Guide to the Wallace Irwin papers, ca. 1917-1959

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Note
Arts and Humanities --Literature --American Literature
Collection number: BANC MSS C-H 109

Collection Title: Wallace Irwin Papers,

Date (inclusive): ca. 1917-1959

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 109

Origination: Irwin, Wallace, 1875-1959

Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxes, 8 cartons

Repository: The Bancroft Library.

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Some letters from family, friends, agents and publishers; manuscripts of short stories, novels, plays, poems, etc.; manuscript of his unpublished autobiography; clippings; scrapbooks; publishing agreements; photographs and snapshots; drawings; personalia. Manuscripts of writings of his wife, Laetitia M. Irwin, also included.

Languages Represented: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Material Cataloged Separately
Photoprints and drawings transferred to the pictorial collections of The Bancroft Library (BANC PIC 1960.006--B and BANC PIC 1960.007--PIC)

Biography
Wallace Irwin -humorist, author and journalist -was born in Oneida, New York, March 15, 1875. When he was five the family moved to Leadville, Colorado. Both he and his brother Will (who also became a noted author and journalist) attended Stanford University and there earned reputations that, according to Wallace, "savored of brimstone." Editing two of the campus publications, Wallace brought down on his head the ire of certain faculty members whom he lampooned in verse. He was expelled, as was Will previously.

Wallace then went to San Francisco in pursuit of a newspaper career. He worked for a time as a reporter on The Report, the News Letter and the Examiner, and then as editor of the Overland Monthly. Acting on a suggestion from Gelett Burgess, Irwin amplified some verse he had composed for the Overland into a series of sonnets written in tough American slang. The Love Sonnets of a Hoodlum, begun as a literary prank, was published by Morgan Shepard and Paul Elder in pamphlet form. It enjoyed great popularity and went through several editions. Moreover, reviewers all over the country praised it.

Like most western authors, Irwin went to New York, and eventually joined the staff of Collier's. The magazine serialized his famous Letters of a Japanese Schoolboy, in which the character Hashimura Togo appeared, and so popular did it become that Irwin resigned from the staff in 1909 to syndicate his series and freelance. From then on he wrote independently, contributing articles and stories to several periodicals and producing several novels, including Seed of the Sun (1921), Lew Tyler's Wives (1923) and The Julius Caesar Murder Case (1935).

Irwin died in 1959 at his home in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Scope and Content
Mrs. Irwin, the former Laetitia McDonald, and a novelist in her own right, presented a collection of their papers to the Bancroft Library in 1959, with a few additions in 1960. They include letters from friends, family, agents and publishers, ca. 1917-1959; manuscripts of their writings (novels, short stories, plays, etc.); the manuscript of Irwin’s unpublished autobiography; clippings; scrapbooks; publishing contracts and agreements; photographs; and drawings. The papers are described in greater detail in the Key to Arrangement which follows.
Ctn. 6

Clippings
Stories, poems and articles clipped from magazines and newspapers; articles about the Irwins; book reviews, etc.

Ctn. 7

Scrapbooks of clippings

Contracts and agreements

Photographs and snapshots (including a Rollin Kirby illustration for a Togo story)

Drawings: removed to Pitorial collection. drawings

Ctn. 8

Printed material, including

The Teddysee (Removed for separate cataloging) by Wallace Irwin (1910)
The Hamadryads by Will Irwin and W.J. McCoy, written for the 1904 Bohemian Club
High Jinks inscribed by Inez Irwin
A Treasury of Golf Humor (194?) containing the story, "Murder at the Thirteenth Hole" by Wallace Irwin;
Advance proofs for Africa, written for the Theodore Roosevelt luncheon, 1909
Copy of Welcome Home printed for the Theodore Roosevelt dinner, June 22, 1910.

Personalia

Scope and Content Note
Includes passport, documents relating to appointment in the naval reserve, biographical data, etc.

Manuscripts of short stories, plays, novels, and articles and essays written by Laetitia Irwin

Miscellany

portfolio Portfolio

Oversize drawings

Scope and Content Note
Includes a drawing of Irwin by George Palmer Putnam and a Rollin Kirby illustration for a Togo story.

A Miscellany (single letters)

Adams, Franklin Pierce, 1881-
Letter, Dec. 17, 1941

Adams, Samuel Hopkins, 1871-1958
Letter, June 23, 1933

Albright, Horace Marden, 1890-
Letter, May 4, 1923

Allardyce, Sir William Lamond, 1861-1930
Letter, Jan. 24, 1927

Atherton, Gertrude Franklin (Horn), 1857-1948
2 letters, 1920-1921

B Miscellany

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937
Letter, July 19, 1917

Beebe, Charles William, 1877-
Letter, July 20, 1927

Bordeaux, Delmar B.
Letter, Dec. 10, 1943

Broughton, Joseph Melville, 1888-
Letter, Mar. 3, 1949

Brown, Harry Joe
Letter, Oct. 23, 1939

Burman Ben Lucien, 1895-
Letter, n. d.

Burt, [Maxwell] Struthers, 1882-
Telegram, May 2, 1941

Bailey, Thomas Andrew, 1902-
3 letters, 1955-1957
Bigelow, Poulney, 1855-1954
  2 letters, 1945

Brandt and Brandt
  38 letters, 1929-1953. Mainly from Carl Brandt. Some are addressed to Mrs. Irwin.

C Miscellany
  Calder, William Musgrave, 1869-1945
    Letter, Mar. 29, 1919
  [Clemens, Samuel Langhore], 1835-1910
    Note, Mar. 8, 1909
  Clemens, Cyril, 1902-
    5 letters, 1935-1957
  Coblentz, Stanton Arthur, 1896-
    2 letters, 1944
  Costain, Thomas Bertram, 1885-
    2 letters, 1927 & 1937
  Croy, Homer, 1883-
    2 letters, n.d.

