

Maine Historical Society

Coll. 2962 Walter and Laura Manchester O'Brien collection Ca. 1931-2014

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Processed: June –October 2017 by Jane C. Cullen, MHS Volunteer

Access: Unrestricted

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with the MHS Staff **Size:** 5 linear ft.

Biographical Note: Walter A. O'Brien, Jr. was born in 1914, the fourth child of Walter A. O'Brien from Portland and Susan M. Crosby from Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, who were both first generation American Irish. Walter had one brother, Francis Massey O'Brien (b. 1908) and two sisters, Mary O'Brien O'Connell (b. 1910) and Anne Kathleen O'Brien Gardiner (b. 1912). He was raised in Portland Maine, graduated from Portland High School, and graduated from Gorham Normal School (later Gorham State Teachers College and today University of Southern Maine) at the age of 20.

Instead of taking a teaching job, Walter went to sea in the mid-1930s performing various radio and communications jobs. It was while at sea that O'Brien discovered a taste and talent for politics and became a union organizer. In 1940, he married Laura Manchester and moved to Boston, perhaps in an effort to escape the conservative politics of his parents and Maine. Soon after he joined the Merchant Marines and served during World War II. After the war, Walter took a position as port agent with the American Communications Association, a union affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). Walter and Laura plunged into liberal politics in Boston and joined the Massachusetts Chapter of the Progressive Party (founded in Boston April, 1948). The Progressive Party's candidate to the 1948 presidential election was Henry Wallace, an Iowa farmer, inventor and publisher who had served as FDR's Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Commerce. Walter A. O'Brien also allowed himself to be drafted as a 1948 Congressional candidate from Massachusetts. O'Brien ran against Christian Herter, a Republican incumbent and future governor of Massachusetts. The O'Brien's worked tirelessly to elect Wallace however he received less than 2 % of the Massachusetts vote and only 2. 4% of the national vote. O'Brien fared better than Wallace, capitalizing on his Irish surname and the fact that he also ran on the Democratic ticket; however, he lost to Herter by a 2 to 1 margin. In 1949, Walter O'Brien ran for mayor of Boston on the platform that the Boston Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) not raise their rates to bail out stock holders of the privately-owned transit company. Campaign slogans and songs were popular at this time and O'Brien partnered with some like-minded Progressives in the Boston area and the MTA song was written after the

current mayor increased the MTA fares by 50%. Public outrage followed and the MTA song was a big hit and campaign boost to O'Brien. O'Brien lost the Boston Mayoral race to John B. Haynes, finishing last with barely 1% of the vote.

Despite the demise of the Progressive Party in Massachusetts and nationally in the early 1950's, the O'Brien's continued to pursue their liberal ideology. The 1950s fostered in an era of the "Red Scare" and nationally the House Committee on Un-American Activities, led by Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin, was "going strong," blacklisting Hollywood actors, screenwriters and directors and working to execute the Rosenberg's. Massachusetts had its own Commission of Communism and this committee held more than 50 public hearings and private executive sessions calling scores of witnesses to testify. Both Walter and Laura O'Brien and their good friend Florence Luscomb, all three members of the Progressive Party, were questioned by this Commission and refused to answer sensitive questions. As a result, 85 persons in Massachusetts were named "Communists or followers of the Communist Party Line" in an official published report. The O'Brien's, with many others, rejected this report and vowed to "continue to fight for the rights of labor and civil liberties" guaranteed in the United States Constitution. After being confronted several times by the FBI, Walter and Laura O'Brien and their two children moved back to Maine in 1956. Walter became a librarian and Laura a school teacher and the family lived in Portland.

In the late 1950s the Kingston Trio discovered the MTA Song that Walter's campaign had used, changed a few words, and went on to release the MTA Song on their second album in June 1959. The Kingston Trio dropped the name of Walter A. O'Brien from the original MTA song and replaced it with George O'Brien and made a few more minor changes to the song. It became a hit and for a brief period Walter O'Brien was again thrown into the spotlight because of his campaign song.

In the 1960's, Walter pursued his Master's Degree and became prominent on the State of Maine Library Commission for many years. He served as librarian for Lewiston Public Library, University of Southern Maine Library, and Westbrook High School Library. In retirement, from 1980 to 1990, Walter and Laura owned a small book antiquarian business in Cundy Harbor, Maine, called "The Book Peddler." The business was open "only in the summer, by chance." Walter specialized in Maine books and Laura in children's books. Walter A. O'Brien died in Maine in 1998 at the age of 83. Laura died two years later at the age of 79.

Scope and Content Note: Includes manuscript papers, business records, printed materials, FBI record, books including a book of the entire platform of the Progressive Party, correspondence, photographs, genealogical research, newspaper articles, original sound recordings of the MTA campaign song, and several objects. Primary sources were passed down from Walter A. O'Brien's daughter Julia O'Brien Merrill who completed much of the research included in this collection.

The Walter A. O'Brien Collection contains limited information about Walter's brother, Francis M. O'Brien, who in his own right was popular as a writer and owned a number of bookstores in Maine. The collection also contains information about Florence Luscomb, a close friend of Walter and Laura O'Brien; a fellow member of the Progressive Party – she was one of the first women graduates of MIT, and a life-long activist for women's rights, civil rights, labor rights and civil liberties. In 1998, with the help of Walter and Laura O'Brien, Florence Luscomb was honored by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2017 Julia M. O'Brien-Merrill, Walter and Laura's oldest daughter, honored her father's legacy by writing and publishing a children's book entitled "Charlie on the M.T.A. Did He Ever Return?" The book, which includes actual historical facts and a timeline in addition to the lyrics of the original campaign song, is illustrated by Caitlin Marquis. The book is included in the collection (Box 7 Folder15).

Series I: Life and Education (Box 1 and 2)

Sub-series: Francis M. O'Brien, Walter's brother (Box 2, Folders 11-14)

Series II: Political Career (Box 3-7)

Sub-series: Florence Luscomb (Box 6-7) and MTA Song (Box 7 -8)

Series III: Librarian (Box 9-10)

Series IV: Antiquarian Bookstore Owner (Box 11). See also Box 2, Folders 11-14 for information on Walter's brother Francis, also an antiquarian bookstore owner

Processing note: The collection was organized by the volunteer into the major categories and subcategories as described above. Within each category, folders are arranged chronologically. Only a sampling of the receipts in Box 10, Folder 1 were retained.

In 2019, because of space issues, some of the collection was condensed into fewer boxes.

In Museum: Objects from the Collection include:

- -Portland High School pennant
- -Walter O'Brien military dog tags, USMS
- -F.M. O'Brien's Brass Name Plate and Shell

Not retained by museum:

- -Two-sided wood cutting, ducks in flight and wolf's head, painted green
- -Wooden box filled with book requests
- -Necklace with crucifix
- -Fancy red leather book case (empty)
- -Bookplates "There is no better companion than a good book" (in box)

In Library: Sound recordings transferred to stacks (1st floor collections storage):

- -16" sound recording: Trans Radio Productions: O'Brien for Congress, Cut 7&8 (1672A), Cut 9&10 (1672B) **Sound recording 20**
- -10" sound recording: Progressive Party: "We Can Have Peace" 331/3 RPM Record by Dr.

W.E.B. DuBois, Vote for Hallinan and Bass (2 copies) – Sound recording 21

- -12" sound recording: Original copy MTA Song recorded at Ace Studios Boylston Street, Boston, c. Sept 1949 "MTA" **Sound recording 22**
- -12" sound recording: "Once Upon a Time" By Kingston Trio, Side 1 includes the M.T.A. (The Boston Subway Song) **Sound recording 23**

Provenance: Gift of Julia M. O'Brien-Merrill, the daughter of Walter and Laura O'Brien, and her family.

Inventory

Box 1: Walter A. O'Brien Life and Education

- Folder 1: O'Brien Genealogy- typed charts and handwritten notes
- Folder 2: Biographical Information about Walter O'Brien, Sr and other family members
- Folder 3: Email Communication between Julia M. O'Brien-Merrill and Jim Vrabel Re: Walter O'Brien's Life
- Folder 4: Photographs of Walter and Laura O'Brien and Family
- Folder 5: Certificates of Discharge for Sea Service, 1933-1935
- Folder 6: Contents of Walter A. O'Brien's Wallet Including Professional Membership Cards and Driver's License. 1936-1948
- Folder 7: Walter O'Brien Personal Materials
- Folder 8: Pencil Sketch of Walter O'Brien, Unsigned and Undated
- Folder 9: Property Deeds Purchased by Walter A. and Laura M. O'Brien, 1940-1943
- Folder 10: Union Newsletters and Pamphlets, 1940s 1950's
- Folder 11: War Ration Books for Walter A. O'Brien, Jr. (WWII c. 1941-1945)
- Folder 12: Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, 1943 -1947
- Folder 13: Pay Stubs for Walter A. O'Brien from the SS Hadley F. Brown of the Mystic Steamship Division, 1944
- Folder 14: US Individual Income Tax Returns, 1946 & 1953
- Folder 15: Honorable service certificate for serving in the American Merchant Marine Services during WWII, 2 Sept 1945
- Folder 16: Wage Vouchers and Records for Employment with Parry Navigation Company, Inc., Feb 1945
- Folder 17: Materials related to Personal Housing Expenses (i.e. insurance, heating costs, etc.), 1946-1957
- Folder 18: Proposed Bylaws for the Radio Division MEBA, 1948
- Folder 19: The National Shawmut Bank of Boston, Checking and Savings Account Materials, 1953-1957
- Folder 20: Chevrolet Automobile Sales Awards and Related Materials, 1955-1969

Box 2: Walter A. O'Brien Life and Education (continued)

- Folder 1: Official Graduate School Transcript, University of Maine, Orono, ME, 1962-1966
- Folder 2: Gorham State College of the University of Maine, Alumni Directory, 1969
- Folder 3: Walter A. O'Brien's Research on John Bundy Brown, Banker and Portland Sugar Merchant in the 1800's, 1971
- Folder 4: Teaching Certification, 1968-73 and Teacher's Contracts, 1976-77
- Folder 5: "John Bundy Brown, Maine's Horatio Alger? A Class Report Submitted to the
- Graduate School University of Maine at Portland-Gorham," Author Richard A. Sweeny, 9 April 1975
- Folder 6: Loose Pages of Copies of Photographs of John Bundy Brown and His Businesses in Portland, ME, c. 1860s
- Folder 7: Gorham State College Class of 1935 50th Year Reunion, Alumni Day, 1985
- Folder 8: "First Night Boston: 2001" Guide to Happenings in/around Boston, 31 Dec 2000
- Folder 9: Postcards from Massachusetts and Maine, Undated
- Folder 10: Handmade Birthday card from Janice to Mama, 1882

- Folder 11: Letter To/From Francis O'Brien and Walter A. O'Brien, 1931 and 1954
- Folder 12: Articles from Magazines and Newspapers Re: Francis O'Brien, Portland's

Philosopher and Bookman, 1973-1987

- Folder 13: Newspaper Articles Re: Francis M. O'Brien, Maine Antiquarian Bookseller, 1982 & 1990
- Folder 14: Francis M. O'Brien Obituaries, 1994
- Folder 15: Bowdoin College: 1992-1993 Report of Gifts

Box 3: Political Life of Walter A. O'Brien, 1939 - 1951

- Folder 1: "Everywhere in Boston and How to get There: Street Guide," 1939
- Folder 2: Walter A. O'Brien's Political Pursuits, newspaper Articles, 1946
- Folder 3: Pen & Ink Drawing Entitled "Mass Meeting, Boston," By S. Pollard, 1946
- Folder 4: Flyer announcing Walter A. O'Brien's Speech on 29 July 1948 in Grove Hall
- Folder 5: Wallace and O'Brien's Newspaper Clippings, 1948
- Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings Re: Walter A. O'Brien's Political Career, 1948
- Folder 7: 1948 Congressional Guide to United States Elections, 1948
- Folder 8: Walter A. O'Brien's Address at Boston Gardens, 18 September 1948
- Folder 9: Walter A. O'Brien for Congress, candidate for the Progressive Democratic Party, 1948
- Folder 10: Walter A. O'Brien's Stand on Issues While a Candidate for US Senate, 1948
- Folder 11: Materials from the Progressive Party with Henry Wallace for president, 1948
- Folder 12: Boston's Board of Elections Commissioners Application to Run for Mayor, 29 August 1949
- Folder 13: Correspondence between Walter A. O'Brien and Friends, 1949-1996
- Folder 14: Eyewitness: "Peekskill (NY), USA, 27 August -4 September 1949, An Account of

