Lorees Yerby papers

Finding aid prepared by Jenifer Becker with assistance from Julie Graham, May 2015; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA, 90095-1575
(310) 825-4988
spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
Finding aid last modified on 18 March 2016.
Title: Lorees Yerby papers
Collection number: 2242
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 6.4 linear ft. (9 boxes, 1 flat box, 2 shoe boxes, and 2 tube boxes)
Date: ca. 1950s-2000s
Abstract: Lorees Yerby was a writer of short stories, plays, screenplays, and novels. In 1957, she and her husband Mike Dutton opened Coffee House Positano, located in Malibu, California. The collection consists of plays including Save Me a Place at Forest Lawn, short stories, screenplays, photographs, correspondence, and a small amount of research notes related to Our Fathers Trilogy.
Language of Materials: English
Physical Location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Creator: Yerby, Lorees, 1930-1996
Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Restrictions on Use and Reproduction
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Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
COLLECTION CONTAINS AUDIO MATERIALS: Audio materials in this collection will require assessment and possible digitization for safe access. To review these audio materials you must notify the reference desk in advance of your visit.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Lorees Yerby Papers (Collection 2242). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.
Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Josephine Castelli, Pandora Castelli, Cynthia Dutton, Karen Dutton, Michael Dutton, Winston Dutton, and Carmen Spera; 2013.
Processing Information
Processed by Jenifer Becker with assistance from Julie Graham, May 2015.
Biography/History
Lorees Yerby Dutton was born on January 9, 1930 in San Francisco. In July 1957, she and her second husband Mike Dutton opened Coffee House Positano, located in Malibu, California; the establishment closed in 1963. She wrote short stories, plays, screenplays, and novels. In 1963, her one-act play Save Me A Place in Forest Lawn was published. Yerby and third husband Bertrand Castelli produced the satirical film, Richard, about Richard Nixon in 1972. In 1976, she received a Guggenheim Grant for the Our Fathers trilogy (Nero, Mother England, and Abraham). Yerby later moved to Ocean Park, California, where she died in 1996.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of materials related to the career of writer Lorees Yerby. Included are short stories, plays, screenplays many of which were unpublished and/or unproduced, and a small amount of photographs, and correspondence. Additionally, there is a small number of photographs documenting Coffee House Positano, small amount of research for the project Our Fathers Trilogy and a small number of jottings and written thoughts by Yerby.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 7680457
Organization and Arrangement
Arranged into the following series:
1. Biographical Information
2. Coffee House Positano
3. Correspondence
4. Plays
5. Screenplays and Teleplays
6. Short Stories
7. Assorted Writings and Notes.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Authors, American--20th century--Archives.

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**Biographical Information. undated and 1978.**

**Scope and Content**
The series consists of photocopied and original clippings containing career and biographical information, handmade telephone book, and obituary for Michael Dutton. There is no specific arrangement to the series.

- Box 1, Folder 3  
  Lorees Yerby biographical materials. no date.
- Box 1, Folder 4  
  Lorees Yerby press clippings. no date.
- Box 1, Folder 5  
  Mike Dutton obituary from Telegram Tribute. no date.
- Box 1, Folder 11  
- Box 1, Folder 2  
  Telephone book (handmade). no date.

**Coffee House Positano. undated.**

**Scope and Content**
The series consists of one file of photographs and a mailer for Coffee House Positano.

- Box 1, file 6  
  Coffee House Positano related photographs and mailer. no date.

**Correspondence. undated, 1951, 1962-1964, and 1979-ca. 1990s.**

**Scope and Content**
The series consists of photocopied and originals letters to and from Lorees Yerby. Among the correspondents are Bertrand Castelli, Mike Dutton, David Walker, and Audrey Wood among others. The series is arranged alphabetically.

- Box 1, Folder 13  
  Letters from Lorees Yerby. 1951, 1992, and no date.
- Box 1, Folder 7  
  Letters from Lorees Yerby to Mike Dutton. no date.
- Box 1, Folder 12  
  Letters related to Bertrand Castelli. 1988-1990 and no date.
- Box 1, Folder 8  
  Letters to Lorees Yerby. 1980s-1990s.
- Box 1, Folder 9  
  Letters to Lorees Yerby from David Walker. 1990s.
- Box 7, Folder 16  


**Scope and Content**
The bulk of the series consists of scripts. Additionally included is a small number of letters, contracts, and royalty payments related to Yerby’s work Save Me a Place at Forest Lawn, some of which documents attempts for its production after Yerby’s death. The series is arranged in alphabetically by project title.

