# Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary 3  
Information on Use 3  
Access 3  
Citation 3  
Biographical Note 3  
Scope Note 4  
Related Resources 4  
Subject Headings 4  
INVENTORY 5  
Series I: Correspondence 5  
Subseries 1: Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson/Ardrey 5  
Subseries 2: Personal Correspondence 10  
Subseries 3: Business Correspondence 11  
Series II: Typescripts of Work 11  
Series III: Published Work 16  
Series IV: Publicity and Reviews 16  
Series V: Records Relating to Robert Ardrey’s Family 18  
Subseries 1: Records Relating to Helen Johnson/Ardrey 18  
Subseries 2: Records Relating to Ross and Daniel Ardrey 20  
Series VI: Photographs 21  
Series VII: Oversized and Audiovisual Material 21  
Series VIII: Financial Material 22  
Series IX: Restricted Material 23
Descriptive Summary

Identifier
ICU.SPCL.ARDERYR

Title
Ardrey, Robert. Papers

Date
1928-1974

Size
10.5 linear feet (17 boxes)

Repository
Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract
Robert Ardrey (1908-1980) Anthropologist and screenwriter. Contains personal and business correspondence; typescripts of papers Ardrey wrote as a student at the University of Chicago; manuscripts of plays, screenplays, novels, and short stories; writings and personal papers of his sons; the correspondence of Helen Johnson/Ardrey; newspaper clippings and reviews; and photographs. Correspondents include Thornton Wilder, Sinclair Lewis, and Clifford Odets.

Information on Use

Access
Series IX contains records that are restricted until 2054. The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Robert Ardrey. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Biographical Note
Robert Ardrey was born in Chicago Illinois on the 16 October 1908, to Robert Leslie Ardrey and Marie Haswell. He attended the University of Chicago between 1927 and 1930, where he studied in the Natural and Social Science department, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Thornton Wilder became a mentor to Ardrey at the university, and encouraged him to pursue writing.

Robert Ardrey began his professional writing career as a playwright, writing such plays as Star-Spangled (1936), Casey Jones (1938), Thunder Rock (1939) and Jeb (1946). In 1940 he wrote his first screenplay, They Knew What They Wanted, and subsequently wrote a number of films including: The Green Years (1946); The Three Musketeers (1948); Madame Bovary (1949) and Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (1962). In 1966 he was nominated for an Academy Award.
for his screenplay for Khartoum. He also wrote two novels: World’s Beginning (1944); and Brotherhood of Fear (1952).

From the beginning of the 1960s, Ardrey wrote a series of nonfiction books in the field of paleoanthropology in which he argued that aggression was a key feature of man’s evolution. His books, which were both popular and controversial, included: African Genesis (1961); The Territorial Imperative (1966); The Social Contract (1970); and The Hunting Hypothesis (1976).

Throughout his life, Ardrey received a number of awards including: the Sergel Drama Prize in 1935; a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1937; The Sidney Howard Memorial Prize in 1940; and a Wilkie Brothers grant for anthropology in 1963.

Robert Ardrey was married to Helen Johnson between 1938 and 1960, and they had two sons, Ross and Daniel. In 1960 he married the South African stage actress Berdine Grunewald, who later illustrated his books.

**Scope Note**

The Ardrey Papers contain personal and business correspondence; typescripts of papers Ardrey wrote as a student at the University of Chicago; manuscripts of plays, screenplays, novels, and short stories; writings and personal papers of his sons; the correspondence of Helen Johnson/Ardrey; newspaper clippings and reviews; and photographs. Correspondents include Thornton Wilder, Sinclair Lewis, and Clifford Odets. It contains material from the period 1928-1974.

The Ardrey papers have been organized into eight series: Series I, Correspondence; Series II, Typescripts of Work; Series III, Published Work; Series IV, Publicity and Reviews; Series V, Records Relating to Robert Ardrey’s Family; Series VI, Photographs; Series VII, Oversized and Audiovisual Material; Series VIII, Restricted Material.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**

- Ardrey, Robert
- Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975
- Lewis, Sinclair, 1885-1951
- Odets, Clifford, 1906-1963
- Anthropology
• Screenwriters
• Anthropologists
• Motion picture plays
• Photographs

INVENTORY

Series I: Correspondence

This series contains correspondence from the period 1928-1975. It has been divided into three subseries: Subseries 1, Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson/Ardrey; Subseries 2, Personal Correspondence; and Subseries 3, Business Correspondence. Within each subseries the material has been arranged, when possible, in chronological order.

Subseries 1: Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson/Ardrey

Box 1
Folder 1
  Undated and June, 1930. see also Oversized Series, Box 16.

