Finding Aid for the Alan Le May Papers, 1940-1963

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Finding Aid for the Alan Le May Papers, 1940-1963

Collection number: 880

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information
Manuscripts Division
UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
Telephone: 310/825-4988 (10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pacific Time)
Email: spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
URL: http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/scweb/

Processed by:
Phyllis Herzog, 18 August 1965
Encoded by:
Alight Tsai
Encoding supervision by:
Caroline Cubé
Text converted and initial container list EAD tagging by:
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Josh Fiala, May 2002

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Alan Le May Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1940-1963
Collection number: 880
Creator: Le May, Alan, 1899-1964
Extent: 23 boxes (11.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Alan Le May (1899-1964) began his career as a journalist and author of westerns, some of which were adapted
to the screen. He also produced a number of short stories and screenplays in addition to 17 novels. The collection contains
manuscripts of novels, story outlines, and screenplays for television and motion pictures by Le May.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA
Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
Telephone: 310/825-4988 (10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pacific Time)
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Arlene Le May, 1964.

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Biography
Alan Le May was born June 3, 1899 in Indianapolis, Indiana; attended Stetson University and University of Chicago (Ph.B., 1922); began career as journalist; author of westerns, some of which were adapted to the screen, including The Searchers (1954) and The Unforgiven (1957); he was a prolific writer, producing a number of short stories and screenplays in addition to 17 novels; produced and directed High Lonesome in 1950; died on April 27, 1964.

Scope and Content
Collection contains manuscripts of novels, story outlines, and screenplays for television and motion pictures by Le May. Also includes correspondence and ephemera.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Manuscripts (Boxes 1-21).
2. Research materials (Boxes 2, 22).
3. Personal papers (Box 23).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Le May, Alan, 1899-1964--Archives.
Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources.
Screenwriters--United States--Archival resources.
Screenplays.
Television plays.

Manuscripts:

Box 1


Scope and Content Note
Included are 5 copies, typescript and carbon. This is an outline of a story, with research information.
| Box 1 | **Angels Camp.** n.p. 1949.  
Physical Description: Manuscript and typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is a draft of a story, with plans and notes. |
| Box 1 | **Black Cat Patrol.** Screenplay. California, ca. 1951.  
Scope and Content Note  
Included are 4 mimeograph copies, in manila folders. |
| Box 1 | **The Blond in the Box Stall.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
Story frame. |
| Box 2 | **Boom Camp Printer.** Story subject for *The Virginian*, a television series. n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript and carbon. 4 copies with a few corrections. |
| Box 2 | **Calamity Jane.** Screenplay. n.p. October 14, 1944.  
Physical Description: Typescript (carbon). |
| Box 2 | **1862, vol.1 & 2.** Research notes on the South and the Civil War.  
Physical Description: Typescript. Each volume bound in maroon paper cover, and filed in a manila folder.  
Scope and Content Note  
There is no indication as to when this work was done, but perhaps it was undertaken in conjunction with working on the Civil War Story, eventually titled By Dim and Flaring Lamps. |
| Box 2 | **Fort Cloud.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
Story idea. |
| Box 2 | **FSO series.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
Story idea and plan for a series of screenplays. |
| Box 2 | **Project Hotspot.** n.p. 1962.  
Physical Description: Typescript and carbons. 8 copies, with corrections.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is an outline and plan for a possible series of films. |
| Box 3 | **Hardship Post.** Screenplay. Story outline, incomplete script. n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript and carbon. Filed in manila folders. |
| Box 3 | **I'd Rather Be Dead Than Fourteen; and Other Stories.** n.p. April 1963.  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon.  
Scope and Content Note  
Included is an outline for a series of stories, and a ninety-minute story plan for I'd Rather Be Dead Than Fourteen. |
Manuscripts:

Box 4  
**Brickyard. A one hour teleplay. n.p. n.d.** Typescript, some carbon. 
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon. Filed in manila folders. 
Scope and Content Note 
Included are various versions, with extensive corrections, and note cards. The leaves are not in any particular order.

Boxes 5-7 
**By Dim and Flaring Lamps. [New York]. n.d.**  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon. 
Scope and Content Note 
Included are many typescript leaves, notes, revised and corrected versions. The leaves are filed in manila folders, in no particular order. The novel is about the South and the Civil War.

Boxes 8-12  
**Civil War Story. n.p. n.d.**  
Physical Description: Typescript, much carbon. 
Scope and Content Note 
Included are many typescript leaves, notes, and revised and corrected versions of a story that was later to become By Dim and Flaring Lamps. Research material is also included. Many of the leaves are filed in manila folders, in no particular order. Other leaves are grouped in small boxes.

Box 13  
**The Maharajah. n.p., ca. 1963.**  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon. 
Scope and Content Note 
Included is the story treatment of the screenplay, the screenplay itself, and correspondence and notes relating to the work.

Box 14  
**The Night Riders. n.p. n.d.**  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon. 
Scope and Content Note 
This appears to be another version of the Civil War Story that later became By Dim and Flaring Lamps. Included are various notes, and typescript leaves of the novel.

Box 15  
**The Night Riders. n.p. n.d. (Later to become By Dim and Flaring Lamps.).** 
Physical Description: Typescript (carbon).

Box 15  
**Passport. n.p. n.d.** 
Physical Description: Typescript (carbon) and photostat.

Box 16  
**Passport. n.p. n.d.** 
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon. Filed in manila folders. 
Scope and Content Note 
This is a prospectus for a television series, and related drafts, and other materials. Many versions and revised leaves. 
Note 
Some of the material is filed in a small box in Box 15 of the collection.

Box 17  
**Old Man Coffee Stories. n.p. n.d.** 
Physical Description: Typescript (carbon). 
Scope and Content Note 
Included is a story plan, and one 24-minute screenplay entitled An Old Man Coffee Story.
Box 17  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is a screenplay, possibly for a series on television.  
The leaves are filed in manila folders.

Box 17  
Physical Description: Typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
This apparently is a synopsis, and sequence rundown for a screenplay. Included are photos of actors and actresses clipped and pasted on sheets.

Box 17  
**Short short story plots.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript.

Box 17  
**Thirty-five American action subjects.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Mimeograph.  
Scope and Content Note  
(Perhaps used in research for a series, or story)

Box 17  
**Twenty-three epics.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript (carbon).

Box 18  
**Trumpet.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is a screenplay, 4 copies, 3 different versions, with corrections, and revisions.

Box 19  
**Taras Bulba.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript, some carbon.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is a screenplay, and includes character sketches, and outlines, rough draft.

Box 19  
**The Unforgiven.** New York. n.d.  
Physical Description: Typescript, mostly carbon, with extensive corrections. Filed in manila folders.

Box 19  
**Weapons.** n.p. n.d.  
Physical Description: 2 notebooks. Filed in manila folders.  
Scope and Content Note  
The notebooks consist of clipped pictures of various weapons, and commentary, pasted on sheets of paper (Probably used as research material).

Box 20  
**The Wide Country.** California. 1962.  
Physical Description: Typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
Included are: I Was Hanged in Effigy, and 2 copies of Straight-Jacket for an Indian.  
It appears that The Wide Country is the title of a television series.

Box 21  
**The Wide Country.** Memory of a Filly. [California]. 1962.  
Physical Description: Typescript, much carbon.
Manuscripts:

Box 21

Wyoming. [California]. 1963. This appears to be story plans, or outlines.

Physical Description: Typescript and carbons.

Box 22

Research materials.

Scope and Content Note

Television Schedules.

Box 23

Correspondence, ephemera, and personal papers (financial reports).

Physical Description: Filed in manila folders.