

Noel Coward:

An Inventory of His Literary File Photography Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Coward, Noel, 1899-1973
Title:	Noel Coward Literary File Photography Collection
Dates:	1909-1959
Extent:	1,182 items
Abstract:	The Noel Coward Literary File consists of portraits of Coward, stills from productions of his plays, and travel photographs belonging to Ivor Novello, mostly contained in 8 albums.
Call Number:	Photography Collection PH-02885
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. To make an appointment or to reserve photography materials, please email Visual Materials Reference staff . Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Noel Coward Literary File Photography Collection (Photography Collection PH-02885). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Internal transfers

Processed by: Susan McClellan and Mary Foster, 2006

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.](#)

Scope and Contents

The Noel Coward Literary File consists of photographs related to Noel Coward (British, 1899-1973). They including portraits of him, stills from productions of his plays, and travel photographs belonging to Ivor Novello (British, 1893-1951). Most of the photographs are contained in 8 albums. An index at the end of this guide lists photographers whose work is featured in this file. Further descriptions of some items are available in a card catalog in the repository.

This file forms a part of the Literary File Collection, which is comprised of photographs and albums withdrawn from the libraries and/or papers of literary figures, and generally include portraits and images collected by or of those figures.

Related Material

Additional material by and about Coward can be found in other Ransom Center collections.

Index Terms

People

Coward, Noel, 1899-1973.

Novello, Ivor, 1893-1951.

Subjects

Actors.

Motion pictures--Production and direction.

Portraits.

Theater--Production and direction.

Travel.

Document Types

Albums.

Gelatin silver prints.

Photographic prints.

Print Number: P1-P2 Production stills from Coward's play *Shadows of the Evening*.

Location
PH:LF:Coward,
N.

Accession Number: 997:0050:0001-0028 Movie stills associated with the British Navy (4" x 5" contact prints).

Accession Number: 997:0050:0029-0069 Ring binder, labeled on the spine "Noel Coward / Photographs from Plays", containing 41 photographic prints. Inside the binder, tabs indicate different titles of plays. Inside the binder is the bookplate of Herbert Schimmel.

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 1

Accession Number: 997:0050:0070-0095 Ring binder, labeled on the spine "Noel Coward 'Ivor Novello' / Photographs", containing 26 photographic prints.

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 2

Accession Number: 997:0135:0001-0323 Maroon leather-bound album, in case labeled "Ivor Novello, England & Hollywood, 1929-1935, Original, Photographs", containing 323 gelatin silver prints; inscribed inside "Ivor from Bob, December 1928." The images are primarily snapshots of Novello's travels in England and during his years in Hollywood. Other places depicted include France, Stonehenge, New York, Chicago, Santa Monica, and his home, "Redroofs," in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Many of the snapshots were taken during events including garden parties, pool parties, weddings, and the play "Proscenium". Most of the snapshots are of Novello, but other individuals include Noel Coward, Lawrence Olivier, Joan Crawford, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Hand-written captions appear throughout, and one photo and some loose clippings and notes are laid in. Additional handwritten notes identify many individuals and places.

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 3

Accession Number: 997:0136:0001-0271 Blue leather-bound album, in case labeled "Ivor Novello, European Travels, 1934-1937, Original Photographs", containing 271 gelatin silver prints and photomechanical postcards of Ivor Novello's travels in Europe. The images are primarily snapshots of Novello and other's but also included are commercial prints and postcards. Locations depicted include: Algiers; Jerusalem, Jordan; Cairo, Egypt; Athens, Greece; Pompeii, Rome and Venice, Italy; Versailles, France; Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia; and Vaynol, Wales. Some hand-written captions appear with the photographs.

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 4

Accession Number: 997:0137:0001-0272 Red leather-bound album, in case labeled "Ivor Novello, European Travels, England, 1934-1937, Original Photographs", containing 272 gelatin silver prints of Ivor Novello's travels in Europe and northern Africa. Many of images are duplicates or variants of photos found in Album 4, but this album also includes images of Madeira, Portugal; Gibraltar; Cannes, France; images taken aboard ships and garden parties at Novello's home "Redroofs."

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 5

Accession Number: 997:0138:0001-0136 Album entitled "Touring in South Africa" with a hand-painted cover, in case labeled "Ivor Novello, South African Tour, 1947-1948, Original Photographs", containing 136 gelatin silver prints. The images are snapshots of Ivor Novello and unidentified companions during his travels in South Africa. The photographs document Novello arriving and leaving South Africa by plane; at a radio interview; at garden parties, pool parties, and formal dinner parties; touring unidentified areas of South Africa and viewing traditional customs; and at the beach. Some photographs are lacking.

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 6

Accession Number: 997:0139:0001-0062 Black album, in case labeled "Noel Coward, The Scoundrel, 1934, In Which We Serve, 1941, Original Film Stills", containing 62 gelatin silver prints. The images are primarily film stills of Coward in *The Scoundrel* but also include scenes from the set and head shots of Coward. There do not appear to be any images from *In Which We Serve*.

Location
PH:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 7

Accession Number: 997:0140:0001-0023 Teal album with decorative cover, in case labeled "Lila Field, Scrapbook, Noel Coward, in 'The Goldfish,' London, 1909-1912", containing numerous clippings and playbills for dramatist and soprano Lila Field's productions, including "The Goldfish," a play with an all-child cast. The album also includes 19 photographs of the child actors and 4 mounted photographs of the production. Two photographs and some loose clippings are laid in; the mounted photos are in an envelope in the case.

Location
H:LF:Albums:Coward,
N., 8

Index of Photographers

- Central Press Photo Ltd.--997:0050:0078
- Horst, 1906-1999--997:0050:0077
- Kar, Ida, 1908-1974--997:0050:0072
- McBean, Angus, 1904- --P1-P2
- Pictorial Parade--997:0050:0074
- Planet News Ltd.--997:0050:0075
- Tucker, Richard--997:0050:0050, 0053-0056, 0059, 0061, 0064-0067
- Vandamm Studio--997:0050:0029-0030, 0032-0034, 0044-0049, 0057-0058, 0063, 0069