Box 1
Folder 2
  July 1930

Box 1
Folder 3
  August 1930, See also Oversized Series Box 16.

Box 1
Folder 4
  September 1930

Box 1
Folder 5
  November 28, 1930-December 31, 1930

Box 1
Folder 6
  January 1931

Box 1
Folder 7
  February 1931

Box 1
Folder 8
  March-April 1931. See also Oversized Series Box 16.

Box 1
Folder 9
  May-June, 1931

Box 1
Folder 10
  July-August 1931
Folder 11
  September-October 1931

Box 1

Folder 12
  November-December 1931

Box 1

Folder 13
  January-February 1932

Box 1

Folder 14
  March 1932

Box 1

Folder 15
  April 1932

Box 2

Folder 1
  May-June 1932. See also Oversized Series Box 16.

Box 2

Folder 2
  July-September 1932

Box 2

Folder 3
  October-December 1932

Box 2

Folder 4
  January-March 1933

Box 2

Folder 5
  April-June 1933

Box 2

Folder 6
  July-September 1933

Box 2

Folder 7
  October-November 1933

Box 2

Folder 8
  December 1933

Box 2

Folder 9
  January 1934

Box 2

Folder 10
  February 1934

Box 2

Folder 11
March-April 1934
Box 2
Folder 12
   May-June 1934
Box 2
Folder 13
   July 1934. See also Oversized Series Box 16
Box 2
Folder 14
   August-September 1934
Box 2
Folder 15
   October-November 1934
Box 2
Folder 16
   December 1934
Box 2
Folder 17
   January-February 1935
Box 2
Folder 18
   March 1935
Box 2
Folder 19
   April-June 1935
Box 3
Folder 1
   July 1935
Box 3
Folder 2
   August 1935
Box 3
Folder 3
   September 1935
Box 3
Folder 4
   October 1935
Box 3
Folder 5
   November 1935
Box 3
Folder 6
   December 1935
Box 3
Folder 7
   January 1936
Box 3
Folder 8
   February 1936
Box 3
Folder 9
   March 1936
Box 3
Folder 10
   April 1936
Box 3
Folder 11
   May 1936
Box 3
Folder 12
   June-July 1936
Box 3
Folder 13
   August-September 1936
Box 3
Folder 14
   October-November 1936
Box 3
Folder 15
   December 1936
Box 4
Folder 1
   January-February 1937
Box 4
Folder 2
   March-April 1937
Box 4
Folder 3
   May-June 1937
Box 4
Folder 4
   July 1937
Box 4
Folder 5
   August 1937
Box 4
Folder 6
   September 1937
Box 4
Folder 7
   October 1937
Folder 8
    November-December 1937
Box 4
Folder 9
    January 1938. See also Oversized Series Box 16.
Box 4
Folder 10
    February 1938
Box 4
Folder 11
    March 1938
Box 4
Folder 12
    April 1938
Box 4
Folder 13
    May 1938
Box 4
Folder 14
    June 1938
Box 5
Folder 1
    July - December 1938.
Box 5
Folder 2
    1939-1941.
Box 5
Folder 3
    1942.
Box 5
Folder 4
    1944.
Box 5
Folder 5
    1945.
Box 5
Folder 6
    1947-1955 (includes first African trip).
Box 5
Folder 7
    1956 (includes Argentina trip).
Box 5
Folder 8
    1957 (Austria, Africa).
Box 5
Folder 9

**Box 5**
**Folder 10**

**Box 5**
**Folder 11**
1974-1975

**Box 5**
**Folder 12**
Correspondence between Robert and Helen Ardrey and their lawyers, 1967-1972.

**Subseries 2: Personal Correspondence**

**Box 5**
**Folder 13**
Ardrey Correspondence with Isabel and Thornton Wilder, 1934-1969. See also Oversized Series, Box 16.

**Box 5**
**Folder 14**
Family Correspondence, 1952-53.

**Box 5**
**Folder 15**
Family Correspondence, 1954, 1956

**Box 5**
**Folder 16**
Family Correspondence, 1957.

**Box 5**
**Folder 17**
Family Correspondence, 1958 - 1959.

**Box 5**
**Folder 18**
Family Correspondence, 1960

**Box 5**
**Folder 19**
Family Correspondence, 1961

**Box 5**
**Folder 20**
Family Correspondence, 1962, 1966, 1967

**Box 5**
**Folder 21**
Undated Family Correspondence

**Box 6**
**Folder 1**
General Correspondence, includes some photos and clippings, n.d.

**Box 6**
**Folder 2**
General Correspondence, 1942-1972.
Box 6
Folder 3
  General Correspondence, 1930-1944.

Box 6
Folder 4
  General Correspondence, n.d.

