

J. Burke Knapp papers

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circa 1950s-1960s



Title Statement

J. Burke Knapp papersGuide to J. Burke Knapp papers C0199

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0199

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/131

Unit Date

circa 1950s-1960s

Language

English .

Abstract

This collection contains materials related primarily to financial matters generated during J. Burke Knapp's work with Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Creator

Knapp, J. Burke (Joseph Burke), 1913-2009

Extent

3.45 Linear Feet 8 boxes

Physical Location

R 45, C 1, S 1, 4-5

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Donated by Arena Stage in 2000.

Processing Information

Processed by Special Collections Research Center staff. Finding aid updated by Meghan Glasbrenner in May 2024.

Preferred Citation

J. Burke Knapp papers, C0199, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

Biographical and Historical Information

J. Burke Knapp was born in Portland, Oregon in 1913. After graduating from Stanford University in 1933 he was selected as a Rhodes Scholar and attended Oxford University from 1933-1936, after which he served four years working as an investment banker in London, England before returning to the United States to continue his career in international finance. Knapp served in various positions in the U.S. government until 1952, including senior roles with the Federal Reserve Board and the Department of State, as well as attending the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 which created the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and serving as a member of the Inter-Departmental Committee to prepare the Marshall Plan. In December 1952, he joined the World Bank as the Director of Latin American operations and was appointed Senior Vice-President and Chairman of the Loan Committee in 1956, serving in this position until his retirement in 1978. In 1939 he married first wife, British actress Hilary Eaves, who served as one of his first connections to the performing arts. From 1959-1968 he served as President of the board of Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage, assisting with raising money and expanding and restructuring the organization into a non-profit. He would remain on the board as a member until his death on November 22, 2009 at the age of 96.

One of the first not-for-profit theatres in the United States, as well as a pioneer of the regional theatre movement, Arena Stage was the first regional theatre to transfer a production to Broadway (The Great White Hope, 1967), the first invited by the U.S. State Department to tour the Soviet Union, and the first to receive a Tony Award. Founded by Zelda Fichandler, with assistance from her husband Thomas C. Fichandler and partner Edward Mangum, in 1950, Arena Stage was opened in Washington, D.C. to fill the void left by the closing of the National Theater in 1948. Deriving its name from the idea of "theater in the round," Arena Stage became one of the first resident theatres in the United States, beginning with a company of only eight actors. During the 1960s, Arena garnered international renown in its new space: the Arena Stage Theatre. The new building, located at Sixth Street and Maine Avenue SW, was the first playhouse built in Washington, D.C. since 1895. Generosity on the part of David Lloyd Kreeger, and others, led to the construction of the new "Kreeger Theatre," which opened formally on January 15, 1971. Today, Arena Stage performs to over 250,000 patrons during a September to June season and employs nearly 200 theatre professionals.

Scope and Content

This collection contains reports, correspondence, contracts, and general materials related primarily to financial matters generated during J. Burke Knapp's work with Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. The majority of the materials relate to the Washington Drama Society, Arena Stage II, stockholders, the organization's tax exemption status and non-profit application, and general personal materials related to Arena Stage.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center also holds the Arena Stage records, the Living Stage records, and the Ken Kitch papers, as well as the papers of Arena Stage founders Zelda and Thomas Fichandler.

Keywords

Theater -- Washington (D.C.)

Performing arts

Theater

Theater -- United States

Correspondence

Arena Stage (Organization : Washington, D.C.)

Bibliography

Bernstein, Adam. 2009. "World Bank Executive Also Led Arena Stage Theater." The Washington Post, December 9, 2009. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2009/12/10/world-bank-executive-also-led-arena-stage-theater/e1e8f564-2644-4ebd-9225-6ba528b65d08/>.

"J. Burke Knapp." n.d. The Association of American Rhodes Scholars. Accessed May 15, 2024. <https://www.americanrhodes.org/news-obituaries-245.html>.

"J. Knapp Obituary (2009) - San Francisco, CA - San Francisco Chronicle." n.d. Legacy.Com. Accessed May 15, 2024. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sfgate/name/j-knapp-obituary?id=22168108>.

Arrangement

Collection is organized roughly by subject at the folder level only.

Description of Subordinate Components

J. Burke Knapp papers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39867

Unit Date circa 1950s-1960s

Washington Drama Society, Inc. "Friends of Arena Stage"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39868

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. "foundation"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39869

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39870

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. third class postage

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39871

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. construction contract

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39872

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. D.C. Sales tax exemption

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39873

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. D.C. personal Property Exemption

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39874

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. mortgage

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39875

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39876

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society, Inc. fichandler contract

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39877

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

accounts book

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39878

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Enterprises Inc.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39879

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Enterprises; Stock Agreement Form

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39880

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

incomplete dissolution of Arena Enterprises Inc.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39881

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

correspondence; Arena Enterprise Stock

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39882

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Trustee minutes and Stockholder minutes

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39883

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

correspondence and Joint Stock

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39884

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Enterprises stock sale

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39885

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society organization

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39886

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Enterprises fiscal Summary

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39887

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Personal Arena Stage 1956-1960

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39888

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

personal Arena Stage 1956-1960

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39889

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

lease agreement with the District of Columbia, 1960

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39890

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Stage II materials

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39891

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

1956-1966 season summary sheet

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39892

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

1966-1967 season summary sheets

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39893

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

misc. records

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39894

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

1967-1968 season summary sheets

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39895

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society Inc. trust indenture 1960

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39896

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society Inc. trust indenture 1962

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39897

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

stock ledger book, bank notes and statements

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39898

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society land lease with the District of Columbia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39899

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

instruction form for disposition of stockholder assets memorandum on dissolution, 1959 (1 of 3)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39900

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

instruction form for disposition of stockholder assets memorandum on dissolution, 1959 (2 of 3)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39901

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

instruction form for disposition of stockholder assets memorandum on dissolution, 1959 (3 of 3)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39902

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Stage II

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39903

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

1959 appeal for nonprofit status

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39904

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

nonprofit application

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39905

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

1968-1969 season summary sheet

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39906

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

misc. financial documents

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39907

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Arena Stage II

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39908

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

misc. correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39909

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

misc. correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39910

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

personal and property tax exemption information

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39911

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society Inc. exemption application

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39912

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Washington Drama Society Inc. application for tax exemptions

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/39913

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents note