J. Neal Griffith Collection, Manuscript Group 35
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
17 boxes; 17 linear feet

Biographical Note
John Neal Griffith (April 10, 1904-October 5, 1994) was born in Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. His parents were William Cannon Griffith (August 3, 1871-March 11, 1951) and Lida A. Neal Griffith (1874-1906) who were married on June 6, 1900. The Griffith family lived in Marion Center before moving to Indiana, Pennsylvania.


J. Neal Griffith passed away in Johnstown, and he and his parents are interred at the Marion Center Memorial Cemetery.

Scope and Content
The J. Neal Griffith Collection contains 17 boxes consisting of postcard-sized decorated card stock signed by mostly North American and European celebrities from all walks of life, primarily postmarked from 1938 to 1978. Most of these autographs were solicited by J. Neal Griffith, but several autographs of more historical individuals (prior to the 1930s) were obtained by J. Neal Griffith for inclusion into his autograph collection. The card stock autographs were often decorated by Griffith with information about the celebrities, and the cards were mailed to specific place names. The collection is organized into categories and includes many famous individuals from the mid-20th century ranging from actors, athletes, authors, and astronauts to government officials, singers, and scientists.
The collection also contains 35mm slides of Indiana University of Pennsylvania events, and signed programs, photographs, and government documents from around the world.

Provenance
The collection was donated by J. Neal Griffith with the express proviso that it be used for research. Note: this collection is restricted to research and display purposes only.

Box 1 Autograph Index

Box 2 Autographs
1. Ballet Dancers
2. Band Leaders
3. Comedians
4. Composers
5. Conductors
6. Dancers
7. Musicians
8. Pianists
9. Singers

Box 3 Autographs
1. Actors
2. Actresses
3. Motion Pictures
4. Radio Personalities
5. Television Personalities
6. Theatre

Box 4 Autographs
1. Authors
2. Columnists
3. Editors
4. Journalists
5. Novelists
6. Playwrights
7. Poets
8. Publishers
9. Writers

Box 5 Autographs
1. Authors
2. Architects
3. Artists
4. Cartoonists
5. Fashion Designers
6. Industrial Designers
7. Inventors
8. Museums/Zoos
9. Painters
10. Photographers
11. Sculptors
12. United States Governors

Box 6 Autographs
1. United States Cabinet
2. United States Representatives
3. United States Senators
4. Administrations
5. Agencies
6. Boards
7. Bureaus
8. Commissions
9. Committees
10. Councils and Counsels
11. Judges
12. Justices and Jurists

Box 7 Autographs (U.S. Government)
1. Lawyers
2. Leaders of Organizations
3. Mayors
4. Services
5. U.S. Ambassadors and Diplomats
6. U.S. Local Governments  
7. U.S. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and families  
8. White House Staff  
9. Ambassadors (International)  
10. Canada-Miscellaneous  
11. Chancellors  
12. Foreign/International Ministers  
13. Foreign/International Miscellaneous  
14. Governors (International)  
15. Mayors (International)  

**Box 8 Autographs**  
1. Premiers  
2. Presidents (International)  
3. Prime Ministers  
4. Royalty  
5. United Nations  
6. West Germany (miscellaneous)  
7. Astronauts  
8. Explorers  
9. College Presidents  
10. Communications  
11. Educational Associations  
12. Educators  

**Box 9 Autographs**  
1. Historians  
2. Librarians  
3. Philosophers  
4. University Professors  
5. Anthropologists  
6. Archaeologists  
7. Bacteriologists and Virologists  
8. Biologists  
9. Chemists  
10. Mathematicians  
11. Medicine Miscellaneous  
12. Physicians  
13. Physicists  
14. Physiologists  
15. Political Scientists  
16. Psychiatrists
17. Psychologists

Box 10 Autographs
1. Scientists
2. Scientists Miscellaneous
3. Sociologists
4. Surgeons
5. Zoologists
6. Auto Racing
7. Baseball
8. Basketball
9. Boxing
10. Football
11. Golf
12. Hockey
13. Skating
14. Skiing
15. Sports Miscellaneous
16. Swimming
17. Tennis
18. Track and Field

Box 11 Autographs
1. Bankers
2. Business Executives
3. Chamber of Commerce
4. Economists
5. Engineers
6. Hotel/Restaurant
7. Industrialists/Philanthropists
8. Industry-Airplanes
9. Industry-Automobiles
10. Industry-Railroads
11. Industry-Ship
12. Manufacturers
13. Oil Corporations
14. Presidents of Corporations
15. Steel Corporations
16. Child Organizations
17. Civil Rights Leaders
18. Labor Leaders
19. Leaders of Various Organizations
Box 12 Autographs
1. Religion-Baptist
2. Religion-Episcopal
3. Religion-Jewish
4. Religion-Methodist
5. Religion-Roman Catholic
6. Religion-miscellaneous
7. Social Workers and Activists
8. Veterans' Organizations
9. Women’s Organizations
10. American Legion
11. Food Experts
12. Miscellaneous
13. U.S. Air Force
14. U.S. Army
15. U.S. Marines
16. U.S. Military Miscellaneous
17. U.S. Navy

