Guide to the Wilbur Daniel Steele Papers M0019

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URL: http://library.stanford.edu/spc
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Wilbur Daniel Steele papers
Creator: Steele, Wilbur Daniel, 1886-1970
Identifier/Call Number: M0019
Identifier/Call Number: 1731
Physical Description: 7 Linear Feet
Date (inclusive): 1907-1970
Abstract: Wilbur Daniel Steele (1886-1970) was an American author and playwright.

Conditions Governing Access
Open for research with the exception ofg accession 1989-109. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.

Conditions Governing Use
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mrs. J. F. Jenners and Wilbur D. Steele, 1961, Peter Steele, 1988, David Jenness, 1989, and some additions from other sources.

Preferred Citation:

Biographical / Historical
Author Wilbur Daniel Steele was born in 1886 in Greensboro, N.C. His father became Professor in the School of Theology at the University of Denver in 1893 where Wilbur D. Steele had his early education and later won a two year scholarship where he was active in athletics. His love of art brought him to Boston where he attended the school of fine arts attached to the Boston Museum. He showed great promise in art, but began to write short stories.

In 1913 he married Margaret Thurston who was a talented painter. They had two sons. In 1931 Mrs. Steele died. In 1932 he married Norma Mitchell, an actress and playwright with whom he collaborated on several plays. They make their home at Lynne, Connecticut where they still reside.

He was several times winner of the coveted O. Henry Short Story Prize. He traveled widely in Africa and Europe, basing many of his stories from various places he lived or visited.

Biographical DATA (biographical sketch written by W.D. Steele)
1890-1892 Binney's Compend of Theology.
1893-1907 Grade, Prep & College (A.B.), University Park, Denver. Letters in 5 sports, captain in 2.
1907-1908 Boston Museum of Fine Arts
1908-1909 Paris, various art courses - began writing there & in Italy.
1917 Travel (for Harpers magazine) in lesser Antilles & Demarara.
1918 Correspondent, attached to Navy, for Cosmopolitan Mag., Eng., Ireland & France.
1919-1920 Bermuda
1922 Removed from Provincetown to Nantucket - resided there until 1929
1922-1923 So. Norwalk, Conn. 1923-4, France 1924-5, Westport, Conn. 1925-6, Switzerland 1926-7 & 1927-8, Charleston, S.C. (There's a winter missing, be dogged if I know where.)
1929 Removed from Nantucket. 29-31, Chapel Hill, N.C. Wife, Margaret, died there.
Scope and Contents
Includes correspondence, chiefly letters by Steele to various members of his family, manuscripts of numerous short stories, plays and novels, three etchings done by Steele, 1908, the privately printed story, "A Life," publishers agreements, photographs, press releases, clippings and other papers.

Paging
Page from catalog record: https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/4082749

box 1, folder 1
Series 1. Correspondence 649877

Scope and Contents
removed from "FOLDER PHOTOGRAPHS OF STEELE, HIS FAMILY, SOME OF HIS ART WORK"
Photos possibly transferred to People Photo File, present whereabouts unconfirmed.

1. Margaret Steele W. Family 649941 Mar 8, 1913.
5. George Broadhurst 649933 Apr 22, 1921.
18. Thurston Steele 649907 Mar 11, 1934.
22. Luther Blake 649899 Jun 20, 1945.
29. A.F. Raiter, Jr. 649885 Sep 16, 1953.

box 1, folder 2
Series 2. Undated letters & notes 649851

1. Note written by W.D.S. 649875 May?, 1914.
2. Mrs. W.D. Steele to Beulah S. Jenness 649873 Aug 17,?
3. Notes from Arthur Bullard 649871 ??
4. [George Ctam Cook] Chaotic note to W.D.S. (?) 649869 Undated
5. Robert Garland 649867 undated
6. Mary Ellen Norwood 649865 undated
7. Edward J. O’Brien 649863 undated
8. Mary Ellen Norwood 649861 undated
9. Margaret Steele 649859 Mar 20,?
**Series 2. Undated letters & notes 649851**

