 1962. While on sabbatical in 1963, Brandt travelled to Spain, Mallorca, France, Switzerland and Germany, where he continued his writing. On a leave of absence in 1965, he travelled and lectured in Europe and was a participant in the Internationaler Germanisten Kongress in Amsterdam.

In addition to fulfilling his duties as a professor, Brandt held several offices in various Germanic studies organizations. He served as President of the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (1955-1957) and was a member of the National Advisory Board for Wayne State University's Junior Year Program (1966-1968). From 1963-1968 he was a member of the Editorial Board for Universitas in Stuttgart and also served as Managing Editor for the German Language Quarterly, 1962-1964.

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Scope and Contents

The Thomas O. Brandt papers are of interest to researchers of German exile literature, Germanistik (study of German language and literature) and academic and cultural developments in post-war United States and Europe. The collection contains some biographical information on Thomas Brandt, particularly as related to his professional activities and correspondence with students and numerous publishers.

The bulk of the collection consists of copies of Brandt's works dating from his pre-emigration days in Vienna to the time of his death in 1968. Poems, many short stories and essays, vignettes, dramas, articles and reviews, novels, lectures and two books appear in the collection. In addition, there are some offprints

of Brandt's journal articles. Also of interest are the notes and annotations by Heidi Brandt, the author's wife, on many of the works throughout the collection. No official documents related to Brandt's position with the Office of War Information (1944-1945) appear in the collection. But one vignette, "Civil Service Goes To War" and a few references in his correspondence deal with Brandt's attempt to gain employment with the government and his impressions of his work there.

Brandt published his work in English and German language academic journals and serials. His articles appear in publications ranging from scholarly journals to newspapers such as the Colorado Springs Free Press, Brandt's "hometown newspaper." His publications demonstrate his active engagement in the academic arena as well as a continuous and thoughtful examination of his environment. In addition to publishing book reviews and scholarly research about German language and literature, he wrote about the need for academics to publish, language acquisition, his observations on the American higher education system, aspects of American culture in contrast to European society, politics and travel.

Brandt was a prolific story writer as well as an essayist. The collection contains copies of Brandt's unpublished novels, including Stern im Nebel, which concerns the 1933-1938 period. Brandt's short stories cover a wide range of topics from the whimsical to the satirical. His works often stem from personal experience. Stories such as "Schatten auf Mallorca" and "Eines Tages in Seville" draw from Brandt's impressions of Spain's cultural and political climate during his travels there.

The poetry found in this collection spans Brandt's entire writing career. In 1960, he published a German/English volume of poetry, Gedichte - Poems, and the children's book, Andy, or When I'm Famous. Both works contain lithographs by Heidi Brandt. His poetry shows influence of the German Romantics; prominent themes are nature, the seasons, childhood, love, and death.

Throughout his career, Brandt remained an active and prolific writer. The largest portion of his correspondence deals with his attempts to get his works published. Letters to and from publishers such as Piper, Otto Walter, Carl Hanser, Claassen, Mohrbooks, Kiepenheuer und Witsch, Hoffmann & Campe, Nymphenburger Verlagshandlung date from 1960-1967 and chiefly discuss publication of the author's short stories, "Vignetten und Skizzen" and the story, "Schatten auf Mallorca." Although Brandt published many of his articles, most of his novels and short stories were not published. There is also some correspondence concerning the publication of Brandt's 1960 German/English volume of poetry (Dyva & Jeppsens Bogtrykkeri, Copenhagen). The letters between Brandt and his former students and colleagues from the Lakeside Preparatory School exchanged during WWII show him to be a well-respected and dedicated teacher.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series. Each is arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Collection level finding aid created by Sheri Sarnoff Jodi Boyle oversaw conversion of html box and folder list to EAD and updated overall finding aid. 2020 2022

Processing Information

Processed by E. G. Van Tuyl in February 1994.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Heidi Brandt donated all materials to the M.E. Grenander Department of Speical Collections and Archives in October 1993.

Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Conditions Governing Use

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Brandt, Thomas O., 1906-1968
- Correspondence
- Manuscripts for publication

Collection Inventory

Biographical Material, 1906-1968

Physical Description: 2 folders

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Contains several curriculum vitae, lists of publications and works from 1944 to 1967, newspaper clippings and articles about Brandt and reviews of his publications.

Title/Description	Instances		
Vitae; lists of publications and works, 1906-1968	Box 1	Folder 1	
Clippings and reviews about Brandt and his publications., 1960-1968	Box 1	Folder 2	

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Correspondence, 1939-1967

Physical Description: 3 folders

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Contains one folder of correspondence from former students and colleagues from the Lakeside Academy during the World War II period (1939-1945). This folder also includes a few letters written by Brandt and one letter about the author written by Brandt's wife after his death (German). The bulk of the correspondence (two folders) deals with Brandt's efforts to get his works published (1958-1966).

Title/Description	Instances		
Letters from students and colleagues, includes 1 letter by Heidi Brandt, 1939-1945	Box 1	Folder 3	
Letters to and from publishers, 1958-1963	Box 1	Folder 4	
Letters from publishers, 1966-1967	Box 1	Folder 5	

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Literary Works, 1930-1971

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by format.

Scope and Contents

This series contains clippings and offprints of articles on Austrian literature and culture, and literature from other German-speaking populations; and book reviews by Brandt from his Vienna days and American career; 49 English and German essays spanning Brandt's career, published and unpublished, about a variety of topics concerning cultural and political issues as well as issues in academia; manuscripts of five of Brandt's unpublished novels, including the three part work, Stern im Nebel; a series of 36 vignettes in German, except for "Civil Service Goes To War," an account of Brandt's Office of War Information (OWI) employment; 914 aphorisms developed by Brandt; 28 largely unpublished short stories in English and German; seven short dramas, including "Gestern Kommt Morgen;" and numerous poems, published and unpublished, written throughout Brandt's career.

Title/Description	Instances		
Articles: 1930s, Vienna, Undated	Box 1	Folder 6	
Articles: Post Vienna Period, 1940-early 1950s, Undated	Box 1	Folder 7	
Articles: 1950s, Undated	Box 1	Folder 8	
Articles: 1960s, Undated	Box 1	Folder 9	
Essays: List, German/English, circa 1935-1951, List, German essays after 1958, 1958	Box 1	Folder 10	
Essays: "Publish or Perish", Undated	Box 1	Folder 11	
Essays: "The German Study Tour", Undated	Box 1	Folder 12	
Essays: "Jedermann in der Weltliteratur", 1933-1943	Box 1	Folder 13	
Essays: "Ibsen und das Wienner Theater", 1933-1943	Box 1	Folder 14	
Essays: "Educational Inflation", 1946	Box 1	Folder 15	
Essays: "Educational Objectives", 1948	Box 1	Folder 16	
Essays: "On Insincerity in the Arts", 1948	Box 1	Folder 17	
Essays: "Oesterreichische Dichtung Zwischen Zwei Kriegen", 1949	Box 1	Folder 18	
Essays: "Austrian Literature Between Two Wars (1918-1938)", 1949	Box 1	Folder 19	
Essays: "Bemerkungen ueber das Amerikanische Erziehungssystem", 1949	Box 1	Folder 20	
Essays: "Educational Deflation", 1951	Box 1	Folder 21	
Essays: "The Modern German Kurzgeschichte", 1951	Box 1	Folder 22	
Essays: "Aus Den Tellurischen Provinzen und Humor", 1951	Box 1	Folder 23	
Essays: "American Misconceptions About Modern German Literature", 1953	Box 1	Folder 24	
Essays: "Versuch Einer Stilldiagnose Unserer Zeit", 1958	Box 1	Folder 25	

