Overview of the Collection

Title: Akins-Jannay Collection and Addenda

Dates (inclusive): 1920-1992

Collection Number: mssHM 71484-71509, mssHM 80300-80302

Creator: Akins family.

Extent: 28 pieces + ephemera and printed books in 6 boxes

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

Overview of the Collection

Title: Akins-Jannay Collection and Addenda

Dates (inclusive): 1920-1992

Collection Number: mssHM 71484-71509, mssHM 80300-80302

Creator: Akins family.

Extent: 28 pieces + ephemera and printed books in 6 boxes

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection consists of manuscripts by dramatist, novelist, poet and screenwriter Zoë Akins (1886-1958), and other Akins family members, a few pieces of correspondence, a photographic album, drawings, reel-to-reel tapes, printed books, and ephemera.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Publication Rights

The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining necessary permissions rests with the researcher.

Preferred Citation


Provenance

The collection was acquired by the Huntington from Carla Jannay in April 2009. James Nigra and Carla Jannay-Nigra, inherited the estate of Zoë Akins’ nephew, Thomas Prewitt (Tommy’s mother, Marie Prewitt, was Zoë Akins’ sister). The estate included many papers, books, and furniture which originally belonged to Zoë Akins. Addenda purchased from Carla Jannay, May 2010.

Removed or Separated Material

The collection originally included five printed works; three of these volumes were transferred to the Rare Books Department:

- The Poems and Prose Poems of Charles Baudelaire, copy owned and signed by Tallulah Bankhead, (New York: Brentano’s, 1919) (Call number: 623373).
- Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958. Forever Young, with dust jacket, (New York: Scribner’s, 1941) (Call number: 623374).

The remaining two volumes can be found in Box 5.

- Zoë Akins Papers, (Call number: mssZA 1-7330) (includes various people as author, addressee or subject who are in the Akins-Jannay Collection; also, several of the manuscripts, “Plans for Tomorrow,” “Others Than Myself,” and “Unrecorded Notoriety”)
- Sonya Levien Papers, (Call number: mssHM 55683-56785, HM 74388)

Biographical Note

Zoë Akins (1886-1958) was a dramatist, novelist, poet and screenwriter. In 1935, she won the Pulitzer Prize for her dramatization of Edith Wharton’s story, “The Old Maid.” In addition to many screenplays and plays, Akins also authored two volumes of poetry, criticism, two novels, teleplays, magazine and newspaper articles.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of the following material:
1. Manuscripts (Boxes 1-3) are arranged alphabetically by author and title. Included in this series are manuscripts by Zoë Akins, including: “The Daughter of Mars,” “Others Than Myself,” (her unpublished memoir), “Papa,” “Plans for Tomorrow,” and “The Singing Swans.” This series also includes manuscripts by Akins’ family members: Sarah Elizabeth Akins (mother), Laurie Metcalf (great-niece), Marie Prewitt (sister), and Thomas Akins (nephew); also, an extensive appraisal for Akins’ Brigden Road home, and a poem by Dorothy Robinson.

2. Correspondence, Photograph Album, Drawings and Ephemera (Box 3) is arranged alphabetically by author and subject. This series includes three business letters concerning “The Old Maid,” by Edith Wharton, and two personal letters to Thomas Prewitt. Also included are a family photograph album of the Maginty and Mars families (relatives of Zoë Akins), two pencil drawings and two folders of Ephemera.

3. Addenda - Manuscripts, Photograph and Ephemera (Box 4) is arranged alphabetically by author and subject. This series includes the teleplay “Dinner Party,” a dissertation by Ronald Mielech, a photograph of Zoë Akins, and printed material.

4. Addenda - Printed Material, Ephemera, Reel-to-Reel Tapes and Printed Books (Boxes 5-6) is arranged alphabetically by author and format. This series includes printed material, tapes of interviews, and books inscribed by and to Zoë Akins.