10. Margaret Steele 649857 undated
11. Margaret Steele 649855 7 Jan?
12. John W. Vandercook 649853 undated

**Series 3. Correspondence, outgoing 649759**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Family Letters, 649849 May 4, 1907 - Jan 24, 1910.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, folder 4</td>
<td>Family Letters, 649847 Feb 13, 1910 - Nov 27, 1910.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, folder 5</td>
<td>Family Letters, 649845 Dec 12, 1910 - Jul 29, 1912.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, folder 11</td>
<td>Family Letters, 649833 undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, folder 12</td>
<td>Family Letters, 649831 undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, folder 13</td>
<td>Manuscript story by Muriel Steele Hunter 649829</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, folder 14</td>
<td>LETTERS, to MURIEL STEELE HUNTER 649827 1910-1961</td>
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**Series 4. Manuscripts etc.**

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<tr>
<td>2, folder 1</td>
<td>Account book of prices paid literary works 649825</td>
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<td>2, folder 2</td>
<td>Press Notices 649823</td>
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<td>2, folder 3</td>
<td>Press Notices 649821</td>
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<td>2, folder 4</td>
<td>Clippings 649819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, folder 5</td>
<td>Clippings - CLIPS ADDED 649817 5/68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, folder 6</td>
<td>Photographs 649815</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**chronological list of short stories in boxes 3-7**

**Arrangement**

**Notations:**
- Number underlined: has been published (as, 12)
- *, I have it filed in a clipping as published
- #, I have it filed in manuscript
- ?, doubtful, as of scripts untitled & unremembered
- C, I have it in a published collection of my own work
- A, I have it in a published anthology.

Periodicals & dates of publication given where able. Dates of writing, following titles, will be vague.

No notation, means never sold or published, or preserved. All other than Short Stories, thus (12)

1 THE STRING 649757 (1908-9)
2? AN APOSTLE OF BROTHERLY LOVE 649755 (1908)
3 UNCLE LEMUEL 649753 (1908)
4 (?)# THE OLD MAN’S BROTHER 649751 (1908-9)

**Scope and Contents note**

Sold to McClures, but never pub’d, I believe.

5 # THE TIDE 649749 (1909)
6 * ON THE EBB TIDE 649747 (1909-10)

**Scope and Contents note**

Success Mag. June, 1910
### Series 4. Manuscripts etc.

**chronological list of short stories in boxes 3-7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Story Title</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Gloomy on the Gridiron (The Intellectual Greek)</strong></td>
<td>1910</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Success Mag. Nov. 1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>The Night Country</strong></td>
<td>1911?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Our Peace Navy</strong> (non-fiction)</td>
<td>1911?</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(I am fairly sure this was never sold or pub'd)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>The Moving Picture Magnate</strong></td>
<td>649739</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>The Sentimental Flying Dutchman</strong></td>
<td>1911-12</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Salt of the Earth</strong></td>
<td>649735 (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Treasure Trove</strong></td>
<td>649733 (?)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Fairchild?USCGS</strong></td>
<td>1911?</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>National Airs, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>649729 (1911?)</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(May possibly have been rewritten as <strong>Pickled Sunshine</strong>)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>The Admirable Admirals</strong></td>
<td>649727 (1911)</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Success Magazine, 1911(?)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Pickled Sunshine (Phoebus Bound)</strong></td>
<td>649725 (1911)</td>
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<td>National Magazine, June, 1911.</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Clothes and the Man</strong></td>
<td>649723 (1911)</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(A novel, very punk, never sold)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td><strong>The Insurrecto</strong></td>
<td>649721 (1911)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td><strong>The Islanders</strong></td>
<td>649719 (1911)</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td>Harpers, 1911-12 (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Fish Weirs</strong></td>
<td>649717 (?)</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>(?) <strong>An Eye for an Eye</strong></td>
<td>649715 (?)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>Captain Napolian Bonapart Small</strong></td>
<td>649713 (?)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>24</td>
<td><strong>The Younger Twin</strong></td>
<td>649711 (1912-3-4 various versions)</td>
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<td>Harpers, 1914 (Had previously appeared without my knowledge in New Story Mag (?)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hell to pay.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Condor</strong></td>
<td>649709 (?)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td><strong>An Officer Born</strong></td>
<td>649707 (1911)</td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>American Magazine, 1912</td>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>C A WHITE HORSE WINTER 649705 (1911-12)</td>
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<td>Atlantic Monthly, 1912</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>THE STONE MAN 649703 (1912?)</td>
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<td>Adventure, 1913</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td># THE SCHOOLHOUSE 649701 (1913?)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>* THUMBS DOWN 649699 (1913?)</td>
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<td>Harpers Weekly (?)</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td># ORPHEUS O’GRADY 649697 (1913)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adventure, 1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>(32) * THE PRICE OF FISH 649695 (1912-13?)</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Mag. 1912-13 (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>* THE HANDKERCHIEF LADY’S GIRL (FAIR NAMES) 649693 (1913)</td>
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<td>Harpers, Feb. 1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>* AN EYE OF THE PEOPLE 649689 (1912?)</td>
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<td>Illustrated Sunday Magazine, May, 1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>* PA-JIM 649687 (1914)</td>
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<td>Scribners, Nov. 1914</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>* THE WICKEDNESS OF FATHER VEIERA (WHAT FATHER VEIERA SAW) 649685 (1913?)</td>
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<td>Atlantic, 1914, July</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>* CAPTAIN ULYSSES G. DADD (retired) 649683 (1914)</td>
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<td>Scribners, 1914, July</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>THE WRECK OF THE QUEEN ETC. 649681 (1914?)</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>THE BOOK OF ILLUSION 649679 (?)</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>* A MATTER OF EDUCATION 649677 (UNK)</td>
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<td>Harpers May, 1915</td>
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42 * C THE KILLER'S SON 649675 (1914?)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, 1914(?)

