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## Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers, 1907-1994

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# Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 17, 2020.  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Raymond H. Fogler Library University Archives

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

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## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Content Description .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	7
Theatre Performance & Education Records .....	7
Jacques Copeau Biography Records .....	15
Biographical Information .....	17

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Raymond H. Fogler Library University Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Colbath, James Arnold
<b>Source:</b>	Colbath, Sean
<b>Title:</b>	Faculty Records (University Of Maine). Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers
<b>ID:</b>	UA RG 0011.045
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1907-1994
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1955-1986
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 boxes
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 box Half size box
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 folio folder
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 item
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers, UA RG 0011.045, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical / Historical

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James Arnold Colbath earned a B.S. in 1948 from the University of Maine, a M.A. (1950), M.F.A. (1951), and Ph.D. (1962) from Case Western Reserve University. Colbath's Ph.D. was on Japanese Noh drama. Colbath also served as a student assistant in the Theatre Branch at the Shrivensham University in England under Herschell L. Bricker who as well being as the Branch Head was also the director of the Maine Masque Theatre.

Colbath taught at a number of academic institutions from 1951-1968 before coming back to the University of Maine in 1968 as an Associate Professor of Theatre. While at the University of Maine Colbath was also the Area Coordinator of the Theatre Division in the School of Performing Arts and Director of the Maine Masque Theatre (1970-1978). Colbath also served on a number of University of Maine committees including the Council of Colleges (1970-1973) and Graduate Board (1970-1972). Colbath conducted research into the French director Jacques Copeau, including writing an unpublished biography. In 1977, Colbath was named a Fellow to the National Endowment for the Humanities "Symposium on Shakespeare in Performance.

Early in Colbath's career he acted in a number of plays, but he would go on to focus more on script writing, producing and directing plays and musicals. Including producing: "Huck Finn", "The Crow In The Heart", "All Flesh Is Grass", "The Blue Moon in the Yellow Lake", "Der Augenblick, or Poor Fish", "Something About Oyster", "Dancing On The Water", and "The Women In The Sixth Row".

Colbath directed plays at the University of Maine, Catawba College, Malone Summer Playhouse, Reinhardt College, University of North Carolina, Case Western Reserve University, Elmira College, University of Minnesota, University of Delaware, and off-Broadway in New York City.

Colbath died in 1986.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Content Description

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The records mainly contain textual and photographic information created and curated by James Arnold Colbath during his career in theatre. Also, includes audio recordings of some theatre performances that Colbath was involved in directing and set and costume designs.

The record series Theatre Performance and Education Records contains various scripts, playbills, set designs, programs, posters, fliers, clippings, photographs, and some recordings of plays and musicals that Colbath acted, directed, and produced. The majority of this material is from Colbath's time with the University of Maine's Maine Masque Theatre, including as director. But also includes material from work at Catawba College, Malone Summer Playhouse,

Reinhardt College, University of North Carolina, Case Western Reserve University, Elmira College, University of Minnesota, University of Delaware, and off-Broadway in New York City. The series also includes details of a Catawba College Blue Masque tour of England and Monte Carlo, correspondence with colleagues in theatre, course material for classes Colbath taught as a professor of theatre, and administrative material regarding the University of Maine's School of Performing Arts and Maine Masque Theatre.

The record series Jacques Copeau Biography Records includes various draft manuscripts of an unpublished biography Colbath wrote on the French actor and director Jacques Copeau. Also, includes articles Copeau wrote on Colbath, notes, and research material on the subject of Copeau.

The record series Biographic Information includes biographical profiles of Colbath, information on his military service during World War, his military uniform, a regiment photograph, a photograph of and letter to Colbath's wife Mary Lou, and a photograph of Colbath's son Sean.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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The Records Group is broken down intellectually into the following record series: 1. Theatre Performance & Education Records, 2. Jacques Copeau Biography Records, and 3. Biographical Information. Physically the material is arranged by subject. File names and dates were added. Material was rehoused into archival quality storage.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library University Archives

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

## **Appraisal**

Records considered to not be of archival value were disposed of by the processing archivist, including: programs from plays James Arnold Colbath attended but was not involved with, student academic information, student assessments, and duplicate copies of items.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Information on literary rights available in the repository.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Matthew Revitt, March 2020 and August-September 2020, Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department. Processing involved a collection survey and intellectual arrangement into series and the creation of this finding aid. Material was rehoused into appropriate archival folders and the boxes and folders numbered and titled using information from ArchivesSpace.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The papers were donated to Special Collection by James Arnold Colbath's son Sean Colbath on September 4, 2013 and is Accession #2013-0904.

The World War Two uniform was gifted to Special Collections by James Arnold Colbath's son Sean Colbath on August 18, 2020 and is Accession #2020-0910.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Separated Materials**

The papers of James Arnold Colbath's wife Mary Lou Colbath are stored separately, as they do not relate to the University of Maine.

Special Collections also holds a painting "Tide Pool, Schoodic Point" by Vincent Hartgen, 1989 which was donated by the Mary Lou Colbath family.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- College theater -- Maine -- Orono
- Theater -- Maine -- Orono -- Study and teaching
- Theater programs
- Playbills
- Circulars (Fliers)
- Scripts
- Songbooks
- Posters
- Correspondence
- Design drawings
- Acting
- Maine Masque Theatre
- Copeau , Jacques, 1879-1949
- Catawba College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Colbath, Sean

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## Collection Inventory

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### Theatre Performance & Education Records, 1907-1994, (1955-1986)

Physical Description: 175 Folders

Physical Description: 15 items

Physical Description: 1 folio folder

Title/Description	Instances	
Colbath -- Elmina College - "Brecht On Brecht" - Photographs	Box 1	Folder 1
Colbath -- Various Elmina College & UMaine Plays - Photographs	Box 1	Folder 2
Colbath -- "The Crow In The Heart" - Scripts, 1958-1959	Box 1	Folder 3
Colbath -- "The Blue Moon In The Yellow Lake" - Script, 1961	Box 1	Folder 4
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Der Augenblick" - Scripts	Box 1	Folder 5
Colbath -- "Dancing On The Water" - Scripts, 1960	Box 1	Folder 6
Colbath -- Noh - Musical Scores	Box 1	Folder 7



Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- Noh - Musical Scores	Box 1	Folder 8
Colbath -- "All Flesh Is Grass" - Script, 1959	Box 1	Folder 9
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Plough And The Stars" - Photographs	Box 1	Folder 10
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "The Tempest" - Photographs & Playbill, 1980	Box 1	Folder 11
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Guys And Dolls" - Photographs	Box 1	Folder 12
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Oyster & Der Augenblick" - Photographs, 1970-1971	Box 1	Folder 13
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Mother Courage" - Photographs, 1969-1970	Box 1	Folder 14
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Seagull" - Photographs & Clippings, 1974	Box 1	Folder 15
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Equus" - Photographs, 1978 & 1982	Box 1	Folder 16
Colbath -- "The Boston Boat" - Script	Box 1	Folder 17
Colbath -- Various Colbath Productions - Playbills, 1949-1969	Box 1	Folder 18
Colbath -- The National Endowment For The Humanities - Shakespeare Symposium, 1977-1983	Box 1	Folder 19
Colbath -- "The Contributions Of Mark Bailey To Theatre At The University Of Maine" - Copy Of Paper By Donna DeCourcy, 1966	Box 1	Folder 20
Colbath -- Camden Hills Theatre - Playbills & Clippings, 1940-1949?	Box 1	Folder 21
Colbath -- "The Crow In The Heart" - Miscellaneous Material, 1959-1960	Box 2	Folder 1
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Rites Of Passage" - Miscellaneous Material	Box 2	Folder 3
Colbath -- "The Uninvited Guest" - Unfinished Manuscript	Box 2	Folder 4
Colbath -- Noh Productions - Scripts & Music	Box 2	Folder 5
Colbath -- Correspondence Re. Various Colbath Scripts, 1959-1962	Box 2	Folder 7
Colbath -- Correspondence With Bricker (Hershel L.), 1979-1986	Box 2	Folder 8
Colbath -- Correspondence With Bricker (Hershel L.) Re. Hamlet, 1976	Box 2	Folder 9
Colbath -- Correspondence Re. Washington Arena	Box 2	Folder 10