**Arrangement**

Organized in the following manner:

- Box 1: Manuscripts (Akins) (HM 71484-71489)
- Box 2: Manuscripts (Akins cont. - Prewitt) (HM 71490-71497)
- Box 3: Manuscripts (Prewitt cont. - Robinson), Correspondence, Photograph Album, Drawings and Ephemera HM 71498-71509)
- Box 4: Manuscripts, Photograph & Ephemera (HM 80300-80302)
- Box 5: Printed Material & Addenda: Ephemera, Reel-to-Reel Tapes, Printed Books
- Box 6: Addenda: Printed Books

Arranged alphabetically within item types.

**Indexing: Added Entries**


**Indexing: Subjects**


Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958 -- Archives.
Women dramatists, American -- 20th century -- Archives.

Forms/Genres
Drawings -- United States -- 20th century.
Ephemera -- United States -- 20th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th century.
Manuscripts -- United States -- 20th century.
Photographs -- United States -- 20th century.
Plays -- United States -- 20th century.
Poems -- United States -- 20th century.

Box 1

Akins, Sarah Elizabeth. “Memoirs of Sarah Elizabeth Akins:” [later draft], carbon copy (MS., typewritten: 21 p.), ([1931-1941]). HM 71484

With a few autograph corrections. Fragile -- please handle carefully.

[Akins, Sarah Elizabeth]. [American Civil War film scenario?: scene outline, two early drafts], carbon copy (MS., typewritten: 88 p.), ([ca. 1935?]). HM 71485

With autograph corrections. Enclosed: scene outline (7 p.), early drafts (blue ink, 60 p., black ink, 21 p.); some of the pages are duplicates, both drafts are incomplete.

[Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958]. [Autograph notes for appraisal]?, A.MS. (2 p.), ([ca. 1932?]). HM 71486

With a few autograph notes by Akins; with original paper covers, with the name Lewis Allen (the director). Also enclosed: carbon copy, typewritten early draft, incomplete (35 p.).


With autograph corrections.


With autograph corrections.


With autograph corrections & additions; with original paper cover.


With autograph corrections.


Note: pages are numbered 17 & 18; slightly stained.

[Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958]. “Women ----? I Hate Them:” [essay], carbon copy (MS., typewritten: 3 p.), ([ca. 1920?]). HM 71493

Fragile -- please handle carefully. With a duplicate page Three, signed by Marie Prewitt, Akins’ sister.

Fidelity Appraisal Co. Appraisal for 2041 Brigden Road, Altadena, Calif.: prepared for Miss Zoë Akins, bound volume (MS., typewritten: 90 p.), (1932, Apr. 27) [Los Angeles (Calif.)]. HM 71494

Some pages heavily annotated by Zoë Akins and others.

Metcalf, Laurie, 1955-. “Forever Young:” [essay], MS. (typewritten: 3 p.), (1972). HM 71495

Note: stained.

[Mielech, Ronald A.] [The Plays of Zoë Akins Rumbold: dissertation:] pages 24-41 only, phot. copy (MS., typewritten: 18 p.), ([1974]). HM 71496

Note: this dissertation is part of the Addenda material and cataloged as HM 80301 (1-4).


Box 3 Manuscripts, Correspondence, Photograph Album, Drawings & Ephemera -- HM 71498-71509
[Prewitt, Thomas]? “The Chief Retires...:” [short story?], MS. (typewritten: 19 p.), ([1935?]). HM 71498
Incomplete. With extensive water and insect damage, with some loss of text; pages very fragile -- please handle carefully.

[Prewitt, Thomas]? “In the meantime Tony had put Peter in an old Ford...:” [short story?], carbon copy (MS., typewritten: 1 p.), ([1935?]). HM 71499
Incomplete.

Incomplete; with autograph corrections by Zoë Akins (in pencil). With extensive water damage, with some loss of text; pages very fragile -- please handle carefully and do not remove from mylar.

Robinson, Dorothy. “The Lingerie Ball:” [poem], carbon copy (MS., typewritten: 1 p.), ([ca. 1940?]), Louisville (Ky.). HM 71501
Note: stained.

