



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

Herbert Weinstock collection

1750-1989 [bulk 1813-1971]

JPB 92-2

Summary

Creator: Weinstock, Herbert, 1905-

Title: Herbert Weinstock collection

Date: 1750-1989 [bulk 1813-1971]

Size: 25 linear feet

Abstract: Herbert Henry Weinstock (1905-1971), an American writer and editor, specialized in the field of early 19th-century Italian opera. Between 1935 and 1971, Weinstock wrote prolifically, particularly on musical subjects, while also working as a publisher's editor. In this role, Weinstock was brought into formative contact with some of the most important musical writers of his day; he edited Stravinsky and Craft's Expositions, for example, and translated La Grange's *Life of Mahler*. He was also New York correspondent of *Opera* from December 1966 until his death and contributed reviews, programs, and articles to numerous publications. By his own tally, he contributed over 300 articles to the *Encyclopedia Americana*, and he completed, before his death, the revised entry on Opera for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (a typescript of which is in the collection). Weinstock's work also includes a number of translations of Spanish and Italian works, and some material for children. Arguably Weinstock's most important books were his last trilogy of musical biographies: *Donizetti and the World of Opera in Italy, Paris, and Vienna* (1963), *Rossini, a Biography* (1968), and *Vincenzo Bellini, His Life and His Operas* (1971). His oeuvre also includes hundreds of articles and program notes and over two dozen books (original and translated), most of which were translated into several languages and issued in multiple (sometimes revised) editions. The Herbert Weinstock Collection consists of professional and personal papers and a small number of three-dimensional memorabilia belonging to Herbert Weinstock, members of Weinstock's family, and Weinstock's long-time companion, Ben Meiselman. The professional papers, which span the years 1750-1989, were produced and collected mainly by Weinstock in connection with his research, particularly his work on early 19th-century opera. The range of collected materials is broad, and sometimes unexpected, as in the case of a facsimile manuscript essay by Wagner on Bellini's *Norma*, but the largest group consists of facsimiles of over 1200 letters to and from Rossini and members of his circle. The professional papers also include a number of Weinstock's own writings on both musical and non-musical subjects, including a hand-corrected typescript of his biography of Rossini, as well as writings by other persons, perhaps most notably a hand-corrected typescript of one of the Stravinsky-Craft books, music by Carlos Chavez, and the typescript of a long article by Philip Gossett. Weinstock's voluminous correspondence includes letters from many important figures of the musical and publishing worlds of his time, including Guglielmo

Barblan, Maria Callas, Warren Chappell, Carlos Chavez, Aaron Copland, Karl Geiringer, Philip Gossett, Newell Jenkins, Friedrich Lippman, Andrew Porter, Harold Rosenthal, Beverly Sills, Igor Stravinsky, and Virgil Thomson.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: <https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Preferred citation: Herbert Weinstock collection, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Chiefly in English and Italian ; also includes material in Spanish, German, French, and Russian

Creator History

Herbert Henry Weinstock (1905-1971), an American writer and editor, specialized in the field of early 19th-century Italian opera. Between 1935 and 1971, Weinstock wrote prolifically, particularly on musical subjects, while also working as a publisher's editor. In this role, Weinstock was brought into formative contact with some of the most important musical writers of his day; he edited Stravinsky and Craft's Expositions, for example, and translated La Grange's *Life of Mahler*. He was also New York correspondent of *Opera* from December 1966 until his death and contributed reviews, programs, and articles to numerous publications. By his own tally, he contributed over 300 articles to the *Encyclopedia Americana*, and he completed, before his death, the revised entry on Opera for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (a typescript of which is in the collection). Weinstock's work also includes a number of translations of Spanish and Italian works, and some material for children. Arguably Weinstock's most important books were his last trilogy of musical biographies: *Donizetti and the World of Opera in Italy, Paris, and Vienna* (1963), *Rossini, a Biography* (1968), and *Vincenzo Bellini, His Life and His Operas* (1971). His oeuvre also includes hundreds of articles and program notes and over two dozen books (original and translated), most of which were translated into several languages and issued in multiple (sometimes revised) editions.

Scope and Content Note

The Herbert Weinstock Collection consists of professional and personal papers and a small number of three-dimensional memorabilia belonging to Herbert Weinstock, members of Weinstock's family, and Weinstock's long-time companion, Ben Meiselman. The professional papers, which span the years 1750-1989, were produced and collected mainly by Weinstock in connection with his research, particularly his work on early 19th-century opera. The range of collected materials is broad, and sometimes unexpected, as in the case of a facsimile manuscript essay by Wagner on Bellini's *Norma*, but the largest group consists of facsimiles of over 1200 letters to and from Rossini and members of his circle. The professional papers also include a number of Weinstock's own writings on both musical and non-musical subjects, including a hand-corrected typescript of his biography of Rossini, as well as writings by other persons, perhaps most notably a hand-corrected typescript of one of the Stravinsky-Craft books, music by Carlos Chavez, and the typescript of a long article by Philip Gossett. Weinstock's voluminous correspondence includes letters from many important figures of the musical and publishing worlds of his time, including Guglielmo Barblan, Maria Callas, Warren Chappell, Carlos Chavez, Aaron Copland, Karl Geiringer, Philip Gossett, Newell Jenkins, Friedrich Lippman, Andrew Porter, Harold Rosenthal, Beverly Sills, Igor Stravinsky, and Virgil Thomson.

Arrangement: In 13 series as follows: 1. General correspondence; 2. Research materials; 3. Weinstock's writings on music; 4. Writings on music by other persons; 5. Writings on music by unknown persons; 6. Weinstock's writings in other fields; 7. Writings by others in other fields; 8. Personal correspondence; 9. Memorabilia; 10. Official documents; 11. Financial records; 12. Iconography; 13. Papers of Ben Meiselman