Subseries 3: Business Correspondence

Box 6
Folder 5
  1930-1949

Box 6
Folder 6
  1943-1946 (World’s Beginning and "Thunder Rock")

Box 6
Folder 7
  1948-1953

Box 6
Folder 8
  1954

Box 6
Folder 9
  1955-1956

Box 6
Folder 10
  Notes, receipts and letters from Argentina Trip 1956. See also Oversized Series, Box 16.

Series II: Typescripts of Work

This series contains material from the period 1934 to 1944. It includes coursework from the University of Chicago, radio scripts, short stories, screenplays, plays and novels. It also includes some general notes, plot sketches and clippings.

Box 6
Folder 11
  Work for 1934 course in Radio Script Writing.
  • "Gold Can Burn", 9p.
  • Untitled, simple narrative, 6p.
  • Untitled, simple narrative, 7p.

Box 6
Folder 12

Box 6
Folder 13
  Play "How to Get Tough About It" 1937, 155 p.
Play "Thunder Rock" (also Tower of Light) 1939, 118 p.

Box 6
Folder 15
Play "Sing Me No Lullaby" 1941, 118 p.

Box 6
Folder 16
Play "House on Fire" (Star Spangled) n.d., 121 p.

Box 6
Folder 17

Box 7
Folder 1

Box 7
Folder 2
Short Works
• "White Wolf", 15p.
• "Anywhere Express", 15p.
• "Back Water", 20p.
• "Westbound", 5p.
• "Rung Out, Ye Bells", 11p.
• "Lightning Without Thunder", 10p.

Box 7
Folder 3
Untitled Manuscripts, n.d.

Box 7
Folder 4
Student Themes, University of Chicago
• English 132 (5 items), n.d.
• English 141 (1 item), n.d.
• English 205 (37 items), n.d.

Box 7
Folder 5
Student Themes, University of Chicago
• English 211 (3 items), spring 1930
• English 248 (1 item), n.d.
• Unidentified themes (6 items), n.d.
• Radio script writing theme (1 item), March 1934.

Box 7
Folder 6
Short Stories
• "afternoon at the zoo", 10 p.
• "Backwater" 20p.
• "Lightning without Thunder", 10p.
Box 7
Folder 7
Short Stories
• "No Sale," 15 pages
• "Now We Like Dust Storms," 19 pages
• "Retreat," 17 pages
• "Souvenir," 13 pages

Box 7
Folder 8
Short Stories
• "The Stars We Have" 11p.
• "To Evening" 14p.
• "Westbound" 5p.
• Untitled, 12p.

Box 7
Folder 9
Play "House on Fire" ("Star Spangled"), George Abbott version.

Box 7
Folder 10
"House on Fire" ("Star Spangled"), second version.

Box 7
Folder 11
Play "Death of an Indian" 1938, Act I, first version.

Box 7
Folder 12
"Death of an Indian", Act I second version.

Box 8
Folder 1
"Death of an Indian", Act II, second version.

Box 8
Folder 2
"Death of an Indian, Act III, second version.

Box 8
Folder 3
Play "Thunder Rock", 1939, Act I

Box 8
Folder 4
"Thunder Rock", Act II

Box 8
Folder 5
"Thunder Rock", Act III

Box 8
Folder 6
Play [A Political Satire]
Play "Dutchman Station".

Box 8
Folder 8
  Plays and Excerpts
  • "A Place Called Freedom" (with Howard Fast), 11 pages
  • "The Adventurers," 13 pages
  • "My Friends and I," 10 pages
  • Untitled, 15 pages

Box 8
Folder 9
  Screenplay, "The First Coed" 1944 with Elick Moll.

Box 8
Folder 10
  Screenplay, "The Great Fog".

Box 8
Folder 11
  Musical Comedy, "The Umpire’s Daughter", 1943 with William Roos

Box 8
Folder 12
  The Umpires Daughter.

