

Oliver Daniel research collection on Leopold Stokowski

Ms. Coll. 382

Finding aid prepared by Margaret Kruesi and Amey A. Hutchins.

Last updated on June 29, 2020.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2001

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Daniel, Oliver
Title	Oliver Daniel research collection on Leopold Stokowski
Call number	Ms. Coll. 382
Date [inclusive]	1945-1995
Extent	90 boxes
Language	English
Language Note	Materials primarily in English, with some correspondence in German, French, Norwegian and Russian.
Abstract	Research files, cassette tapes, and transcripts for Daniel's biography of Leopold Stokowski titled <i>Stokowski: A Counterpoint of View</i> (1982). Includes the author's correspondence, photocopies of Leopold Stokowski's correspondence, programs, reviews, clippings, photographs, and the completed manuscript submitted for publication; plus preservation and service copies of the oral history sound recordings.

Cite as:

Oliver Daniel research collection on Leopold Stokowski, 1945-1995, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Oliver Daniel is the author of *Stokowski: A Counterpoint of View* published by Dodd, Mead & Company in 1982 during the centenary of the birth of Leopold Stokowski. The book was intended to document the facts about Stokowski's life, often presented inaccurately in earlier biographies, and to focus on Stokowski's many contributions to music in the twentieth century as seen through the eyes and stories of many of Stokowski's colleagues, family members, and friends. Daniel conducted more than 500 interviews with over 300 individuals from 1976 to 1982 while researching his biography.

Oliver Daniel first met Leopold Stokowski in the 1940s when Daniel was producing classical music radio broadcasts for NBC, ABC, and CBS. Their friendship developed during the 1950s with their mutual interest in promoting contemporary music and they founded the Contemporary Music Society together in 1952. Daniel served on the Board of Directors of the American Symphony Orchestra when Stokowski founded the Orchestra in 1962 and maintained a close working relationship with Stokowski until the latter's departure for England in 1972. Stokowski was reluctant to cooperate with biographers and, indeed most of the work for this biography was not accomplished until after Stokowski's death in 1977. Daniel had pursued the idea of writing a biography with Stokowski during the 1950s and then abandoned the plan for a period of time.

Daniel left CBS Radio in 1954 to accept a position as vice-president and director of concert music administration at Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) where he worked until his retirement in 1976. He also served as Chairman of the Board of American Composer's Concerts, Inc. and Chairman of the Board of Young Audiences, but devoted most of his time after his retirement to working on his biography of Leopold Stokowski. Oliver Daniel was born in De Pere, Wisconsin 24 Nov. 1911. He studied piano and taught at the Boston Conservatory of music, 1936-1938 and at Marot College, 1939-1942. He was a member of the Charles Ives Society and vice president of the board of directors from 1973 on. He edited *The Harmony of Maine*, 1949; *Down East Spirituals*, 1949; and *The Music of William Billings*, 1943-1967. He was working on an unfinished biography of Dimitri Mitropolous at the time of his death in 1991.

Scope and Contents

Oliver Daniel's biography of Leopold Stokowski and the interviews he obtained to write it cover Stokowski's New York contacts and musical activities extensively, particularly Stokowski's years conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the American Symphony Orchestra. Daniel interviewed many musicians who played for Stokowski, many conductors who worked with him and got their start with him, and composers whose works Stokowski introduced to the American public and to the world.

Daniel also conducted a number of interviews with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Stokowski's friends in Philadelphia. This period in Stokowski's career is not covered as thoroughly as

Stokowski's later career in New York, although there are very interesting interviews concerning Stokowski's productions of opera, including Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*, in Philadelphia in the 1930s. Oliver Daniel lived in Boston as a young man and had a great interest in conductor Serge Koussevitzky. He frequently asked his interview subjects their opinion of Koussevitzky and also of Toscanini, who for a brief time shared the conducting of the NBC Symphony Orchestra with Stokowski. There are, therefore, a considerable number of interviews in this collection that discuss both Arturo Toscanini and Serge Koussevitzky. Composers whom Daniel interviewed include Samuel Barber, Carlos Chavez, Wen-Chung Chou, Aaron Copland, Paul Creston, Harold Farberman, Morton Gould, Alan Hovhaness, John Lessard, Otto Luening, Peter Mennin, Gian Carlo Menotti, Vincent Persichetti, Ned Rorem, Virgil Thomson, and Ben Weber, among others.