Essays: "Erziehung Als Vernunftglaube", 1958	Box 1	Folder 26
Essays: "Sprachautomation in USA", 1958	Box 1	Folder 27
Essays: "Anpassung und Unabhaengigkeit in Heutigen Amerika", 1958	Box 1	Folder 28
Essays: "Die Krise der Amerikanischen Erziehung", 1958	Box 1	Folder 29
Essays: "Cocktails", 1958	Box 1	Folder 30
Essays: "Colorado: Traumland der Amerikaner", 1958	Box 1	Folder 31
Essays: "Ad Astra", 1958	Box 1	Folder 32
Essays: "Gedanken ueber die Zeitengenoessische Deutsche Dichtung", 1959	Box 1	Folder 33
Essays: "Die Invasion des Privaten durch die Mechanisierte Sprache", 1955-1965	Box 1	Folder 34
Essays: "ParlandoSelbstentfremdung und Unverbindlichkeit", 1955-1965	Box 1	Folder 35
Essays: "Elisabeth Langaesser: Gedichte", 1960	Box 1	Folder 36
Essays: "A General Statement", 1960	Box 1	Folder 37
Essays: "Der Gottesbegriff in der Neueren Deutschen Lyrik", 1960	Box 1	Folder 38
Essays: "Epistola Ad Me Ipsum", 1960	Box 1	Folder 39
Essays: "Amerikanismen", 1960	Box 1	Folder 40
Essays: "Machtspiel und Unermuedbarkeit der Amerikanischen Reklame", 1960	Box 1	Folder 41
Essays: "Amerikanische Eindruecke von einer Studienreise", 1961	Box 1	Folder 42
Essays: "Hitler Ante Portas", 1961	Box 1	Folder 43
Essays: "Brecht und die Bibel", 1962	Box 1	Folder 44
Essays: "Portugesisches Ballett", 1963	Box 1	Folder 45
Essays: "Einsamkeit in Amerika", 1963	Box 1	Folder 46
Essays: "Versuch ueber den Nordamerikanischen Humor", 1963	Box 1	Folder 47
Essays: "Freiheit in USA", 1963	Box 1	Folder 48
Essays: "Lyrik Ohne Leier", 1964	Box 1	Folder 49
Essays: "Die Amerikanische Germanistik und Ihre Zeitschriften", 1964	Box 1	Folder 50
Essays: "Rhetorik in den Vereinigten Staaten", 1964	Box 1	Folder 51
Essays: "Bertolt Brechts Amerikabild", 1964	Box 1	Folder 52
Essays: "Die Sprachfuehrung Bertolt Brechts", 1964	Box 1	Folder 53
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Essays: "Service - Made in USA", 1964

	Box 1	Folder 54	
Essays: "Der Amerikanische Optimismus", 1965	Box 1	Folder 55	
Essays: "Weltraum fahrt - Wohin?", 1965	Box 1	Folder 56	
Essays: "Die Zahl als Mythos?", 1965	Box 1	Folder 57	
Essays: "Die Grossen Debatten Amerikas", 1966	Box 1	Folder 58	
Essays: "Staatsuniversitaeten im Goldenen Westen", 1966	Box 1	Folder 59	
Novel: "Die Liebenden,", early work from Vienna period, 1930-1940	Box 1	Folder 60	
Novel: "Der Mut der Feigheit: ein Kleines Tagebuch aus Grosser Zeit", 1939	Box 1	Folder 61	
Novel: "Stern im Nebel", Undated	Box 1	Folder 62	
Scope and Contents			
Notes from author/Heidi Brandt re: novel			
Novel: "Stern im Nebel," Part I, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 63	
Scope and Contents			
German			
Novel: "Stern im Nebel," Parts I-II, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 64	
Scope and Contents			
German, with notes from the author			
Novel: "Stern im Nebel," Part II, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 65	
Scope and Contents			
German			
Novel: "Stern im Nebel," Part III, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 66	
Scope and Contents			
German			
Novel: "Stern im Nebel" (Star in the Fog), 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 67	
Scope and Contents			
Author's Summary in English			
Novel: "Stern im Nebel" (Star in the Fog), Part I, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 68	