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- Correspondence With Liner (Amos) - Poet, 1959-1972	Box 2	Folder 11
Colbath -- Lineberger (James) Poems	Box 2	Folder 12
Colbath -- Correspondence - "English Friend", 1958-1959	Box 2	Folder 13
Colbath -- Correspondence - Merritt (Wayne), 1976-1979	Box 2	Folder 14
Colbath -- Correspondence - Carroll (Jack), 1975-1980	Box 2	Folder 15
Colbath -- Correspondence - O'Leary (Kevin), 1979-1994	Box 2	Folder 16
Colbath -- Correspondence - McCarthy (Mary), 1984-1987	Box 2	Folder 17
Colbath -- Correspondence & Manuscript - Hobgood (Burnet), 1975-1986	Box 2	Folder 18
Colbath -- Correspondence & Manuscript - Hobgood (Burnet) Re. "Oyster" Critique, 1962	Box 2	Folder 19
Colbath -- Correspondence - "Letters From Friends", 1970-1986	Box 2	Folder 20
Colbath -- Correspondence - "Letters From Former Students", 1971-1985	Box 2	Folder 21
Colbath -- Correspondence - Kurth (Henry) - Set Designer, 1985-1986	Box 2	Folder 22
Colbath -- Kurth (Henry) Design Projects, 1991-1992	Box 2	Folder 23
Colbath -- Poems - Critiqued By Hunting (C.)	Box 2	Folder 24
Colbath -- Noah - Costume Design	Box 2	Folder 25
Colbath -- Antigone (Hathaway Brown School) - Costume Design, 1962	Box 2	Folder 26
Colbath -- "Bloomsbury: The French Connection" - Article	Box 2	Folder 28
Colbath -- French Theatre - Articles, 1976	Box 2	Folder 29
Colbath -- Tolstoy - Notes	Box 2	Folder 30
Colbath -- Lecture Notes	Box 2	Folder 31
Colbath -- UMaine - Comparative Studies Committee, 1982-1983	Box 2	Folder 32
Colbath -- Headcheese Interview, 1986	Box 2	Folder 33
Colbath -- "Understanding Our Theatre Today" By Bricker (Hershel L.) - Manuscript, 1982	Box 2	Folder 36
Colbath -- "Durley" By (Lineberger, James) - Screenplay, 1986	Box 2	Folder 37
Colbath -- "Chimera" By (Lineberger, James) - Novel Manuscript	Box 2	Folder 38
Colbath -- American Educational Theatre Association - Committee & Tour, 1959-1969	Box 3	Folder 1

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- American Educational Theatre Association - Asian Theatre Project, 1969-1976	Box 3	Folder 2
Colbath -- American Educational Theatre Association - American College Theatre Festival	Box 3	Folder 3
Colbath -- "Bingo" - Photographs, 1978	Box 3	Folder 4
Colbath -- Bricker (Hershel L.) - Biographical Information, 1974-1985	Box 3	Folder 5
Colbath -- Comprehensive Exams	Box 3	Folder 6
Colbath -- Course Proposals, 1977-1979	Box 3	Folder 7
Colbath -- Creative Thesis, 1972-1974	Box 3	Folder 8
Colbath -- Cross-Discipline Committee, 1979-1980	Box 3	Folder 9
Colbath -- Dean Webb - Recommendations For The Future Of The School Of Performing Arts, 1980	Box 3	Folder 10
Colbath -- Department Of Speech - Brochure, 1969	Box 3	Folder 11
Colbath -- Department Of Speech - SH 169 Laboratory Theatre - Course Material, 1973?	Box 3	Folder 12
Colbath -- Department Of Speech & School Of Performing Arts - Course Proposals, 1969-1976?	Box 3	Folder 13
Colbath -- Disabled Advisory Committee, 1977-1979	Box 3	Folder 14
Colbath -- "Endgame" - Photographs, 1974	Box 3	Folder 15
Colbath -- "Hamlet" - Photographs, 1976	Box 3	Folder 16
Colbath -- Honors Program - Teaching, 1981	Box 3	Folder 17
Colbath -- Maine Center For The Arts - Brochure, 1986	Box 3	Folder 18
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - History, 1907-1936	Box 3	Folder 19
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Miscellaneous Photographs, 1973-1976	Box 3	Folder 20
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Miscellaneous Photographs	Box 3	Folder 21
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Miscellaneous Photographs	Box 3	Folder 22
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Budget, 1963-1975	Box 3	Folder 23
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Apple Acting Awards, 1960-1970	Box 3	Folder 24
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Apple Acting Awards, 1977-1981	Box 3	Folder 25
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Apple Acting Awards - Stipulations, 1974-1980	Box 3	Folder 26