Daniel's most extensive interviews with family members are with Stokowski's oldest daughter, Sonya Stokowski Thorbecke and with Stokowski's second wife, Evangeline Johnson Merrill. Daniel also interviewed Evangeline's daughters, Sadjia Greenwood and Luba Rhodes. In addition he interviewed friends, former secretaries, music librarians, and record producers. Interviews with managers, board members, conductors, and musicians of the American Symphony Orchestra make this a particularly good source for information on this orchestra.

Oliver Daniel's interviews form the bulk of this collection and are its main resource; in addition, Daniel was very effective in organizing the tremendous amount of information he collected. Each transcript of an interview includes an index to the subjects covered. All interviews and transcripts have been cataloged in Franklin. For a listing of the 560 interviews, do the following title search in Franklin: Oliver Daniel Research Collection on Leopold Stokowski. Daniel also made great efforts to document the chronological sequence of Leopold Stokowski's life and his research files are organized both chronologically and alphabetically. Transcripts of the cassette tapes were made by Donald J. Ott, who assisted Oliver Daniel in many aspects of the preparation of this biography and donated the collection to the University of Pennsylvania in 1997.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2001

Finding aid prepared by Margaret Kruesi and Amey A. Hutchins.

Sponsor

The processing of the Oliver Daniel research collection on Leopold Stokowski and the preparation of this register were made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

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Source of Acquisition

Gift of Donald J. Ott, 1997

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- New York Philharmonic.
- Philadelphia Orchestra.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Audiovisual materials
- Biographies
- Correspondence
- Interviews
- Oral histories (document genres)
- Photographs
- Sound recordings
- Transcripts
- Writings (documents)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Stokowski, Leopold, 1882-1977

SUBJECT(S)

- Authors
- Authors, American
- Conductors (Music)
- Music
- Musicians

Other Finding Aids

For a complete listing of interviews, do the following ns2:title search in Franklin: Interview conducted by Oliver Daniel.

Collection Inventory

I. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTES.

Series Description

Folders in this series contain correspondence between Oliver Daniel and individuals he interviewed for his biography of Leopold Stokowski and are arranged alphabetically. Daniel made most of his contacts by telephone rather than in writing and for the most part this correspondence is not extensive, comprising mostly short thank-you notes. In some cases, these folders also contain photocopies of Stokowski's correspondence with these individuals. Also included are copies of Stokowski's correspondence with his recording companies and management. There are also a few notes and clippings, including obituaries of individuals interviewed.

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II. TRANSCRIPTS OF INTERVIEWS.

Series Description

A few transcripts of Oliver Daniel's interviews were missing from his research papers when the collection was given to the University of Pennsylvania. The interviews have all been cataloged online, but researchers should be aware that not all interviews have transcripts available, although the majority do. This information is noted in each cataloging record. For a complete listing of interviews, do the following title search in Franklin: Interview conducted by Oliver Daniel. The transfer and preservation of the sound recordings in this collection was contracted to an outside firm. The labels on the compact disks provided for patron use may have a few inaccuracies regarding dates and spelling of names. Researchers should use the information in the on-line catalog records for these interviews and transcripts, rather than the labels.

Transcripts are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the interviewee with complete transcripts of the radio program "The Stokowski Story," produced by WHYY-FM in Philadelphia, are filed separately at the end. In addition to transcripts, folders may also contain a few clippings, mostly obituaries of the interviewees who died before Daniel's manuscript was published.