43 * THE MIRACLE 649673 (1914)
Scope and Contents note
The Masses 1915, January

44 # THE WEAKNESS OF THE FLESH 649671 (1914?)
45 C A THE YELLOW CAT 649669 (1914)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, 1915, March

46 * HERITAGE 649667 (1914)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, July 1915

47 * ON MOON HILL 649665 (1914)
Scope and Contents note
Century, April, 1915

48 # THE TEMPTATION OF FATHER VEIERA 649663 (1914)
49 SAL'S YEAR 649661

50 * C# ROMANCE 649659 (1914)
Scope and Contents note
Atlantic, June, 1915

51 THE MAN WHO FORGOT HIS PLACE 649657
52 * THE REAL THING 649655 (1915)
Scope and Contents note
Century, May 1915

53 * THE FREE AGENT 649653 (1915)
Scope and Contents note
Colliers, July 17, 1915

54 C# A DEVIL OF A FELLOW 649651 (1915)
Scope and Contents note
Seven Arts Mag. 1917, April

55 * AN ESCAPE FROM FREEDOM (BEACH COTTAGES) 649649 (1915-16?)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, Oct. 1916

56 # BABY DOLL 649647 (1916?)
57 WOLF, WOLF 649645 (?)
58 C# A# DOWN ON THEIR KNEES 649643 (1915)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, July 1916

59 * # THE LAST FLETCHER 649641 (1916?)
Scope and Contents note
Good Housekeeping, Sept. 1916
60 * # BEFORE THE MAST 649639 (1915)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, March, 1916

61 C LAND'S END 649637 (1915)
Scope and Contents note
Colliers, March 25, 1916

62 # THE CUCKOO’S YOUNG 649635 (1915?)
63 # LITTLE BROTHER 649633 (1915?)
64 C WHITE HANDS 649631 (1916)
Scope and Contents note
Pictorial Review, Jan. 1917

65 * THE HALF GHOST (LEGS) 649629 (1916)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, July 1917

66 FREE 649627 (1916)
Scope and Contents note
Century, Aug. 1917

(67) * THE KILLERS OF PROVINCETOWN 649625 (1916)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, March, 1917

68 C#A CHING, CHING, CHINAMAN 649623 (1917)
Scope and Contents note
Pict. Review, June, 1917

69 * MR. TIMMONS TACKLES LIFE (TAME OATS) 649621 (1916)
Scope and Contents note
A three-part serial in Harpers, 1916-7-8 (???)