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Certificates, 1969	Box 3	Folder 27
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "The Visit" - Playbill & Clippings, 1968	Box 3	Folder 28
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Season - Clippings, 1970-1976	Box 3	Folder 29
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Publicity - Clippings, 1968-1986	Box 3	Folder 30
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Twelfth Night" - Photographs	Box 3	Folder 31
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Calendars, 1978-1983	Box 3	Folder 32
Colbath -- New England Theatre Conference, 1978-1981	Box 3	Folder 33
Colbath -- Opera Theatre On UMaine Campus, 1977-1979	Box 3	Folder 34
Colbath -- Performing Arts Committee, 1981	Box 3	Folder 35
Colbath -- Performing Arts Planning Committee, 1971-1979	Box 3	Folder 36
Colbath -- Policy Advisory Committee (School Of Performing Arts), 1978	Box 3	Folder 37
Colbath -- School Of Performing Arts - Meeting Material, Reports & Memorandums, 1975-1979	Box 3	Folder 38
Colbath -- School Of Performing Arts - Playbills & Schedule, 1976 & 1978	Box 3	Folder 39
Colbath -- School Of Performing Arts - TH 166 - Stage Directing Course Material, 1972-1977	Box 3	Folder 40
Colbath -- School Of Performing Arts - TH 267 - Drama Colloquium - Hamlet Course Material, 1976	Box 3	Folder 41
Colbath -- School Of Performing Arts - Correspondence With North (Murray), 1978-1979	Box 3	Folder 42
Colbath -- Sbordone (John J.) - University Of Maine At Presque Isle Theatre, 1974	Box 3	Folder 43
Colbath -- Stock Pavilion, 1979	Box 3	Folder 44
Colbath -- Summer Program, 1977	Box 3	Folder 45
Colbath -- Theatre Staff Meetings, 1984-1985	Box 3	Folder 46
Colbath -- Torkanowsky (Teresa) - Division Of Dance, 1977-1978	Box 3	Folder 47
Colbath -- UMaine Directory Of Research And Scholarly Activities, 1973	Box 3	Folder 48
Colbath -- UMaine Publications Of The Faculty, 1975-1980	Box 3	Folder 49
Colbath -- Writing Proficiency, 1977	Box 3	Folder 50
Colbath -- Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1976-1981		

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

	Box 4	Folder 1
Colbath -- "The Hostage" By (Behan) Brendan - Script	Box 4	Folder 2
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Noh Plays - Hagoromo Score	Box 4	Folder 3
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Noh Plays - Hagoromo Score	Box 4	Folder 4
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Noh Plays - Recordings	Box 4	Item 1
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Noh Plays - Recordings	Box 4	Item 2
Colbath -- "The Woman In The Sixth Row" - Recording, 1966	Box 4	Item 3
Colbath -- "The Woman In The Sixth Row" - Recording, 1966	Box 4	Item 4
Colbath -- "Vaudeville" - The Maine Alumnus Review, 1974	Box 4	Folder 5
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Old Jed Prouty" - Script	Box 4	Folder 6
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "Mixy Bowl And Spicy Dish" By Bricker (Hershel L.) - Script	Box 4	Folder 7
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - "President Noah's Spaceship" By Bricker (Hershel L.) - Script, 1960	Box 4	Folder 8
Colbath -- Introduction To Theatre 11 - Course Materials, 1978	Box 4	Folder 9
Colbath -- Noh II - Course Materials, 1964	Box 4	Folder 10
Colbath -- "The Noh And Its Relation To Zen Buddhism" - Paper & Research	Box 4	Folder 11
Colbath -- "The Japanese Noh Drama And Its Relation To Zen Buddhism" - Ph. D. Abstract, 1962	Box 4	Folder 12
Colbath -- Fundamentals Of Acting 117 - Course Materials	Box 4	Folder 13
Colbath -- Catawba College - Acting Handbook By Hobgood (Burnet), 1952	Box 4	Folder 14
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Becket Costume Plates	Folder 1	
Colbath -- Catawba College - "Huck Finn" - Score, 1954	Box 5	Folder 1a
Colbath -- Catawba College - "Huck Finn" - Score, 1954	Box 5	Folder 1b
Colbath -- Catawba College - "Huck Finn" - Scores, 1954	Box 5	Folder 1c
Colbath -- Catawba College - "Huck Finn" - Audio Recording	Box 5	Item 1
Colbath -- North Carolina Symphony - "Huck Finn" - Medley Audio Recording	Box 5	Item 2
Colbath -- Catawba College - "Bright Blue" - Audio Recording, 1953	Box 5	Item 3
Colbath -- Copy Of "Picasso Blue And Ink Periods" - Publication, 1948	Box 5	Item 4