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III. RESEARCH FILES ON LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI, 1902-1977.

A. CORRESPONDENCE.

Description & Arrangement

This subseries contains photocopies of Stokowski’s outgoing correspondence, copies of Stokowski’s managers’ correspondence (particularly Andrew Schulhof during the 1950s) and copies of Oliver Daniel’s correspondence to Stokowski, particularly from 1950-1972. There are also memos and itineraries for Stokowski’s travel and Oliver Daniel’s extensive chronological notes on events in Stokowski’s life. The material is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Stokowski correspondence, 1902-1956.	31	962-981
Stokowski correspondence, 1957-1977.	32	982-1000

B. CONTRACTS.**Description & Arrangement**

This subseries, arranged chronologically, is comprised of a few contracts which Oliver Daniel had access to, including a copy of the incorporation papers for the American Symphony Orchestra in 1962.

	Box	Folder
1947-1962.	32	1001-1009

C. PROGRAMS.**Description & Arrangement**

This subseries includes some original programs from Stokowski's performances, especially from 1960-1972. However, for the most part these chronologically arranged folders contain Oliver Daniel's lists of the repertoire performed by Stokowski on his programs from 1912-1974. The folders also contain brief typed excerpts from Oliver Daniel's diaries or day books regarding Stokowski's schedule.

	Box	Folder
1912-1956.	33	1010-1042
1957-1966.	34	1043-1056
1967-1977.	35	1057-1073

REVIEWS.**Description & Arrangement**

Reviews of Leopold Stokowski's performances, arranged chronologically, 1909- 1977. Oliver Daniel labeled these folders "Reviews, articles, etc."

	Box	Folder
Reviews, articles, etc., 1909-1966.	36	1074-1118

Reviews, articles, etc., 1967-1977.

37

1119-1129

E. CLIPPINGS.

Arrangement & Description

Clippings are arranged chronologically and includes Stokowski obituaries, 1977.

	Box	Folder
1905-1933.	38	1130-1161
1934-1954.	39	1162-1188
1955-1968.	40	1189-1207
1969-1980.	41	1208-1223

F. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Arrangement

Miscellaneous notes are arranged alphabetically by subject.

	Box	Folder
American Symphony Orchestra.	42	1224
"Beginning".	42	1225
Boston Symphony Orchestra.	42	1226
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.	42	1227-1228
<i>Fantasia.</i>	42	1229-1231
Houston Symphony Orchestra.	42	1232-1233

London.	42	1234
NBC Symphony Orchestra.	42	1235
New York Philharmonic.	42	1236
Opera.	42	1237
Philadelphia Orchestra.	42	1238
St. Bartholomew's, New York, N.Y.	42	1239
St. James, Piccadilly, London.	42	1240
Articles and essays written by Stokowski.	42	1241-1242
Articles about Stokowski.	42	1243
Press releases.	42	1244
Stokowski itineraries, undated.	42	1245
Note		
Dated itineraries are filed in the chronological files, Folders 962-1000.		
Stokowski family members.		
	Box	Folder
Stokowski biographical sketches.	43	1247-1249
Stokowski 90th birthday celebration.	43	1250-1252
Stokowski house.	43	1253
Stokowski miscellaneous notes.	43	1254-1255
Universal Studios. <i>100 Men and a Girl</i> .	43	1256

IV. STOKOWSKI: A COUNTERPOINT OF VIEW.

A. COMPLETED MANUSCRIPT.

Description

Complete typescript submitted to the publisher, with editorial corrections.

	Box	Folder
Typescript, foreword, chapters 1-33.	44	1257-1270
Typescript, chapters 34-61.	45	1271-1281
Typescript, chapters 62-86.	46	1282-1294

B. INCOMPLETE MANUSCRIPT.

Description

Incomplete copy of the final manuscript, edited by Alan Klots, with index and miscellaneous illustrations.