Scope and Contents

English

Novel: "Stern im Nebel" (Star in the Fog), Part II, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 69	
Scope and Contents	DOX 1	rolder 09	
English			
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Novel: "Stern im Nebel" (Star in the Fog), Part III, 1939-1957	Box 1	Folder 70	
Scope and Contents			
English			
Novel: "Heineckes Gast", 1953	Box 1	Folder 71	
Novel: "Schatten auf Mallorca", 1966	Box 1	Folder 72	
Vignettes: "Civil Service Goes To War" (work at OWI), 1935-1945	Box 2	Folder 1	
Vignettes: "Repartee", 1946	Box 2	Folder 2	
Vignettes: "Das Schoene Maedchen", 1951	Box 2	Folder 3	
Vignettes: "Das Schiff in der Flasche", 1951	Box 2	Folder 4	
Vignettes: "Muede", 1951	Box 2	Folder 5	
Vignettes: "Drei Brueder", 1951	Box 2	Folder 6	
Vignettes: "Hilarianer Beeren", 1953	Box 2	Folder 7	
Vignettes: "Der Krieger", 1954	Box 2	Folder 8	
Vignettes: "Die Fliege", 1956	Box 2	Folder 9	
Vignettes: Original Lists from Brandt, Undated	Box 2	Folder 10	
Vignettes: "Textuellekonvergenz", 1955-1965	Box 2	Folder 11	
Vignettes: "Die Tapferkeitsmedaille", 1961	Box 2	Folder 12	
Vignettes: "Am Fenster", 1961	Box 2	Folder 13	
Vignettes: "Llangollen", 1961	Box 2	Folder 14	
Vignettes: "Woroschilow", 1961	Box 2	Folder 15	
Vignettes: "Umzug", 1961	Box 2	Folder 16	
Vignettes: "Jumporama", 1961	Box 2	Folder 17	
Vignettes: "MBA", 1961	Box 2	Folder 18	
Vignettes: "Die Greisen", 1961	Box 2	Folder 19	
Vignettes: "Hitler Ante Portas", 1961	Box 2	Folder 20	
Vignettes: "Der Kaefig", 1961	Box 2	Folder 21	

Vignettes: "Anstandsbesuch", 1961	Box 2	Folder 22
Vignettes: "Strassenkreuzung", 1961	Box 2	Folder 23
Vignettes: "Wahlvorgang", 1961	Box 2	Folder 24
Vignettes: "Von den Moeglichkeiten", 1961	Box 2	Folder 25
Vignettes: "Auf Besuch", 1961	Box 2	Folder 26
Vignettes: "Freundlicher Nachbar", Undated	Box 2	Folder 27
Vignettes: "Zeitraumalgebra", 1964	Box 2	Folder 28
Vignettes: "Urlaub", 1964	Box 2	Folder 29
Vignettes: "Ehre", 1964	Box 2	Folder 30
Vignettes: "Spare in der Zeit", 1964	Box 2	Folder 31
Vignettes: "Ruhm", 1964	Box 2	Folder 32
Vignettes: "Die Rede", 1964	Box 2	Folder 33
Vignettes: "Ueber Schnelligkeit", 1964	Box 2	Folder 34
Vignettes: "Bescheidenheit Ist Eine Zier", 1964	Box 2	Folder 35
Vignettes: "In Der Praerie", 1964	Box 2	Folder 36
Vignettes: "Das Waren noch Zeiten", 1964	Box 2	Folder 37
Vignettes: "Beschwerliche Nacht", 1964	Box 2	Folder 38
Vignettes: "Nicht Umsonst", 1965	Box 2	Folder 39
Vignettes: "Herr und Diener", 1965	Box 2	Folder 40
Vignettes: "Meditationen", 1965	Box 2	Folder 41
Vignettes: "Zitate", 1965	Box 2	Folder 42
Vignettes: "Alphabetanien", 1965	Box 2	Folder 43
Vignettes: "Duerfen", 1965	Box 2	Folder 44
Vignettes: "Eine Verwirrende Begebenheit", 1965	Box 2	Folder 45
Vignettes: "Tante Luise", 1965	Box 2	Folder 46
Vignettes: "Wortverfremdung", 1966	Box 2	Folder 47
Vignettes: "Philologie", 1966	Box 2	Folder 48
Vignettes: "Shine", 1966	Box 2	Folder 49
Vignettes: "Schlagwoerter", Undated	Box 2	Folder 50
Vignettes: "Veraenderungen", 1967	Box 2	Folder 51
Vignettes: "Wer Immer Strebend Sich Bemueht", 1967	Box 2	Folder 52
Vignettes: "Schadenfreude", 1967	Box 2	Folder 53