What Really Happened as presented in a Documentary Report," By Paul Robeson

- Folder 15: Political Candidates that O'Brien Supported, 1940's and 1950's
- Folder 16: Pamphlets on Interracial Issues
- Folder 17: Typed Speech, "What Every Voter Should Find out about Every Candidate," Undated and Unsigned, includes handwritten notes
- Folder 18: Newspaper Clippings for Political Candidates, 1950-1952
- Folder 19: Letters to Walter A. O'Brien Re: Political Support/Issues, 1950-1951
- Folder 20: Masses and Mainstream, October 1950
- Folder 21: "The Story of Ponzi: An Italian Immigrant Held as Political Prisoner," 1950-1954
- Folder 22: Newspaper Clippings, Undated Re: Walter A. O'Brien's Political Pursuits
- Folder 23: Newspaper Clippings, Laura M. O'Brien's Campaign for Boston City Council, 1951
- Folder 24: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston, Nomination Petition for Laura M. O'Brien, 1951
- Folder 25: Victor Alfred Lundy, Architectural Drawing of Filenes, 10 August 1951
- Folder 26: Laura M. O'Brien's Letters from the Women's International Democratic Federation, August and October, 1951
- Folder 27: Letters to Laura M. O'Brien, 1951-1952
- Folder 28: Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1951

Box 4: Political lives of Walter A., Jr. and Laura M. O'Brien, 1952-2011; Political Life: FBI Report and McCarthyism Charges

Folder 1: Flyers and Brochures Supporting Candidates in Massachusetts, 1952

- Folder 2: World Congress of Women, <u>As One: For Equality, For Happiness, For Peace</u>, 5-10 June 1953
- Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1953-1959
- Folder 4: Minutes, Financial Statements, Proposed Agenda, Handwritten Notes and Newsletter for the Progressive Party, January 16-17, 1954
- Folder 5: Issues for Progressives in the '54 Election, 22 October 1954
- Folder 6: Pamphlets on Politics and the Progressive Party
- Folder 7: 40th Anniversary Issue New Republic: A Journal of Opinion, 1914-1954, 22 November 1954
- Folder 8: Indochina Pamphlets and Congressional Record, 1954
- Folder 9: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts House Bills, circa 1954
- Folder 10: Letter from Walter A. O'Brien Re: Mayoral Election in Boston, "Keep McCarthyism out of Boston by Defeating Senator Powers at the Polls, "4 Nov 1955
- Folder 11: I.F. Stone's Weekly, 25 January 1960 8 October 1962
- Folder 12: Kennedy Johnson Ticket for President, Walter A. O'Brien Chairman, Ward 6, 1960
- Folder 13: Walter A. O'Brien Supported John Kennedy in 1960
- Folder 14: Petition to Add Julia. M. O'Brien on the Ballot for the Progressive Candidate for Congress, from the 12th Massachusetts District, 4 July 1975
- "The Skunk Case of 1951," In Monthly Review, January 1993 By Dirk Struik (With handwritten not to Walter O'Brien from Barbara)
- Folder 15: Not So Popular Front: The Progressive Party of Massachusetts and the Elections of 1948, by James Whitter's, 2003
- Folder 16: Obituary Honoring Lawrence D. Shubow (1922-2011) Activist and Campaign Manager for Walter A. O'Brien, 17 October 2011
- Political Life: FBI Report and McCarthyism Charges
- Folder 17: Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Report of Walter A. O'Brien, 1946-1959 (Folder 1 of 4) Introductory Materials
- Folder 18: FBI Report of Walter A. O'Brien, 1946-1959 (Folder 2 of 4), pages 1a-49

Box 5: Political lives: FBI Report and McCarthyism charges; Political Life and Friend, Florence H. Luscomb

- Folder 1: FBI Report of Walter A. O'Brien, 1946-1959 (Folder 3 of 4), Detailed Supporting Reports
- Folder 2: FBI Report of Walter A. O'Brien, 1946-1959 (Folder 4 of 4), Supporting Documents and Copies of Newspaper Articles
- Folder 3: Challenges to McCarthyism Charges, 1954-1955
- Folder 4: Statement by Miss Florence H. Luscomb to the Special Commission to Study Communism, 7 January 1955
- Folder 5: <u>The Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Interim Report of the Special Commission on</u> Communism, Subversive Activities and Related Matters within the Commonwealth, June 1955
- Folder 6: Walter A. O'Brien Called Before the Massachusetts Commission on Communism, June 1955
- Folder 7: Statement by Laura M. O'Brien to Special Commission to Study and Investigate Communism and Subversive Activities and Related Matters. Undated
- Folder 8: House Committee on Un-American Activities
- Folder 9: "Commies Sins," Unsigned, Dated 3 March, No Year