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- 400th Anniversary Of Birth Of Shakespeare - Commemorative Tapestry, 1964	Box 5	Item 5
Colbath -- "Dublin Street Criers" - Tapestry	Box 5	Item 6
Colbath -- Elmira College - Thespis Album, 1962-1968	Box 6	Item 1
Colbath -- Catawba College - Blue Masque Album, 1954-1960	Box 6	Item 2
Colbath -- Unlabeled Photographs Of Various Plays	Box 6	Folder 1
Colbath -- Unlabeled Photographs Of Various Plays	Box 6	Folder 2
Colbath -- Unlabeled Graduation Photograph?	Box 6	Folder 3
Colbath -- Notes on Directing & Design	Box 6	Folder 6
Colbath -- Miscellaneous Course Assignments	Box 6	Folder 7
Colbath -- "Women Who Have Dared Joan Of Arc To Gloria Steinam" - Hartman (Maryann) Address, 1970	Box 6	Folder 8
Colbath -- Case-Western Reserve University - Clippings Re. Various Plays, 1960-1962	Box 7	Folder 1
Colbath -- Case-Western Reserve University - Noh Paper, 1971	Box 7	Folder 2
Colbath -- Catawba College - Blue Masque Clippings & Playbills, 1958-1984	Box 7	Folder 3
Colbath -- Correspondence With British Friends, 1957-1985	Box 7	Folder 4
Colbath -- Maine State Commission On The Arts And The Humanities - Appointment, 1969	Box 7	Folder 5
Colbath -- Letter To Bangor Daily News Re. Article On College Of The Atlantic Theatre Group, 1976	Box 7	Folder 6
Colbath -- "Waiting For Godot" - Playbill	Box 7	Folder 7
Colbath -- Kurth (Henry) - Public Lecture, 1969-1973	Box 7	Folder 8
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Summer Theatre Workshop At Bar Harbor And Orono, 1972	Box 7	Folder 9
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - State Touring Productions, 1969-1973	Box 7	Folder 10
Colbath -- Letters Of Congratulations & Support, 1970-1980	Box 7	Folder 11
Colbath -- Clipping Re. Broadway "Days of Hate" Role	Box 7	Folder 12
Colbath -- Puckerbrush Review - Book Reviews, 1986	Box 8	Folder 1
Colbath -- Catawba College - Lecture	Box 8	Folder 2
Colbath -- Elmina College - Fine Arts Course Material, 1963-1964	Box 8	Folder 3
Colbath -- Dramatic Action & Forum	Box 8	Folder 4

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- Lecture Notes	Box 8	Folder 5
Colbath -- Catawba College - Lecture	Box 8	Folder 6
Colbath -- Catawba College - Blue Masque Tour Of Britain, 1956-1957	Box 8	Folder 7a
Colbath -- Catawba College - Blue Masque Tour Of Britain & Monte Carlo, 1956-1957	Box 8	Folder 7b
Colbath -- Catawba College - Blue Masque Tour Of Britain & Monte Carlo	Box 8	Folder 8
Colbath -- Drawings Of Colbath By Libby (James Palmer), 1987	Box 8	Folder 9
Colbath -- "Faust" - Costume & Design Designs	Box 8	Folder 10
Colbath -- Miscellaneous Set Designs	Box 8	Folder 11
Colbath -- "Antigone" And "Coventry Cycle" - Costume Plates	Box 8	Folder 12
Colbath -- "Gallows Humor" - Set Designs	Box 8	Folder 13
Colbath -- "The Tempest" - Costume Designs	Box 8	Folder 14
Colbath -- "Mother Courage" - Photographs	Box 8	Folder 15
Colbath -- Noh Plays - Photographs	Box 8	Folder 16
Colbath -- Unlabeled Photographs	Box 8	Folder 17
Colbath -- Charles Autry Exhibit, 1968-1969	Box 8	Folder 18
Colbath -- Autograph Plates Of Maude Adams & John Drew	Box 8	Folder 19
Colbath -- Catawba College - Miscellaneous Photographs	Box 8	Folder 20
Colbath -- Unlabeled Photographs	Box 8	Folder 21
Colbath -- Reinhardt College - "Huck Finn" - Script & Playbill, 1954	Box 8	Folder 22
Colbath -- Elmina College - "Brecht On Brecht" - Photographs	Box 9	Folder 1
Colbath -- Elmina College - Thespis - Play Bills, 1963-1966	Box 9	Folder 2
Colbath -- Catawba College - Blue Masque - Play Bills, 1958-1960	Box 9	Folder 3
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Apple Acting Awards - Colbath Celebration, 1987	Box 9	Folder 9
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Summer Theatre Workshop At Bar Harbor And Orono, 1967-1972	Box 9	Folder 10
Colbath -- "The Woman In The Sixth Row" - Scripts, 1965	Box 9	Folder 11
Colbath -- "The Woman In The Sixth Row" - Scripts, 1965	Box 9	Folder 12
Colbath -- "An Adventure" - Scripts	Box 9	Folder 13