Box 8
Folder 13

Box 8
Folder 14
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), pp. 61-120

Box 9
Folder 1
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), pp. 121-180

Box 9
Folder 2
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), pp. 181-240

Box 9
Folder 3
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), pp. 241-300

Box 9
Folder 4
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), pp. 301-365

Box 9
Folder 5
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), Revisions, pp. 7-165

Box 9
Folder 6
  The Commonwealth (Worlds Beginning), Revisions, pp. 168-351
Novel, The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 1-60
Box 9
Folder 8
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 61-120
Box 9
Folder 9
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 121-180
Box 9
Folder 10
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 181-240
Box 9
Folder 11
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 241-300
Box 9
Folder 12
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 301-360
Box 9
Folder 13
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 361-420
Box 9
Folder 14
The Castaways (Brotherhood of Fear), pp. 421-498
Box 9
Folder 15
Novel. Swans by Moonlight, pp. 1-60
Box 10
Folder 1
Swans by Moonlight, pp. 61-120
Box 10
Folder 2
Swans by Moonlight, pp. 121-180
Box 10
Folder 3
Swans by Moonlight, pp. 181-240
Box 10
Folder 4
Swans by Moonlight, pp. 241-300
Box 10
Folder 5
Screenplay, They Knew What They Wanted, May 15 1940, pp.1-29.
Box 10
Folder 6
Screenplay, They Knew What They Wanted, May 15 1940, pp.30-59.
Box 10
Folder 7
Screenplay, They Knew What They Wanted, May 15 1940, pp.60-89.
Box 10
Folder 8
Screenplay, They Knew What They Wanted, May 15 1940, pp.90-119.

Box 10
Folder 9
Screenplay, They Knew What They Wanted, May 15 1940, pp.120-145.

Box 10
Folder 10
Fragments and general writings, 1943 and undated

Box 10
Folder 11
Plot Sketches:
• "A Tale from Bohemia"
• "Murder at Mardi Gras"
• "Internationale"
• "The Lions of Venice"
• See also Oversized Series, Box 16.

Box 10
Folder 12
General notes, 1937 and n.d.

Box 10
Folder 13

Box 10
Folder 14
General Notes and clippings, 1943-1968.

Box 10
Folder 15

Box 10
Folder 16
Materials from DoAll company, 1959-1962,

Series III: Published Work

Box 10
Folder 17
Articles by Robert Ardrey, 1930-1972. See also Oversized Series, Box 16.

Series IV: Publicity and Reviews

This series includes publicity for and reviews of Ardrey’s work. It includes clippings of reviews, articles referring to Ardrey and his work, some photographs and some correspondence from the period 1936-1976. It is arranged according to subject matter.

Box 10
Folder 18
Star Spangled.
Box 10
Folder 19
  Casey Jones.
Box 10
Folder 20
  How to Get Tough About It.
Box 11
Folder 1
  Thunder Rock, American Performances.
Box 11
Folder 2
  Thunder Rock, British Performances.
Box 11
Folder 3
  Thunder Rock, Berlin Performances.
Box 11
Folder 4
  Thunder Rock, Czech Performances.
Box 11
Folder 5
  They Knew What They Wanted.
Box 11
Folder 6
  World’s Beginning, American and British Reviews.
Box 11
Folder 7
  Brotherhood of Fear, American Reviews.
Box 11
Folder 8
  Brotherhood of Fear, British Reviews.
Box 11
Folder 9
  Sing Me No Lullaby.
Box 11
Folder 10
  General Clippings
Box 11
Folder 11
Box 11
Folder 12
  Reviews of Robert Ardrey, The Territorial Imperative
Box 11
Folder 13
  Reviews of The Hunting Hypothesis
Box 11
Folder 14
Reviews of Robert Ardrey’s work, general.

Box 11
Folder 15
Articles referencing Robert Ardrey.

Box 11
Folder 16
in Oversized series Box 16, Publicity Book for Khartoum.

Box 12
Folder 1
General Articles and clippings referring to Robert Ardrey. See also Oversized Series, Box 16.

Series V: Records Relating to Robert Ardrey’s Family
This series contains material relating to Robert Ardrey’s immediate family. It is divided into two subseries: Subseries 1: records relating to Helen Johnson/Ardrey; and Subseries 2: records relating to Ross and Daniel Ardrey. The first subseries consists primarily of Helen Johnson/Ardrey’s correspondence, from the period 1928-1978. The second subseries consists of correspondence, published and unpublished work by Ross and Daniel Ardrey, from the period 1953-1973.

Subseries 1: Records Relating to Helen Johnson/Ardrey

Box 12
Folder 2
Correspondence between Helen Johnson and her parents, June 1928

Box 12
Folder 3
Correspondence between Helen Johnson and her parents, July 1928.

Box 12
Folder 4
Correspondence between Helen Johnson and her parents, August 1928.

Box 12
Folder 5
Correspondence between Helen Johnson and her parents, September-October 1928.
Includes some travel mementos.

Box 12
Folder 6
Helen Johnson, Correspondence, 1930-1938.

Box 12
Folder 7
Helen Johnson Ardrey, Correspondence, 1957-1969.