- Folder 10: A Petition for the Dissolution of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and Signers of the Appeal, Undated
- Folder 11: Aaron Copeland: FBI Probed Un-American Compose, Circa Early 1990s *Political Life and Friend, Florence H. Luscomb*
- Folder 1: Cards and letters from Florence Luscomb to Walter and or Laura O'Brien, 1959-1976
- Folder 2: Photograph of Miss Florence H. Luscomb from <u>Time Life Books: This Fabulous</u> Century, 1910-1920, Vol II, c. 1969, p. 47

Box 6: Political lives and friend, Florence Hope Luscomb; M.T.A. Campaign song/Kingston Trio hit "Charlie and the M.T.A."

- Folder 1: Wallace Campaign Handbook (of the Progressive Party), 1948, Florence H. Luscomb's Copy
- Folder 2: "The Progressive Party and What They Did to Me: A Mental Autobiography," By Florence H. Luscomb, Talk Given at Goddard College, Vermont, 1967
- Folder 3: Articles and Timeline Honoring Florence H. Luscomb's Life/Accomplishments, 1971, 1979 and 1986
- Folder 4: Photographs and Note Re: Celebration of Design (and Fundraising Competition) of Massachusetts State House Women's Project, October 1998
- Folder 5: "Mass Humanities: A Publication of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities," 1998-2000
- Folder 6: Walter A. O'Brien Supports the Massachusetts Foundation for The Humanities Project to Honor Contributions of Women (Included is his friend Florence H. Luscomb)
- Folder 7: Photographs at Dedication of "Hear Us: A New Work of Art Honoring the
- Contributions of Women to Public Life in Massachusetts," 19 October 1999, Boston, MA
- (Florence Luscomb was Honored and Julia O'Brien Merrill and Kathleen O'Brien Hartig, Walter O'Brien's two daughters, attended)
- Political Life and MTA Campaign Song/Kingston Trio Hit "Charlie and the MTA"
- Folder 8: "Charley on the MTA" Written by Jacqueline Berman Steiner and Bess Haves as a campaign Song for Walter A. O'Brien's Boston Mayoral Campaign, Recorded by Will Holt, 1948
- Folder 9: Correspondence between Walter A. O'Brien and J. Gordon Scannel, MD Re: Charlie and the MTA Song, 1984
- Folder 10: Letters from Reverend Ms. Denise Tracy, First Church and Parish of Dedham, MA, 1989-1991 Re: Charlie and the MTA Song and Its History
- Folder 11: <u>Living in the Wind Stream of Living Soul, Volume III: Stories for Home and</u> Worship, by Reverend Ms. Denise D. Tracy, 1989
- Folder 12: "Politics as Practical Morality," Sermon by Reverend Bruce E. Kennedy, First Church and Parish in Dedham, MA, 3 November 1991
- Folder 13: National Geographic Article "Boston: Breaking New Ground," (Includes Walter O'Brien and the M.T.A. Song), pgs. 2-29, Vol 186, No 1, July 1994.
- Folder 14: Speech with all handwritten Notes on How the MTA Song was Written, By Walter A. O'Brien, 6 November 1995

Box 7: M.T.A. Campaign song/Kingston Trio hit "Charlie and the M.T.A."

Folder 1: "Remember Charlie and the MTA? History Notebook," <u>The Boston Sunday Globe</u>, 11 August 1996

Folder 2: The Story of Walter O'Brien and "Charlie and the MTA," 1998

Folder 3: "Charlie at 50" By Jim Whitter's, Mount Vernon Street, 9 November 1998, Article, Draft and Notes

Folder 4: Correspondence (Email and Letter) Between the O'Brien Sisters, Julia and Kate, Re: MTA Song, 2001-2008

Folder 5: Jacqueline Steiner, Folk Musician, Co-Writer of Original MTA Song, 2007

Folder 6: "Banned in Red Scare Boston: The Forgotten Story of Charlie and the MTA," in Dissent, Spring 2008, pgs. 81-96by Peter Dreier and Jim Vrabel

Folder 7: Typed Notes transcribed by Julia O'Brien-Merrill from Talk Walter A. O'Brien Made to Granddaughter Gretchen Hartig's School (1995), 2014

