

Collection name: Jacques LesStrang Collection

Collection number: TBRC - 21

Dates: 1950s – 1990s

Quantity: 43 boxes, 11 binders, + movie reel

Provenance note: Personal collection of documents and photographs gathered as founder and editor-in-chief of *Great Lakes/Seaway Review*. Donated by daughter, Michelle Cortright, in 2012.

Biographical & Historical Information:

“Jacques LesStrang was one of the nation's outstanding and most widely quoted authors on the Great Lakes. He wrote six books on subjects ranging from international trade to maritime and political history, to U.S.-Canadian relations. His book “Seaway,” which chronicled the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway, was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection. He began publishing the widely respected and internationally distributed maritime journal, *Seaway Review*, in 1969 and served as Editor-in-Chief for 24 years. He founded the successful regional firm Harbor House Publishers, and served as CEO until 1990. In addition, Mr. LesStrang published economic reports for the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament and wrote the script for the 1993 PBS documentary, “Inward Passage.” He was named “Maritime Writer of the Year” by the U.S. Propeller Club and “Great Lakes Man of the Year” by the governors of the eight Great Lakes states and premiers of the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

In recent years, Mr. LesStrang served as the CEO of the LesStrang Group, a Christian publishing and marketing firm in Palm Desert, California. LesStrang was also the former president and creative director of an international advertising and marketing agency with offices in Michigan and London, England. He served as an international marketing consultant to the State of Michigan, heading trade missions to Europe to generate business for the state. In addition, he managed a number of successful state and national political campaigns for congressional and gubernatorial candidates, including former Michigan Governors William Milliken and George Romney. Mr. LesStrang's work on international marketing, government, and the maritime industry has been published in 16 languages.

Born in Pittsburgh, raised by his mother, Ada, LesStrang developed a lifelong love of literature and music, which he shared with his seven