
Finding Aid for the Horace McCoy papers, 1920-1956

Processed by J. Thomas Sturak, 7 January 1960; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Horace McCoy papers

Date (inclusive): 1920-1956

Collection number: 794

Creator: McCoy, Horace, 1897-1955

Extent: 6 boxes (3 linear ft.)

Abstract: Horace McCoy (1897-1955) wrote hard-boiled detective fiction and sold his first screenplay, *The Luxury Girl*, in 1933; his first and most notable novel was *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*(1935). During the next twenty years, he wrote scripts for several Hollywood studios and produced five additional novels. The collection consists mainly of typescripts of McCoy novels and screenplays.

Language: Finding aid is written in English.

Language of the Material: Materials are in English. Portions of this collection are in Portuguese, French, Danish, German, Italian and Norwegian.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

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

Restrictions on Access

Open for research. STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Helen McCoy, 1962.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Horace McCoy papers (Collection 794). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

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Biography/History

Horace McCoy was born April 14, 1897 in Pegram, Tennessee; worked for *Dallas Journal* and *Dallas Dispatch* in 1920s; his hard-boiled detective fiction appeared in *Black Mask* magazine; arrived in Hollywood to pursue acting career in 1931; sold screenplay, *The Luxury Girl*, in 1933; his first and most notable novel was *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*(1935); during the next twenty years, he wrote scripts for several Hollywood studios and produced five additional novels; died December 15, 1955.

Scope and Content

Collection consists mainly of typescripts of McCoy novels and screenplays. Includes the final shooting script and ephemera for *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*(1935). Also includes correspondence, copies of McCoy's work in translation, and ephemera.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Manuscripts, typescripts, screenplays
2. Ephemera, clippings, correspondence
3. Books--foreign translations.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

McCoy, Horace,--1897-1955--Archives.

American fiction--20th century--Archival resources.
Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources.
Screenwriters--United States--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms of Material

Film scripts.

Photographs.

They Shoot Horses, Don't They?

from Black Mask

1927 December: The Devil Man.
1929 September: Dirty Work.
1929 October: Hell's Stepsons.
1929 December: Renegades of the Rio.
1930 January: The Little Black Book.
1930 March: Frost Rides Alone.
1930 July: Somewhere in Mexico.
1930 August: The Gun-Runners.
1930 December: The Mailed Fist.
1931 May: Headfirst into Hell - *missing*.
1931 November: The Mopper Up.
1932 March: The Trail to the Tropics.
1932 June: The Golden Rule.
1932 August: Murder in error.
1932 October: Wings over Texas.
1934 May: Flight at Sunrise.
1934 October: Somebody must die - *missing*.

from Detective-Dragnet Magazine

1930 December: Killer's Killer.
1931 March: Death Alley - *missing*.
1931 August: Juggernaut of Justice - *missing*.

from Detective Action Stories

1931 February: Night Club - *missing*.

from Man Stories

1931 July: A matter of Honor - *missing*.

Manuscripts

Note

By Horace McCoy, unless otherwise noted.

Night Cry

Box 4

Original story and screen play. n.d.

Physical Description: Ink handscript on 53 (106 numbered) double-size graph-paper.

Box 3

Script. Revised: August 15, 1955.

Physical Description: 146 pp. Mimeographed.

They Shoot Horses, Don't They?

Box 2

Final shooting script of ABC film. 1960.
Physical Description: 177pp.

Box 2

Bound typescript. 1935.
Physical Description: 288pp.

Box 2

Ephemera relating to the motion picture.

I Should Have Stayed Home

Box 2

Bound typescript. n.d.
Physical Description: 236pp.

Kiss Tomorrow Good-Bye

Box 1

Bound typescript. n.d.
Physical Description: 363pp.

Scalpel

Box 1

Bound typescript. n.d.
Physical Description: 512pp.

Box 1

This is Dynamite. [Corruption City]

Box 1

Bound typescript. March 7, 1950.
Physical Description: 229pp.

This is Dynamite

Box 2

1st Preliminary Green [dialog script]. By Warren Duff. April 20, 1951.
Physical Description: 142pp.

No Title

Box 4

Eight ink handscript pages of rough screen-play dialog on yellow, legal-size ruled paper.

Murder in the Air

Creator/Collector: White, Lyman G.