Folder 8: Correspondence (Email) from Julia O'Brien-Merrill to MHL Re: The Processing of Walter O'Brien's Papers, May 2015-Jan 2017

Folder 9:" Walter O'Brien: The Man Who Never Returned," By Peter Dreier and Jim Vrabel, Published in the <u>Jacobian</u>, 9 May 2017

Folder 10: <u>Charlie on the M.T.A. Did He Ever Return?</u> By Julia M. O'Brien-Merrill and Illustrated by Caitlin Marquis, May 2017

Box 8: Audio, VHS and CD Recordings

Audio: "MTA Song Background and Speech;" Original MTA Song, O'Brien Campaign, Boston, 1949; "MTA Kingston Trio Original with George"

VHS: "Pop Goes the 4th, "1997

CD: "M.T.A.," WBZ Radio, 6 July 2008; Dedication "Hear Us," SHWLP, 19 October 1999

Box 9: Walter A. O'Brien, Librarian

Folder 1: Newspaper clippings of Walter A. O'Brien as Librarian, 1969-1971 & 1976

Folder 2: Letters to Walter A. O'Brien, 1969 - 1975

Folder 3: Supportive Documents for Role on Maine State Library Commission, 1970-1981 and Undated

Folder 4: Westbrook High School Library Initiates New Reference Service, 1971

Folder 5: Library Services and Construction Act: Five Year Plan for State-Wide Library

Development in Maine, Revised, September 1973

Folder 6: Maine Library Commission Meeting Minutes, 1973-1976

Folder 7: Communications, Maine State Library Commission, 1973-1978

Folder 8: Department of Media Services, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, 1974-1975

Folder 9: Education Media Services Systems Evaluation, Keene High School, 1975

Folder 10: American Institute for Creative Education, 1975

Box 10: Walter A. O'Brien, Librarian (Continued)

Folder 1: Library Services and Construction Act: 5 Year Plan for Statewide Library

Development in Maine, Revised 1 July 1975

Folder 2: Bucksport, Maine High School Accreditation, 1976-1978

Folder 3: Statement on the Evaluation of PL 626-State Library, 23 March 1976

Folder 4: Legislative Document, 108th Legislature, "An Act to Create a Department of Cultural Resources," 17 June 1978

Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s -2012

- Folder 6: Massachusetts Trade Union Education League: Labor Series, 1980-1981
- Folder 7: Film Study Curriculum and Notes for Film Study Class, Undated
- Folder 8: The Short Film "The Leaf" (Overview, curriculum outline and questions, student worksheets), Undated
- Folder 9: Assessment Tool for Teacher Competence for the Improvement of Instruction, Undated
- Folder 10: Faculty Social and benevolence Club, Undated

Box 11: Walter A. O'Brien, Owner of Bookstore "The Book Peddler"

- Folder 1: Select Receipt Books for book sales from 1980s-1990
- Folder 2: Correspondence between the Book Peddler and Patrons, 1981
- Folder 3: Book Marks and Book Plates
- Folder 4: Maine and New England Book Sellers
- Folder 5: Book Pamphlets
- Folder 6: Book Store Correspondence, 1980s
- Folder 7: Books Want Lists
- Folder 8: Book Requests Taken from Small Wooden 3x5 File Box, Some Dated Some Not
- Folder 9: Book Requests Written, Undated

Box 12: Walter A. O'Brien, Bookstore Owner

- Folder 1: Antiquarian Bookshops across New England Area
- Folder 2: Professional Cards for Book Stores
- Folder 3: Book Peddler's Business Cards and Advertisements
- Folder 4: Down East Magazine, October 1980 and Maine Antique Digest, November 1982

Box 13: Recordings of Charlie and MTA Song (see also Sound recordings 22-23 for vinyl versions)

- -Cassette Audio Tape: MTA Background Speech by W.A. O'Brien with Story recorded 27 January 1996
- -Cassette Audio Tape of the Original MTA Song for Walter O'Brien, Recorded in 1949
- -Cassette Audio Tape of the Original 1958 Kingston Trio MTA Song with George Not Walter
- -CD of Dedication: "Hear Us" SHWLP, 19 October 1999
- -CD of "MTA" WBZ Radio, 6 July 2008
- -Video Cassette entitled "Pop Goes the 4th," 1997

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