- Box 3, Folder 4  
- Box 3, Folder 2  
- Box 2, Folder 14  
  The Golden Bull of Boredom. [1955?].
- Box 2, Folder 13  
  The Last Minstrel. [1955?].
- Box 3, Folder 3  
- Box 3, Folder 5  
- Box 3, Folder 1  
  Penchant for Listening (third act). [1961?].
- Box 4, Folders 16-20  
  Ragged Dick (5 folders). c. 1964.

Scope and Content
Typescripts, contracts, treatments for television, and correspondence.

Save Me a Place at Forest Lawn (14 folders).
Scope and Content
Typescripts, contracts, treatments for television, and correspondence.

Save Me a Place at Forest Lawn (14 folders).
Scope and Content
Typescripts, contracts, treatments for television, and correspondence.

Sorrow's Kiss. 1995.

Scope and Content
The bulk of the series consists of scripts representing projects written Yerby, including the Our Fathers trilogy and Richard among others. Additionally included is a small amount of research materials and audio visual materials and a small number of letters, contracts, and royalty payments. The series is arranged in alphabetically by project title. Audio visual materials are restricted and require advance notice for use.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
SERIES CONTAINS AUDIO MATERIALS: Audio materials in this collection will require assessment and possible digitization for safe access. To review these audio materials you must notify the reference desk in advance of your visit.


Devils. 1982.
Farewell, Youth (3 folders). no date.

Mr. Lincoln's War. no date.

Scope and Content
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Audio materials in this collection will require assessment and possible digitization for safe access. To review these audio materials you must notify the reference desk in advance of your visit.

Untitled filmplay (Tentative Title: To Walk a Plank). no date.

Scope and Content
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
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Scope and Content
The series consists of published and unpublished short stories and a small number of letters and contracts. Included are The Boy Who Would Be Emperor, A Fairy Tale, and Lillian among others. The series is arranged in alphabetically by project title.

All Die Laughing. no date.


At The Sidewalk Cafe. 1982.

Beijing Boogie or Mao's Last Nightmare. 1988.

| Box 3, Folder 8 | Brenda Starr and Her Quest for the Father of Rock. 1974. |
| Box 3, Folder 16 | City Life. 1981. |
| Box 7, Folder 7 | A Day in the Sex of Life. no date. |
| Box 3, Folder 18 | The Faithful Listen to the Gravity of Love. 1988. |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | For Yule. 1988. |
| Box 4, Folder 12 | Gentlemen Prefer Bombs. |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | Lillian: Or One Week in the Life of a Good Secretary in Cosmopolitan Magazine. 1976 Jan. |
| Box 7, Folder 12 | A Manifesto for the Majority. no date. |
| Box 7, Folder 11 | A Modest Proposal. no date. |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | One At A Time, Please. 1988. |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Only Shadows Know. 1988. |
| Box 7, Folder 9 | Rape of the Soul and Cry of the Dead. no date. |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | A Soldier's Story. 1980. |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | Soul Pudding. 1981. |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | The Tao of Cancer. 1988. |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Wise Men Never Try. 1988. |
| Box 4, Folder 11 | Wow Me. no date. |

**Assorted Writings and Notes. undated and 1959-1995.**

- **Scope and Content**
  
The series consists of random writings, jottings, and notes. Additionally included is what appears to be drafts of letters written by Yerby. The files are arranged in alphabetically by loose geographic location where the writings originated.

| Box 7, Folder 14 | Assorted writings and notes. c. 1959-1960. |
| Box 8, Folder 11 | Assorted writings and notes. c. 1990s. |
| Box 8, Folder 9 | Coming Comic California. 1989. |
| Box 7, Folder 17 | Copyright registrations for various works. c. early 1960s. |
| Box 7, file 15 | The Culpepper Tree writings and notes. c. early 1960s. |
| Box 7, undated and 1978, Folder 4 | Dracula notes. no date. |
| Box 7, Folder 18 | Emotional Alphabet (The). no date. |
| Box 8, Folder 5 | Hyde Street. 1983-1985. |
| Box 8, Folder 7 | Riviera Avenue. 1986-1988. |
| Box 8, Folder 1 | San Francisco. 1975. |
| Box 8, Folder 10 | Second Street. 1989-1990. |
| Box 8, Folder 13 | Second Street. 1994-1995. |
| Box 8, Folder 4 | Shangri-La. 1982-1983. |
| Box 7, Folder 10 | Tao in the Kitchen. no date.