Finding Aid for the Otis Ferguson papers, 1931-1986

Processed by Arts Special Collections Staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Elizabeth Graney and Julie Graham.
UCLA Library Special Collections
Performing Arts Special Collections
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
URL: http://www.library.ucla.edu/specialcollections/performingarts/index.cfm
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.
Descriptive Summary

Title: Otis Ferguson papers,

Date (inclusive): 1931-1986

Collection number: 260

Creator: Ferguson, Otis 1907-1943

Extent: 3 boxes (1.5 linear ft.)

Abstract: Collection consists of scrapbooks, letters and ephemera related to the career of film critic Otis Ferguson.

Language: Finding aid is written in English.


Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

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

Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library, Performing Arts Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

Property rights to the physical object belong to the UCLA Library, Performing Arts Special Collections. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where The UC Regents do not hold the copyright.

Audio and visual materials in this collection are restricted and require advance notice for use.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Otis Ferguson papers (Collection 260). Performing Arts Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Biography

Otis Ferguson was born in Worcester, MA, Aug. 14, 1907. At the age of 17, Ferguson joined the Navy and served four years. After graduating from Clark University in 1933, where he was senior class poet and editor of the yearbook, Ferguson was hired at The New Republic. There he reviewed books, films, and sometimes theater and eventually became an assistant editor. In 1936 Ferguson started writing about music, particularly big swing bands and loaned his title to Dorothy Bakers novel, Young man with a Horn. He was later sent to Hollywood to write a series of articles about films and is best remembered as a film critic. Soon after Pearl Harbor, Ferguson joined the Merchant Marines and was killed during the war, ca. 1943.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of scrapbooks, letters and ephemera related to the career of film critic Otis Ferguson. Also includes notes and correspondence related to Dorothy Chamberlain. The collection may have been assembled by Dorothy Chamberlain after Ferguson's death for her book project, The Otis Ferguson Reader, ca.1982.

Organization and Arrangement

There is no specific arrangement to the collection.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Ferguson, Otis, 1907-1943 -- Archives.

Film critics -- Archival resources.

Other Index Terms Related to this Collection

Chamberlain, Dorothy.

Box 1

- Book Contracts and list of people who contacted Ferguson about possible book ca. 1934, 1938, 1941

Box 1

- Convoy [PQ18] ca 1942-43

Box 1

- Copyright Renewals ca. 1966-1972
Container List

Box 1
Correspondence (folder 1 of 2) ca. 1934-1941
Note
Including but not limited to: Philip Dunne, Hamilton Basso, Jimmy Durante, Alfred Hitchcock.

Box 1
Correspondence (folder 2 of 2) ca. 1936-1941
Note
Including but not limited to Paul Jarrico, Nunally Johnson, Garon Kanin, Fritz Lang, Gene Lockhart, William McFee, Carey McWilliams, H.L. Mencken, John Jacob Niles, Clifford Odets, William Saroyan, and Stark Young.

Box 1
Dorothy Chamberlain's rights and letters of transferal ca. 1940s-1980s

Box 3
Film Criticisms of Otis Ferguson, Reviews, etc. - scrapbook 1935-1982
Note
Scrapbook of clippings.

Box 1
Jazz Rhythm ca. 1938-40
Note
Original manuscripts and copies of writings by Ferguson.

Box 1
Negatives (6 items) no date
Note
5 negatives for photographs found in the folder labeled Photographs.

Box 1
Otis Correspondence, etc. 1934, 1980s
Note
Dorothy Chamberlain's file regarding Ferguson.

Box 3
Otis Ferguson articles in books; Tributes to Ferguson 1931-1943, 1964
Note
Articles by and tributes to Ferguson.

Box 3
Otis Ferguson Miscellaneous - scrapbook 1934-1945
Note
Articles by Ferguson. New Republic "Correspondence" and "Mailbag" column; clippings about Salerno and PQ-18.

Box 3
Otis Ferguson Movies - scrapbook 1934-1941
Note
Articles by Ferguson.

Box 2
Otis Ferguson Books and Writers I - scrapbook ca. 1933-1937
Note
Articles by Ferguson (1933 - 9 June 1937).

Box 2
Otis Ferguson Books and Writers II - scrapbook ca. 1937-1940
Note
Articles by Ferguson (30 June 1937 - 8 April 1940).

Box 2
Otis Ferguson Books and Writers III - scrapbook 1940-1941
Note
Articles by Ferguson (15 April 1940 - 25 August 1941).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Container List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td><strong>Otis Ferguson Books and Writers IV - scrapbook 1941-1942</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles by Ferguson (1 September 1941 - 2 March 1942).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td><strong>Otis Ferguson Music and Theater - scrapbook 1938-1941</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles by Ferguson; mostly cut outs from The New Republic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td><strong>Otis Ferguson Reader: Articles, Reviews I - scrapbook ca. 1982</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original and photocopied clippings and articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td><strong>Otis Ferguson Reader: reprints of writing ca. 1980s</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td><strong>Otis Ferguson Reader: Reviews II - scrapbook ca. 1983-1985</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters, copied clippings and articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td><strong>Phonographs donated from Ferguson Estate ca. 1973</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restricted:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td><strong>Photographs (25 items) ca. 1910-1940</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negatives for 5 of the photographs found in folder labeled Negatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td><strong>Portrait of An American Tragedy no date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portrait of an American by Robert Coffin personalized by Ferguson with pictures and captions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td><strong>Vanity Fair 1986 May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ferguson mentioned on page 40.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>