Signed by: Herbert A. Fierst. With extensive water damage, with some loss of text; pages very fragile -- please handle carefully and do not remove from mylar.

Addressed to: Ross R. Hastings; signed by: Herbert A. Fierst. With extensive water damage, with some loss of text; pages very fragile -- please handle carefully and do not remove from mylar.

-----, Dorothea. 1 letter to Thomas Prewitt, L.S. (typewritten: 1 p.), ([ca. 1943?]), [Calif.]. HM 71505

-----, John. 1 letter to Thomas Prewitt, L.S. (typewritten: 2 p.), (1941, Apr. 17), Los Angeles (Calif.). HM 71506
With autograph postscript.

------. Family Photograph Album: with photos of Fred Maginty, Zoë K. Maginty, Zoë M. Maginty, Kathryn Maginty, Theron Mars, Mary E. Mars, John Mars and Libby Mars, album with wood covers, (12 p.), ([ca. 1945?, Dec.]). HM 71507
Pages are very brittle and coming loose -- please handle carefully; pages are the end of the album are blank. Cataloger’s Note: Zoë K. Maginty and Mary E. Mars were the nieces of Zoë Akins. Hyde. “Six gentlemen and I arrived,” 1 color pencil drawing, ([1933]). HM 71508. Note: stained and slightly damaged.

Hyde. “I met a young blond actress named Katherine,” 1 color pencil drawing, ([1933]). HM 71509
Note: stained.

------. Ephemera: Lists of Manuscripts and Correspondence in the Zoë Akins Collection: photostats & photocopy, 3 pieces, (1958-1968). Box 3(13). Cataloger’s Note: please consult the Zoë Akins Papers Finding Aid for more information about this material.


With original paper covers.


Note: incomplete, missing pages 24-41; these missing pages were part of the original collection and are cataloged as HM 71496.

Murrell. Zoë Akins, 1886-1958, 1 B&W photograph, ([ca. 1935]?). HM 80302


Box 5
Folder 1 Printed Material & Addenda: Ephemerata, Reel-to-Reel Tapes, Printed Books

Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958. Interpretations (poems), ([ca. 1912]).

Inscribed by Akins to Ray Prewitt, her brother-in-law. Very fragile -- loose pages, handle carefully.

Folder 2

Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958. The Old Maid (play), ([ca. 1951]).

Note: heavy water damage -- please handle carefully.

Addenda

Folder 3

Reel-to-Reel Tape. [Interview with Zoë Akins: Scott Fitzgerald - 1st Take]?, ([before 1958]).

With a few autograph notes by Akins.

Folder 4

Reel-to-Reel Tape. [Interview with Zoë Akins: Scott Fitzgerald - 1st half / Orrick Johns - 2nd half]?, ([before 1958]).

With a few autograph notes by Akins.

Folder 5

Reel-to-Reel Tape. [Interview with Zoë Akins: Orrick Johns]?, ([before 1958]).

With a few autograph notes by Akins.

Folder 6

Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958. “Cake Upon the Waters:” sample copy, ([ca. 1919]).

Pages are blank, with a few pencilled lists and drawings by Akins.

Folder 7


With Zoë Akins’ bookplate: “Ex Libris / Zoë Rumbold.”

Folder 8


With inscription and signature by Carroll Carstairs: New York, January 7, 1935. Also: dust jacket in very poor condition; removed and placed in mylar.

Folder 9


With dust jacket. Signed by Zoë Akins as “Z A Rumbold.”
Box 6
Folder 1  Addenda: Printed Books
   With inscription and signature by John N. Edwards: Christmas 1907.
   With dust jacket. With inscription and signature by Thomas Robert Smith.
   With Zoë Akins' bookplate: “Ex Libris / Zoë Rumbold.”
   Note: pages uncut. With inscription and signature by John Myers O’Hara: May 7, 1921.
   With Zoë Akins' bookplate: “Ex Libris / Zoë Rumbold.”
   With Zoë Akins' bookplate: “Ex Libris / Zoë Rumbold.”