70 * C KED’S HAND 649619 (1916?)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, Sept. 1917

71 C THE WAGES OF SIN 649617 (1917?)
Scope and Contents note
Pict. Review, March 1918

72 * # Eternal Youth 649615 (1917?)
Scope and Contents note
Scribners, April 1918

73 * A POINT OF HONOR 649613 (1917?)
Scope and Contents note
Harpers, Nov. 1917
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Story Title</th>
<th>Volume</th>
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<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>AT THE OCEAN CROSS ROADS</td>
<td>649611</td>
<td>(1917)</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT FOR MAN &amp; BIRD</td>
<td>649609</td>
<td>(???) (????)</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>THE WOMAN AT SEVEN BROTHERS</td>
<td>649607</td>
<td>(1917)</td>
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<td>77</td>
<td>BELEAGUERED ISLAND, THE</td>
<td>649605</td>
<td>(1917)</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>THE WHITE MAN</td>
<td>649603</td>
<td>(1917)</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>YOU'RE RIGHT AT THAT</td>
<td>649601</td>
<td>(1917)</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>ALWAYS SUMMER</td>
<td>649599</td>
<td>(1917)</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>A MAN'S A FOOL</td>
<td>649597</td>
<td>(1918)</td>
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<td>82</td>
<td>THE PERFECT FACE</td>
<td>649595</td>
<td>(1918)</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>FOR WHERE IS YOUR FORTUNE NOW</td>
<td>649593</td>
<td>(1918)</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>THE DARK HOUR</td>
<td>649591</td>
<td>(1918)</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>MR. SCATTERGOOD &amp; THE OTHER WORLD</td>
<td>649589</td>
<td>(1918)</td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>A TASTE OF THE OLD BOY</td>
<td>649587</td>
<td>(1918)</td>
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<td>Publication Date</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>THE HEART OF A WOMAN</td>
<td>1918</td>
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<td>Harpers, Feb. 1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>TURNING BACK TO THE SEA</td>
<td>1918</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On assignment for Cosmopolitan, never pub'd, though paid</td>
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<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>1918</td>
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<td>Harpers, 1819</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>GOODFELLOW</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>Harpers, April 1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>C*A FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>Pict. Review, July, 1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>C# Luck</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>C# LA GUIABLESSE</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td># ACCOMPLICE AFTER THE FACT</td>
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<td>Good Housekeeping, Aug. 1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>C# OUT OF EXILE</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>Pict. Review, Nov. 1919</td>
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<td>96</td>
<td>LIGHTNING</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>Noted as sold to Colliers 1919, no record of publishing</td>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<td>Harper, 2 parts, Oct-Nov, 1919</td>
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<td><strong>C*A FOOTFALLS</strong> 649559 (1919)</td>
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<td>106</td>
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<td><strong>ROPES (a one-act play)</strong> 649545 (1920)</td>
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<td>Nos. 108-9-10-11-12 were travel scetches for Harpers.</td>
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<td><strong>THE MEDENINE ROAD</strong> 649539</td>
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113 CA THE MARRIAGE IN KAIRWAN (OH) 649533 (1921)
   Scope and Contents note
   Harpers, Dec. 1921

114 C HE THAT HIDETH HIS SECRET 649531 (1921)
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115 CA FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SOUTH (OB) 649529 (1921)
   Scope and Contents note
   Pict. Review, Aug. 1922

116 C* ARAB STUFF 649527 (1921)
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117 * C THE MAD 649525 (1921)
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118 CA THE GIANTS' STAIR (a one-act play) 649523 (1921)
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119 THE MAN WHO SAT 649521 (1921)
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120 * MARRIAGE 649519 (1921?)
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121 C* CROCUSES 649517 (1922)
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122 C* THE ANGLO SAXON 649515 (1922)
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123 * THE FIRST BORN 649513 (1922)
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124 * GINGER BEER 649511 (1922)
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125 # IN THE CITY OF THE REVOLUTION 649509 (1922)
126 # ANOTHER PEOPLE 649507 (1922)
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   Pict. Review, 1923-4(?)

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127 C# TOWER OF SAND 649505 (1922)
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128 C# LOST-AT-SEA 649503 (1922)
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129 # BLESSED ARE THE POOR 649501 (1923)
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   Bought by Pict. Review, but never published.