Box 12
Folder 8
Helen Johnson, Correspondence with Grace and Harold Yotter, and Joan Yotter Ardrey, 1966-1967.
Box 12
Folder 9
Helen Johnson Ardrey Correspondence-re deposit of Papers at UCLA, 1964

Box 12
Folder 10
Helen Johnson Ardrey Correspondence-re works of art on loan, 1961-1970

Box 12
Folder 11
Helen Johnson Ardrey Correspondence, General, 1964-1970 and undated.

Box 12
Folder 12
Helen Johnson Ardrey Correspondence with Isabel Wilder, 1960-1970.

Box 12
Folder 13

Box 12
Folder 14

Box 12
Folder 15
Helen Johnson, Correspondence with Emmet Lavery, Elia Kazan and Ossie Davis, 1965-1968.

Box 12
Folder 16
Helen Johnson, General Correspondence, 1964 and undated.

Box 12
Folder 17
Helen Johnson Ardrey Correspondence with Daniel and Linda Ardrey and Ross and Kathleen Ardrey, 1974-1976.

Box 13
Folder 1
Helen Johnson Ardrey, Correspondence with lawyers, 1974-1975.

Box 13
Folder 2
Helen Johnson Ardrey, Correspondence with Esther Collins, 1975-1976.

Box 13
Folder 3
Helen Johnson Correspondence with Isabel Wilder, 1971-1976.

Box 13
Folder 4

Box 13
Folder 5
Helen Johnson Ardrey, General Correspondence, 1958-1972, and undated.
Subseries 2: Records Relating to Ross and Daniel Ardrey

Box 13
Folder 6
Articles by Daniel Ardrey

Box 13
Folder 7
Letters and school work by Ross and Dan Ardrey, 1953-1955 and undated.

Box 13
Folder 8
Dan Ardrey, correspondence 1959.

Box 13
Folder 9
Dan Ardrey, correspondence, 1960-1962.

Box 13
Folder 10

Box 13
Folder 11
Dan Ardrey, correspondence, 1965.

Box 13
Folder 12

Box 13
Folder 13
Dan Ardrey, clipping.

Box 13
Folder 14

Box 13
Folder 15

Box 13
Folder 16

Box 13
Folder 17

Box 13
Folder 18

Box 13
Folder 19

Box 13
Folder 20

Box 13
Folder 21

Box 13
Folder 22
Daniel Ardrey, I Am Around Me, collected poems, July-October 1967.

Box 14
Folder 1
Daniel Ardrey, Before and After, typescript, 1970.

Box 14
Folder 2
International School of Geneva, Ecolint 1924-1964, with prizewinning poetry by Dan Ardrey.

Box 14
Folder 3

Box 14
Folder 4

Series VI: Photographs

Box 14
Folder 5
Photos of Robert Ardrey.

Box 14
Folder 6
Photos from the Hurricane.

Box 14
Folder 7
General Photos.

Box 14
Folder 8
General Photos.

Box 14
Folder 9
Transparencies.

Series VII: Oversized and Audiovisual Material

Box 15
"The Stevenson Story", film, 16mm

Box 16
Folder 1
Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson. From Box 1, Folder 1.
Folder 2
  Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson. From Box 1, Folder 3.

Box 16
Folder 3
  Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson. From Box 1, Folder 8.

Box 16
Folder 4
  Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson. From Box 2, Folder 1.

Box 16
Folder 5
  Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson. From Box 2, Folder 13

Box 16
Folder 6
  Correspondence from Robert Ardrey to Helen Johnson. From Box 4, Folder 9.

Box 16
Folder 7
  Ardrey Correspondence with Isabel and Thornton Wilder. From Box 5, Folder 13.

Box 16
Folder 8
  Map of Buenos Aires. From Box 6, Folder 10.

Box 16
Folder 9
  Map of Venice. From Box 10, Folder 11.

Box 16
Folder 10
  Articles by Robert Ardrey. From Box 10, Folder 16.

Box 16
Folder 11
  Publicity Book for Khartoum. From Box 11.

Box 16
Folder 12
  Posters for 4th annual USA film festival. From Box 12, Folder 1.

Series VIII: Financial Material

Box 17
Folder 1
  Brokerage Accounts

Box 17
Folder 2
  Account Book, 1938-1944

Box 17
Folder 3

Box 17
Folder 4
  Royalty Statements.
Box 17
Folder 5

Box 17
Folder 6
Accounts, Returns, Tax Return.

Series IX: Restricted Material

Box 17
Folder 7
Children’s medical records

Box 17
Folder 8-11
Children’s educational records