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- "Something About An Oyster" - Scripts, Sound & Miscellaneous Material, 1961-1976	Box 9	Folder 14
Colbath -- Miscellaneous Poetry	Box 9	Folder 15
Colbath -- Actors Of The Royal Shakespeare Company In Residence At The University Of Maine, 1983	Box 9	Folder 16
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Playbills, Review & Fliers, 1941-1972	Box 9	Folder 17a
Colbath -- Maine Masque Theatre - Playbills & Fliers, 1973-1986	Box 9	Folder 17b
Colbath -- "The Tempest" - School of Performing Arts Poster, 1980	Box 11	Item 3
Colbath -- Case-Western Reserve University - Dance Company Poster	Box 11	Item 4
Colbath -- Noh Plays Sign, 1972	Item 1	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Jacques Copeau Biography Records, 1965-1988

Physical Description: 45 Folders

Title/Description	Instances	
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Bibliographies, 1987-1988	Box 2	Folder 6a
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Correspondence	Box 2	Folder 6b
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research	Box 2	Folder 6c
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Bibliography	Box 2	Folder 6d
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - 50th Anniversary Of Vieux-Colombier - Clipping	Box 2	Folder 6e
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Bibliotheque Research, 1965-1975	Box 2	Folder 6f
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script	Box 2	Folder 6g
Colbath -- "Jacques Copeau's Visit To Gordon Craig At Florence" - Article, 1983	Box 2	Folder 27
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 1-160 & Notes	Box 7	Folder 13a
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 1-160 & Notes	Box 7	Folder 13b
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 1-160 & Notes	Box 7	Folder 13c



Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 1-242 & Notes	Box 7	Folder 13d
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 243-416	Box 7	Folder 13e
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 417-652	Box 7	Folder 13f
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 653-782	Box 7	Folder 13g
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 164-510 & Notes	Box 7	Folder 13h
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 417-782	Box 7	Folder 13i
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 471-782	Box 7	Folder 13j
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script - Pages 511-782	Box 7	Folder 13k
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script	Box 9	Folder 4
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script	Box 9	Folder 5
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script	Box 9	Folder 6
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Draft Script	Box 9	Folder 7
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Visit To Gordon Craig Article, 1983	Box 9	Folder 8
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Belle (Leon), 1951-1954	Box 10	Folder 1
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research	Box 10	Folder 2
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research, 1924-1954	Box 10	Folder 3
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Saint Uliva, Florence	Box 10	Folder 4
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Readings, 1924-1936	Box 10	Folder 5
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Comedie Francaise, 1926-1979	Box 10	Folder 6
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - "Savonarola", 1935	Box 10	Folder 7
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Productions, 1937-1943	Box 10	Folder 8
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Death, 1949-1950	Box 10	Folder 9

Professor Colbath (James Arnold) Papers

Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Villard-Gilles (Jean), 1954	Box 10	Folder 10
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Jouvett (Louis), 1915-1936	Box 10	Folder 11
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - 70th Birthday, 1949	Box 10	Folder 12
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Petit (Georges), 1929	Box 10	Folder 13
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research, 1902-1912	Box 10	Folder 14
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Schlumberger - "Eveils", 1937-1950	Box 10	Folder 15
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Copy Of "Le Petit Pauvre" & Notes, 1946	Box 10	Folder 16
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research	Box 10	Folder 17
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - La Nouvelle Revue Francaise, 1914-1975	Box 10	Folder 18
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research	Box 10	Folder 19
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research - Kurtz	Box 10	Folder 20
Colbath -- Jacques Copeau Biography - Research, 1926-1974	Box 10	Folder 21

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical Information, 1942-1987

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Physical Description: 2 items

Title/Description	Instances	
Colbath -- Biographical Information, 1955-1987	Box 2	Folder 34
Colbath -- "War Years", 1942-1946	Box 2	Folder 35
Colbath -- Photograph Of Mary Lou Colbath	Box 6	Folder 4
Colbath -- Photograph Of Sean Colbath	Box 6	Folder 5
Colbath -- Letter To (Eshleman) Mary Lou, 1958	Box 9	Folder 18
Colbath -- World War Two Uniform	Box 11	Item 1
Colbath -- Military Photograph	Box 11	Item 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)