Box 4

Story synopsis of projected movie, typewritten.
Physical Description: 5pp.

Ephemera

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- Box 5 **Envelope of clippings, mostly from early 1930s.**
Physical Description: 20 pieces.
- Box 5 **Envelope of clippings, mostly c. 1938.**
Physical Description: Approximately 265 pieces.
- Box 5 **Scrapbook, containing approximately 125 mounted pieces from period late-1920s to early 1930s in Dallas, Texas.**
Physical Description: Including eight photographs, clippings, letters, notes, etc.
- Box 5
Box 4 **Envelope of 23 loose pieces from the Dallas scrapbook (mostly clippings).**
Correspondence: 27 pieces written to Horace McCoy, ranging from January 15, 1928 to September 13, 1955.
Scope and Content Note
(Includes letters from agents, admirers, and son, Stanley McCoy; an acceptance letter for *Brief Stories*; contract from Berkeley Publishing Corporation for 1955 reprint of *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*; foreign royalty statements, etc.).
- Box 5 **Packet of 10 little theater playbills (Oak Cliff Little Theater, Dallas, 2; Dallas Little Theatre, 8; Pasadena Playhouse, 2).**
Box 5 **Packet of personal notes.**
Physical Description: 16 pieces.
- Box 5 **Twenty-four unmounted photographs.**
Box 5 **Packet of drawings by son, Stanley McCoy.**
Physical Description: Approximately 25 pieces.
- Box 4 **Pack of membership cards, passes, tickets, etc.**
Physical Description: Approximately 45 pieces.
- Box 4 **Assorted Magazines:**
Variety, v.d.
Scope and Content Note
Four issues (July 31, 1934; February 19, 1936; March 30, 1940; December 12, 1940).
- Box 4 **The Hollywood Reporter. v.d.**
Scope and Content Note
Seven issues (October 16, 1934; February 19, 1936; February 22, 1936; December 16, 1939, pp. 3-4 only; February 2, 1940; February 16, 1940; December 23, 1940).
- Box 4 **Motion Picture Herald: p.63 only of April 7, 1934 issue.**
Box 5 **Two football programs: Stanford-Columbia (1934); Stanford-USC 1934(?).**
- Box 5 **Miscellaneous:**
Box 5 **Two special on location dinner menus from El Portal Hotel (Mesa, Arizona). April 19, n.d.**
Box 5 **Tablecloth from Melrose Court [Dallas?] inscribed with bon voyage messages, signatures, cartoons, etc. Spring 1930 or 1931.**
- Books**
Note
All foreign translations.
- Box 6 **They Shoot Horses, Don't They?**
Jamen, Man Skyder Da Heste? (Danish).
Ai Cavalli Si Spara. Bound with Avrei Dovuto Restare A Casa [I Should Have Stayed Home] in single volume. Titled: Le Luci Di Hollywood. (Italian).
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Box 4	<i>Mas NÃO Se Mata Cavalo? (Portuguese/Brazil).</i>
Box 4	<i>On AchÈve Bien les Chevaux (French).</i>
Box 5	<i>Ums Nackte Leben (German).</i>
Box 5	<i>I Should Have Stayed Home.</i>
Box 4	<i>J'aurais Du Rester Chez Nous (French).</i>
Box 4	<i>Le Luci Di Hollywood (Italian).</i>

Note

See: Box 6

Box 4	<i>No Pockets in a Shroud.</i>
Box 6	<i>Ingen Lommer I Likskjorten (Norwegian).</i>
Box 6	<i>Li Gklæ Der Har Ingen Lommer (Danish).</i>
Box 4	<i>O PÃO De Mentira (Portuguese).</i>
Box 4	<i>Kiss Tomorrow Good-Bye.</i>
Box 4	<i>Adieu La Vie, Adieu L'amour (French).</i>
Box 4	<i>Un Bacio E Addio (Italian).</i>
Box 4	<i>Scalpel.</i>
Box 6	<i>Det Sorte Guld (Danish).</i>
Box 6	<i>Le Scalpel (French).</i>
Box 6	<i>Le Stelle Negli Occhi (Italian).</i>
Box 4	<i>Skalpell (German).</i>
Box 4	<i>This is Dynamite (Corruption City).</i>
Box 4	<i>Questa è Dinamite (Italian).</i>
Box 4	<i>Pertes et Fracas (French).</i>