Vignettes: "Fragebogen", 1967	Box 2	Folder 54	
Vignettes: "Lehrsaetze", 1967	Box 2	Folder 55	
One series collected throughout Brandt's career, Undated	Box 2	Folder 56	
Short Stories: Notes on Stories, Undated	Box 2	Folder 57	
Short Stories: "Der Heimkehrer", 1951	Box 2	Folder 58	
Short Stories: "Der Trauergast", 1951	Box 2	Folder 59	
Short Stories: "KIM", 1951	Box 2	Folder 60	
Short Stories: "Der Held", 1951	Box 2	Folder 61	
Short Stories: "Die Schallplatte", 1951	Box 2	Folder 62	
Short Stories: "Die Hilarianer Beeren", 1953	Box 2	Folder 63	
Short Stories: "Die Fliege", 1956	Box 2	Folder 64	
Short Stories: "An Einem Fruehlingsabend", 1957	Box 2	Folder 65	
Short Stories: "Madeleine", 1958	Box 2	Folder 66	
Short Stories: "Seltsame Wiederkehr", 1959	Box 2	Folder 67	
Short Stories: "Einsame Schildkroete", 1959	Box 2	Folder 68	
Short Stories: "Giuditta", 1959	Box 2	Folder 69	
Short Stories: "Die Beichte", 1959	Box 2	Folder 70	
Short Stories: "Die Reise Nach Mexico", 1960	Box 2	Folder 71	
Short Stories: "Helena in Oregon", 1960	Box 2	Folder 72	
Short Stories: "IMA", 1961	Box 2	Folder 73	
Short Stories: "Der Fall Oliver", 1961	Box 2	Folder 74	
Short Stories: "Rede Aus Dem Sarg", 1963	Box 2	Folder 75	
Short Stories: "Eines Tages in Sevilla", 1963	Box 2	Folder 76	
Short Stories: "Kuehle Leidenschaften", 1963	Box 2	Folder 77	
Short Stories: "Ein Altes Haus", 1963	Box 2	Folder 78	
Short Stories: "Die Rechnung", 1965	Box 2	Folder 79	
Short Stories: "Der Fall Oliver", 1960-1970	Box 2	Folder 80	
Short Stories: "Professor W.", Undated	Box 2	Folder 81	
Scope and Contents			
File includes one letter from Brandt's Professor (Vienna) and one letter by Heidi Brandt about the story			
Short Stories: "Campusbesuch", 1967	Box 2	Folder 82	

Short Stories: "Merkwuerdiges Ende Eines Erfolgreichen Mannes", 1967	Box 2	Folder 83	
Short Stories: "Capriccio" eighteen Italian stories, 1951-1958	Box 2	Folder 84	
Drama: "Hochzeit und Heimkehr", Undated	Box 2	Folder 85	
Drama: "Getsern Kommt Morgen," various editions, 1951-1956	Box 2	Folder 86	
Drama: "Gestern Kommt Morgen," various editions, 1956-1957	Box 2	Folder 87	
Drama: "Die Reichen und die Armen (Las Rica Y Las Pobres), oder Gleich und Gleich Gestellt sich Gern", 1963	Box 2	Folder 88	
Drama: "Los Caballeros Y Sas Señoras", 1963	Box 2	Folder 89	
Drama: "Schwierigkeiten oder Treu Ist Alles", 1965	Box 2	Folder 90	
Drama: "The Congressman", 1961-1971	Box 2	Folder 91	
Scope and Contents			
note from Heidi Brandt			
Drama: "Freedom and Authority", 1967	Box 2	Folder 92	
Poems: Early 1960s, includes: "Epitaph," Brechts Zimmer," "Ein Altes Pergament," "Ost Berlin," and others, Undated	Box 2	Folder 93	
Scope and Contents			
17 leaves			
Later Years, 1965-68, includes: "For Chris," "For My Son," "Vietnam," "Kontrast XV," "Virginische Landschaft," "Wind vom Mittelmeer," and others, Undated	Box 2	Folder 94	

Scope and Contents

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