



The New York Public Library
New York Public Library Archives

Guide to the

Franklin F. Hopper records

1940-1946

MssArc 4947

Compiled by Mark McMurray; machine-readable finding aid created by Jim Moske.

Summary

Creator: New York Public Library. Central Administration. Director's Office

Title: Franklin F. Hopper records

Date: 1940-1946

Abstract: Records from the office of Franklin F. Hopper (1878-1950), Director of the New York Public Library from 1941-1946.

Access: Advance notice required.

Physical Location: RG 6

Conditions Governing Access:

Access to the collection is restricted to qualified scholars and researchers through the Office of Special Collections, Room 316.

Conditions Governing Use: All rights reserved. Permission to quote must be obtained in writing from the New York Public Library

Preferred citation: Franklin F. Hopper Records, The New York Public Library Archives, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Compiled by Mark McMurray; machine-readable finding aid created by Jim Moske.

Related Materials:

Creator History

Franklin Ferguson Hopper (1878-1950) served as Director of the New York Public Library from October 1, 1941 until his retirement on September 30, 1946. After joining The Library in 1914 as Chief of the Order Division, he served as Chief of the Circulation Department (later known as The Branch Libraries) from 1919 until his appointment as Director. During much of his term as Director, Hopper was concerned with The Library's role in wartime society.

Scope and Content Note

The Franklin F. Hopper Records consist mostly of correspondence and are arranged in three topical series: I. General Correspondence, 1940-1945; II. Subject Correspondence, 1940-1946; III. World War II Correspondence, 1940-43. Series I. General Correspondence contains letters, typed and handwritten, between Hopper and Library administrators including Paul North Rice, Francis R. St. John and various Department/Division Chiefs. Topics include gifts to the Library, reference questions and complaints. Some 1940-1941 correspondence of the previous Director, Harry M. Lydenberg is found here as well. The letters are alphabetically arranged by correspondent. With the exception of a single folder of correspondence to Poultney Bigelow, this series contains only files T-Z; files A-S are missing. Series II. Subject Correspondence consists of topically sorted letters, mostly concerning Air Raid precautions and Civil Defense procedures at The Library and throughout New York City during the war years. Series III. World War II Correspondence consists of two scrapbook volumes, as well as letters to and from Library staff and military personnel in the United States and overseas. Most of the correspondence is from current and former Library staff to colleagues still working at NYPL. Although written under military censorship conditions, the letters document military life and the camaraderie that existed among Library staff both in and out of the armed forces. Letters are arranged alphabetically by recipient, and further sorted within each recipient group by writer. Recipients include Salvatore "Doc" Frisina, Head of Shipping Room; Robert W. Henderson, Head of General Reference; Lillie Sarmiento, of Preparation Services; and William R. Thurman, Head of the Bindery.

Arrangement: Three series: General Correspondence, Subject Correspondence, W.W. II Correspondence

Key Terms

Occupations

Librarians

Subjects

Libraries -- New York (State) -- New York
Public libraries -- Administration -- New York (State) -- New York
Research libraries -- New York (State) -- New York
World War, 1939-1945 -- Libraries
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives
World War, 1939-1945 -- War work

Names

New York Public Library. Central Administration. Director's Office
Hopper, F. F. (Franklin Ferguson)
Hopper, F. F. (Franklin Ferguson)
Lydenberg, Harry Miller, 1874-1960

Container List

Series I. General Correspondence 1940-1945 (4 boxes)

General Correspondence contains letters, typed and handwritten, between Hopper and Library administrators including Paul North Rice, Francis R. St. John and various Department/Division Chiefs. Topics include gifts to The Library, reference questions and complaints. Some 1940-1941 correspondence of the previous Director, Harry M. Lydenberg is found here as well. The letters are alphabetically arranged by correspondent. With the exception of a single folder of correspondence to Poultney Bigelow, this series contains only files T-Z; files A-S are missing.

- b. 1 Bigelow, Poultney 1943
- b. 1 T-Vice
- b. 2 Victory Book Campaign-War
- b. 3 Was - Wilson
- b. 4 Wilson, H.W.-Z

Series II. Subject Correspondence 1940-1946 (2 boxes)

Subject Correspondence consists of topically sorted letters, mostly concerning Air Raid precautions and Civil Defense procedures at The Library and throughout New York City during the war years.

- b. 5 f. 1 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - Branch Tenants
- b. 5 f. 2 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - Drills
- b. 5 f. 3 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - Evacuation Plans
- b. 5 f. 4 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - First Aid
- b. 5 f. 5 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - General Notes
- b. 5 f. 6 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - Memoranda
- b. 5 f. 7 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - Sub-branches
- b. 5 f. 8 Air Raid Precautions - Circulation Department - Supplies
- b. 5 f. 9 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - Annex
- b. 5 f. 10 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - Drills
- b. 5 f. 11 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - Evacuation Plans, Central Building
- b. 5 f. 12 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - First Aid
- b. 5 f. 13 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - General Notes
- b. 5 f. 14 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - Literature
- b. 5 f. 15 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - Memoranda
- b. 5 f. 16 Air Raid Precautions - Reference Department - Supplies and Signs
- b. 6 f. 1 Central Building Alterations (Thomas Hastings) 1937-1943
- b. 6 f. 2 Defense Savings Bonds 1942
- b. 6 f. 3 Eames, Wilberforce - Vespucci Bibliography 1940-1941
- b. 6 f. 4 Executive Passes 1945
- b. 6 f. 5 Finger Printing
- b. 6 f. 6 Flexner Memorial
- b. 6 f. 7 Music Library
- b. 6 f. 8 New York at War Parade 1942
- b. 6 f. 9 New York City Comptroller's Office 1941-1944

Series III. World War II Correspondence 1942-1943 (1 box, 2 volumes)

World War II Correspondence consists of two scrapbook volumes, as well as letters to and from Library staff and military personnel in the United States and overseas. Most of the correspondence is from current and former Library staff to colleagues still working at NYPL. Although written under military censorship conditions, the letters document military life and the camaraderie that existed among Library staff both in and out of the armed forces. Letters are arranged alphabetically by recipient, and further sorted within each recipient group by writer. Recipients include Salvatore "Doc" Frisina, Head of Shipping Room; Robert W. Henderson, Head of General Reference; Lillie Sarmiento, of Preparation Services; and William R. Thurman, Head of the Bindery.

- b. 7 f. 1 General Library Staff, A - Z
- b. 7 f. 2 Prisoners of War
- b. 7 f. 3 Frisina/DeMascio (Shipping Room)
- b. 7 f. 4 Henderson (General Reference)
- b. 7 f. 5 Sarmiento (Preparation Services)
- b. 7 f. 6 Thurman (Bindery)
 - v. 1 Christmas 1942
 - v. 2 Christmas 1943