Box 13 Slides of Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Box 14 Miscellaneous Programs
1. Ballets
2. Football Game (Pitt v. Temple, 1946)
3. Ice Capades
4. Musical Comedies
5. Operas
6. Plays
7. Concerts
8. Musical Comedies
9. Operas
10. Plays
11. Recitals
12. Symphonies

Box 15 Additional Autographs added to the collection (84 folders)
3. Archbishop Damaskinos Papandreou (1891-1949) Archbishop of Athens and Greece
5. David Atkinson
7. Stephen F. Bayne
8. Harry Belafonte (1927-) American singer, songwriter, and actor
9. Basil M. Bensin
10. Frederick Blackall
11. Harry Blackstone
12. Mel Blanc (1908-1989) American voice actor, comedian, the voice of Bugs Bunny
13. Don Blanding
14. Richard H. Bolt - Postcard
15. Chester Bowles
16. Francis Brennan
17. Philip Brown - Postcard
18. Carter L. Burgess - Letter
19. Milton Caniff
20. Robert Cashman - Postcard
21. Imogene Coca
22. John B. Coulter
23. John Creasey
24. Basley Crowther - Letter
25. Daniel Daniels
26. Gerard Darrow
27. Giorgio De Chirico
28. Irene Silva De Santolla
29. Ivan Dmitri - Letter
30. Salol Dupore
31. Lee Elder
32. Tom Ewell
33. Markus Feldman
35. John Gavin - Letter
36. Arthur Godfrey
37. Bertrain Goodman
38. Arthur L. Guptill
39. Uta Hagen
40. Merle Haggard
41. Rev. L. Hartman
42. Robert Hendrickson - Letter
43. Susan Hight
44. Quaker Hill - Letter
45. George M. Humphrey (1890-1970) served as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury for President
Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1957)
46. Roberta Jonay - Letter
47. Casey Jones
49. Kodaya
50. J. Fenwicke Lansdowne
51. Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis
52. Charles Augustus Lindbergh (1902-1974)
53. Gaetano Marzotto
54. Mary Margaret McBride
55. Andrew McNally - Letter
56. Sylis Mead
57. Alice Duer Miller
58. Gerald Nabarro - Letter
59. Ron Nessen - Letter
60. Andrian Nikolayer
61. Lou Nova
62. Maxfield Parrish
63. Eric Partridge
64. Pierre Pflimlin - Letter
65. Elmer Rice - Postcard
66. Eddie Rickenbacker
67. Edward Roecker
68. Jean Rostand
69. Telly Savalas (1922-1994) American actor
70. Henry F. Schricker
71. David R. Scott
72. Warner Shelly
73. General Lemeul C. Shepard
74. Donald K. Slayton
75. Eric Sloane
76. Jo Stafford
77. Pol Swings
78. Fernando Belaunde Terry
79. Merton Tice
80. Cloud Wampler
81. Fred Waring - Letter
82. Earle Warren (1891-1974) 30th Governor of California (1943-1953) and the 14th Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1953-1969)
83. John Williams
84. Sergeant Alvin C. York (1887-1964) World War One veteran, Medal of Honor
85. Unidentified Autographs

**Box 16 Additional Autographs**
1. Joseph W. Barr
2. Rainer Barzel
3. Warren Beatty (1937-) actor, producer, and director
4. Ingrid Bergman (1915-1982) with cast members
5. Bill Callahan
6. Cantiflas
7. Leslie Caron
8. Marge and George Champion
9. Cyd Charisse
10. Herbert Coleman
11. Olivia De Hoviland (1916-) actress, starred in Gone with the Wind (1939)
12. Virginia De Lue
13. Princess Grace De Monaco (1929-1982) was actress Grace Kelly
14. Richard Derr
16. Roberta Flack
17. Francisco da Costa Gomes
19. John Gavin
20. Ethel Griffies
21. Gene Hackman (1930-) American actor
22. James Hewell
23. Hildegard
25. Nora Kaye
26. Carole King
27. Lisa Kirk
28. Eartha Kitt
29. Hedy Lamarr (1914-2000) actress
30. Guy Lombardo (1902-1977) bandleader
31. June Lowell
32. Archie Moore
33. Jean Nideth
34. Ryan O'Neil
35. Julius Raab
36. Ella Raines
37. Maurice Richard
38. Eddie Roecker
39. Moira Shearer
40. William G. Straton
41. Randy Turpin
42. Unus
43. Erich Von Daniken
44. West, -----
45. Esther Williams
46. Robert Woodlow
47. Unidentified Pictures

**Box 17 Signed Documents (7 documents)**
1. Legal Document signed by Henry Clay (1777-1852), Woodford County, Brent vs. Yancy, 1800
4. Land Grant, State of Tennessee, April 18, 1827
5. Land Grant signed by President Franklin Pierce (1804-1869), April 15, 1853
6. Land Grant signed by President James Buchanan (1791-1868), April 1, 1859
7. Commission: President of the United States Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), appointing Angel Martinez as interim consul of the Mexican Republic at New Orleans, Louisiana, December 8, 1871