

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

BERLIN, IRVING: Papers, 1946-83

Accessions 97-15 and 01-7  
Processed by: TB  
Date Completed: February 2001

The papers of Irving Berlin were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mr. Berlin's son-in-law Alton E. Peters in 1997.

Linear feet: -1  
Approximate number of pages: 340  
Approximate number of items: 200

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mr. Berlin's daughters in April 1997. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Mr. Berlin in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been retained by his daughters until their deaths and thereafter pass to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was a famous composer who wrote popular songs and show tunes for over 70 years. During World War II his theatrical show "This Is The Army" was performed for U.S. troops all over the world. Mr. Berlin donated the profits from the show to the Army Emergency Relief Fund. In 1944 Dwight D. Eisenhower attended a special showing in London and afterward went backstage to congratulate Mr. Berlin and the players. Mr. Berlin appreciated the gesture. After the war he wrote a popular song "I Like Ike" which was used by Eisenhower's staff during the 1952 presidential campaign. In 1954 Congress authorized a special gold medal to be issued to Mr. Berlin in honor of his patriotic and popular music. Eisenhower presented the medal to Mr. Berlin at a White House ceremony on February 18, 1955.

This collection consists of documents from Mr. Berlin's files pertaining to his relationship to Dwight D. Eisenhower. Most of the items are electrostatic copies of documents that have been retained by the Berlin family. Included are files on Berlin's song "I Like Ike"; his performance at a dinner of the White House Correspondents Association on March 6, 1954; the preparation of the Congressional gold medal; his interest in a statue of Eisenhower erected at the U.S. Military Academy in 1983; and his correspondence with Justus Baldwin Lawrence who was a friend of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The only original documents in the collection are the letters Berlin received from Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower. Most of the letters are of a routine social nature, complimenting Berlin on his work. Of particular importance is a letter which Dwight D. Eisenhower dictated from his room at Walter Reed Army Hospital on March 24, 1969, just a few days before he died, which is probably the last letter he wrote.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box No.    Contents

- 1        Correspondents Dinner for President Eisenhower March 6, 1954
- Eisenhower Campaign 1952
- Eisenhower Letters (1)(2) [social correspondence; DDE's last letter, March 24, 1969]
- Eisenhower Statue [statue at West Point, 1981-83]
- Eisenhower-Related Words and Music (1)(2) [drafts of various versions of "I Like Ike"]
- Gold Medal [special award authorized by Congress 1954]
- Justus B. Lawrence (1)(2) [writing new Ike song for 1956 convention; Congressional action on gold medal]

END OF CONTAINER LIST