D Miscellany
  Doyle, Helen (MacKnight), 1872-
    Letter, Jan. 25, 1933
  Dyer, Frank Lewis, 1870-
    Letter, Apr. 3, 1934
  Durstine, Roy Sarles, 1886-
    2 letters, 1928 & 1937
  Egan, Martin, 1872-1938
    5 letters, 1925-1934

Egan, Martin, 1872-1938
  5 letters, 1925-1934

F Miscellany
  Farrand, Max, 1869-
    Letter, Sept. 3, 1930
  Fadiman, Clifton, 1904-
    See Writers' War Board
  Field, Charles Kellogg, 1873-
    6 letters, 1928-1940
  Friedman, Phil Allan
    3 letters, 1953
  Greenslet, Ferris, 1875-1953
    See Houghton Mifflin Company
  Gulick, Sidney Lewis, 1860-1945
    2 letters, 1921

H Miscellany
  Hart, Albert Bushnell, 1854-1943
    Letter, Jan. 8, 1921
  Herrick, Robert, 1868-1938
    Letter, n.d.
  Hagedorn, Hermann, 1882-
  Hays, Will H., 1879-1959
    2 letters, 1921-1932
  Hoover, Herbert Clark, Pres. U. S., 1874-1964
    3 letters, 1921-1930. One written for him by his secretary.
  Houghton Mifflin Company
  Howland, Harry S., 1877-
    2 letters, 1917
  Hurst, Fannie, 1889-
    4 letters, 1921-1953
I Miscellany
   Ives, Irving McNeil, 1896-
       Letter, Mar. 4, 1949
Irwin, Donald (son)
       10 letters, 1932-1949
Irwin, Wallace, Jr.
       5 letters, 1950-1955
Irwin, William Henry, 1873-1948
       3 letters, 1919-1946 & n.d.
K Miscellany
   Kahler, Hugh MacNair, 1883-
       Letter, Apr. 12, 1930
   Kaltenborn, Hans Von, 1878-
       Letter, Feb. 17, 1959
   Krock, Arthur, 1886-
       Letter, Apr. 17, 1930
Kahn, Julius, 1861-1924
       2 letters, 1920 & 1921
L Miscellany
   Lane, Franklin Knight, 1864-1921
       Letter, n.d.
   Leacock, Stephen, 1869-1944
       Letter, July 8, 1922
   [Lewis, Sinclair], 1885-1951
   Laemmle, Carl, 1867-1939
       2 letters, 1931 & 1937
   La Farge, Christopher, 1897-
       See Writers' War Board
   Lambert, Sylvester Maxwell, 1882-
       11 letters, 1938-1946
   Liberty [magazine]
       2 letters, 1926 & 1936. From Harvey Deuell and Fulton Oursler.
   Littell, Robert, 1896-
       2 letters, 1937-1938
   Little, Brown & Company
M Miscellany
   MacAlarney, Robert Emmet, 1873-
       Letter, n.d.
   McCanse, Ralph Alan
       Letter, Mar. 16, 1953
   McCullough, Esther Morgan
       Letter, June 2, 1956
   McKeogh, Arthur, 1890-1937
       Letter, Oct. 26, 1926
   McKinley, William Brown, 1856-1926
       Letter, Dec. 6, 1920
   Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940
       Letter, Nov. 24, 1929
   McClatchy, Valentine Stuart, 1857-1938
       2 letters, 1920-1921
   Mason, Daniel Gregory, 1873-
       6 letters, 1934-1942
   Mayer, Grace M.
       4 letters, 1956
   Norris, Charles Gilman, 1881-1945
3 letters, 1921-1924
Oursler, Fulton, 1893-
See Liberty [magazine]

P Miscellany
Pearson, Edmund Lester, 1880-1937
Letter, n.d.
Pelley, William Dudley, 1890-
Letter, Feb. 2, 1925
Pershing, John Joseph, 1860-1948
Letter, Dec. 11, 1926
Phelan, James Duval, 1861-1930
2 letters, 1917 & 1924

Pictorial Review
Pollock, Channing, 1880-1946
2 letters, 1937-1941
Putnam, George Palmer, 1887-1950
4 letters, 1923-1934

R Miscellany
Rising, Lawrence
Letter, Jan. 24, 1933
Rinehart, Mary (Roberts), 1876-1958
2 letters, 1932-1933
Roosevelt Memorial Association
See Hagedorn, Hermann

S Miscellany
Siddall, John MacAlpine, 1874-1923
Letter, Dec. 24, 1918
Sisson, Edgar Grant, 1875-
Spaeth, Sigmund, 1885-
Letter, July 28, 1934
Sutro, Oscar, 1874-1935
Letter, Apr. 6, 1927

Satterlee, Herbert Livingston, 1863-1947
3 letters, 1923-1942
Stout, Rex Todhunter, 1886
See Writers' War Board
Sullivan, Mark, 1874-
2 letters, 1921 & 1932

T Miscellany
[Thompson, Dorothy], 1894-1961
Letter, June 20, 1931. Incomplete.
Vance, Arthur Turner, 1872-1930
See Pictorial Review

W Miscellany
Wells, Herbert George, 1866-1946
Physical Description: Wilbur, Ray Lyman, 1875-1949

Letter, Apr. 17, 1930

Writers' War Board
8 letters, 1943-1945. From Rex Stout, Clifton Fadiman and Christopher La Farge.