	Box	Folder
Typescript, chapters 2-13.	47	1295-1300
Typescript, chapters 26-35a.	47	1301-1304
Index, book.	47	1305-1307
List and index, cassette tapes.	47	1308
Images used as illustrations in book.	47	1309

V. PHOTOGRAPHS.

Series Description

This series comprises 2 albums of photographic prints used as illustrations for *Stokowski: A Counterpoint of View*, arranged in the order in which they appeared in the book (roughly, but not exactly, in chronological order). There is an additional small album of photographs not used in the book, of subjects other than Leopold Stokowski.

	Box	Folder
Photographs used as illustrations in <i>Stokowski: A Counterpoint of View</i> , circa 1886-1952.	48	
Photographs used as illustrations in <i>Stokowski: A Counterpoint of View</i> , 1953-1977.	49	
Photographs used as illustrations in <i>Stokowski: A Counterpoint of View</i>.	50	
Description		
These include a few photographs of individuals and a series of photographs of a luncheon [possibly honoring Shostakovich at the Century Club in New York in June 1973], no identification on photographs. (See Shostakovich correspondence, 13 July 1973).		

VI. SOUND RECORDINGS.

Series Description

Oliver Daniel began interviewing for his book in 1976. During 1976 and 1977 he conducted a number of interviews in person; he also conducted a large number of interviews over the phone. In addition, a few individuals taped their own reminiscences of Stokowski and mailed the cassettes to Daniel. Oliver Daniel and his colleague Donald J. Ott also used the tape recorder to take notes immediately following interviews and to dictate correspondence. There are some transcripts of these notes and letters. Finally,

Daniel attempted to obtain copies of all interviews that had been conducted with Leopold Stokowski over the years on radio and television, these interviews date from the 1940s to 1977. The sources and dates of the recordings made by Daniel are often not noted on the cassette tapes.

A. RECORDED INTERVIEWS.

Description & Arrangement

Copies of taped interviews for patron use on compact disks. Numbered sequentially, 1-252.

	Box	Folder
CD 001 - CD 028.	51	
CD 029 - CD 056.	52	
CD 057 - CD 084.	53	
CD 085 - CD 112.	54	
CD 113 - CD 140.	55	
CD 141 - CD 168.	56	
CD 169 - CD 196.	57	
CD 197 - CD 224.	58	
CD 225 - CD 252.	59	

B. CASSETTE TAPES.

Description

Cassette tapes recorded by Oliver Daniel and others. Not to be used by the public or duplicated. Daniel's list of these cassettes and a partial index to their contents is located in Folder 1308, Box 47.

	Box	Folder
Tapes 1-46.	60	
Tapes 47-93.	61	
Tapes 94-137.	62	
Tapes 138-162.	63	
Tapes 0.1 - 0.29, and unnumbered tapes A-F.	64	

C. PRESERVATION COPIES.

Description

Preservation reel to reel tapes. Sound tape reels, analog, 7 ½ ips, 2 tracks, NAB standard. Tapes recorded November and December 2000. Not to be used.

	Box	Folder
Tapes 1-10.	65	
Tapes 11-20.	66	
Tapes 21-30.	67	
Tapes 31-40.	68	
Tapes 41-50.	69	
Tapes 51-60.	70	
Tapes 61-70.	71	
Tapes 71-80.	72	
Tapes 81-90.	73	

Tapes 91-100.	74
Tapes 101-110.	75
Tapes 111-120.	76
Tapes 121-130.	77
Tapes 131-140.	78
Tapes 141-150.	79
Tapes 151-160.	80
Tapes 161-170.	81
Tapes 171-180.	82
Tapes 181-190.	83
Tapes 191-200.	84
Tapes 201-210.	85
Tapes 211-220.	86
Tapes 221-230.	87
Tapes 231-240.	88
Tapes 241-250.	89
Tapes 251-252; 7" reel to reel copies of the "Stokowski Story".	90