130 *# THE THINKER 649499 (1923)
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   Pictorial Review, Dec. 1924

131 C*A WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AMERICANS (OH) 649497 (23)
   Scope and Contents note
   Pictorial Review, April, 1924

132 * NOW I LAY ME 649495 (1923)
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   Pict. Review, April, 1926

133 C SOOTH 649493 (1924?)
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134 A MOTHER'S LOVE 649491 (1924)
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135 C*A SIX DOLLARS (OB) 649489 (1924)
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136 C* THE TERRIBLE WOMAN (one-cat play) 649487 (1924)
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   Pict. Review, 1925(?)

137 # VIRTUE 649485 (1924)
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   Bought by Pict. Review, but never published

138 C*A WHEN HELL FROZE (HPS) 649483 (1924)
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   Harpers, May, 1925

139 C*A BLUE MURDER (WBS, etc) 649481 (1924)
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   Harpers, Oct. 1925
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140 C*A THE MAN WHO SAW THROUGH HEAVEN (OH) 649479 (1925)
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141 C*A OUT OF THE WIND (OB) 649477 (1925)
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142 *# BEAUTY 649475 (1925)
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143 C [UNK] 649473 (1925)
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144 *# BROTHER'S KEEPER 649471 (1925)
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145 C*# AUTUMN BLOOM 649469 (1926)
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146 * GRAY GOOSE 649467 (1926) (or'25?)
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147 C*# MARY DRAKE AND WILL TODD 649465 (1926)
Scope and Contents note
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148 C*A BUBBLES (OH) 649463 (1926)
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149 * AN AMERICAN COMEDY 649461 (1926)
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150 * NEW DEAL 649459 (1926)
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151 C*# A DRINK OF WATER 649457 (1926)
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152 # PLAYTHINGS 649455 (1926)
153 *# SPEED 649453 (1926)
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154 *# WIFE OF A VIKING 649451 (1927)
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155 C SAILOR? SAILOR 649449 (1927)
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156 (THE BAD GIRL) 649447 (1927)
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157 *# WINTER WHEAT 649445 (1927)
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    Pict. Review, Sept. 1928

158 C*# NEVER ANYTHING THAT FADES 649443 (1928)
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    Harpers, 1928-9- (?)

159 A* THE SILVER SWORD (OH) 649441 (1928)
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    Pict. Review, march, 1929

160 # SATAN AM A SNAKE 649439 (1928)
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161 * SURPRIZE 649437 (1928)
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162 * SURVIVOR 649435 (1928)
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163 * CONJUH 649433 (1928)
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164 # A CAN'T CROSS JORDAN BY MYSELF (OH) 649431 (1929)
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    Pict. Review, 1930-1-?

165 * QUICKSILVER 649429 (1929)
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166 *# DAUGHTER OF THE SOIL 649427 (1929)
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182 # THOUSAND HORSEPOWER 649395 (1931)
183 # BY APPOINTMENT 649393 (1932)
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184 # A HOW BEAUTIFUL WITH SHOES (OB) 649391 (1932)
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185 IN MEMORIAM 649389 (1932)
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186 # SOMEONE 649387 (1932-3?)
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187 # I'LL DANCE TO MUSIC 649385 (1933)
188 # BIG DAY 649383 (1933)
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189 # RED CARPET ON THE FLOOR 649381 (1934)
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190 # A BATH IN THE SEA 649379 (1934)
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   Life Story Mag. - to be published in 1946

191 LANDFALL (A SHIP ON THE OCEAN?) 649377 (1934)
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192 # DUE NORTH 649375 (1934)
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193 # ROPE ENOUGH 649373 (???)
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203 (pub'd title?) (NOTHING ON HIM) 649353 (1939)
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204 # WILL YOU ASK ME TO DANCE 649351 (1939)
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206 # A WAY WITH WOMEN 649347 (1939)
207 # THE DAY LOU GEHRIG BENCHED HIMSELF (HANG ONTO HEAVEN) 649345 (1939)
208 * A LIFE IS SO LITTLE 649343 (1940)
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   Good Housekeeping, Oct. 1940

209 # NABOB 649341 (1940)
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215 (SPLENDID GARMENTS) 649329 (1943)
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216 THE CROWNING DIVORCE CASE 649327 (1943)
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217 THE CRYSTAL GAZER'S DAUGHTER 649325 (1943)
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