

Wyn Ritchie Evans papers

Ms. Coll. 861

Finding aid prepared by Juliette L. Appold.

Last updated on July 15, 2020.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2012

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Evans, Wyn Ritchie, 1900-2003
Title	Wyn Ritchie Evans papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 861
Date [inclusive]	1900-2003
Extent	14 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The Wyn Ritchie Evans papers include correspondence, writings, photographs, and personal papers that shed light on her connection to the arts scene and to Herman Sachs, her endeavors as a professional writer, and her life with Ray Evans.

Cite as:

Wyn Ritchie Evans papers, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts,
University of Pennsylvania

Biography

Wyn Ritchie Evans (1900-2003) was an actress, writer, and playwright. She was born in Brighton, England to British actors Winifred Monroe and Billie Ritchie. The family moved to the United States in the early 1900s. The kind of role her father played was later taken over and made famous by Charlie Chaplin. Wyn Ritchie Evans played in some crowd scenes in Chaplin's movies and was a wardrobe mistress at Charlie Chaplin Studios. She acted in silent movies as well as on stage, and took on roles that included Nora in Henrik Ibsen's *The Doll House*.

Wyn Ritchie Evans was involved with a circle of artists and writers and was closely connected to artist Herman Sachs (1883-1940), founder of the Munich Expressionist School ("Münchner Expressionistische Werkstätten"). The correspondence and photographs document their relationship. Before he died in 1943, he left her several drawings, now arranged within the Ray Evans Papers.

In 1947 she married songwriter and lyricist Ray Evans. In the 1950s she took writing classes at Maren Elwood College. She submitted numerous stories for publication and collaborated on some of them with Hanson Hathaway. Most of her writings remain unpublished. Wyn Ritchie Evans lived with Ray Evans in Los Angeles until her death in 2003.

Scope and Contents

The Wyn Ritchie Evans papers were part of a collection acquired by the University of Pennsylvania in 2011 from the Ray & Wyn Ritchie Evans Foundation. The papers, arranged in five series, shed some light on her professional and personal life.

Growing up in a family of actors, Wyn Ritchie Evans was always close to circles of artists, writers, and actors. Her correspondence (first series) include one letter by Thomas Mann written to Matthias Brünker. Most letters in this series are personal in nature; many are from Dorothy Sanderson, Hanson H Hathaway, and Herman Sachs. Wyn was artistically inspiring to Hanson H Hathaway, Herman Sachs, Robert Winter, and other correspondents. Her relationship to Herman Sachs, with whom she had lived before she met Ray Evans, is reflected in letters to him and to Joseph Sadony. Wyn Ritchie Evans's correspondence is housed in boxes 1 and 2. Additional correspondence can be found with her writings, and two photocopied cables addressed to Wyn from Charlie Chaplin are in the scrapbook pages of the fourth series (box 8, folder 151).

Wyn Ritchie Evans's endeavor to be a professional writer and playwright seemed to have been strongest in the 1950s, as documented in the second series, her writings. They consist mostly of short stories in typescript, of which a few were written in collaboration with Hanson H Hathaway. Her correspondence with publishers and editors pertaining to the stories are interfiled. The series furthermore comprises fragments, notes, drafts (typescript and manuscript), text-excerpts of other writers, and assignments of writing classes she had attended. Her writings are housed in boxes 3-5.

The third series, photographs, offer an insight into Wyn's work as an actor. They include photographs of her in different costumes. Also included are pictures of her as a child, her mother, Herman Sachs, and his work. Photographs are housed in boxes 6 and 7; larger photographs can be found in boxes 8-10. Some of the photographs used to be part of various scrapbooks and albums. It might be helpful to consult the photocopies of these albums arranged at the end of box 6.

The scrapbooks (fourth series) consist of single pages taken from dismantled albums. Photocopies of the original scrapbooks are arranged at the end of box 6. Some of the photographs that were originally in scrapbooks are now arranged within the third series.

The fifth series, personal papers and memorabilia, contain Wyn Ritchie Evans's birth certificate and her

naturalization certificate. They include pages of her personal diary, three travel diaries, clippings, four typed lectures held at Herman Sachs's Saturday classes, and several booklets on artists such as Alexander Archipenko, Rudi Gernreich, and Marcel Marceau.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2012

Finding aid prepared by Juliette L. Appold.

Sponsor

Processing of the collection and preparation of the register were made possible through a grant from the Ray and Wyn Ritchie Evans Foundation.

Conditions Governing Use note

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Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Writings (documents)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Evans, Ray, 1915-2007
- Sachs, Herman, 1883-1940

SUBJECT(S)

- Actors
- Authors
- Authors, American--20th century
- Theater
- Women authors
- Women in the theater

Collection Inventory

I. CORRESPONDENCE.

Series Description

Arranged alphabetically by correspondents last names and chronologically within each correspondent. Then follow correspondents identified only by first names and unidentified correspondents. Incoming and outgoing correspondence are interfiled. Documents such as clippings related to the correspondent are filed within the correspondent's folder. Wyn Ritchie Evans's correspondence with Ray Evans is arranged with the Ray Evans Papers.

	Box	Folder
Barillas, Xiomara. 1 item.	1	1
Bingham, Paul, 1935. 1 item.	1	2
Brünker, Matthias, 1943. 20 items.	1	3-4
Note		
Includes one letter by Thomas Mann.		
Bryce, John, 1985. 1 item.	1	5
Curtis Brown Ltd., 1960. 2 items.	1	6
Note		
See also correspondence in series "writings"		
Dane, Ruth Beatrice, 1939-1941. 4 items.	1	7
Fasman, Marjorie, 1956-1993. 18 items.	1	8

Feinstein, Michael, 2001. 1 item.	1	9
Hartmann, Sadakichi, 1930. 6 items.	1	10
Hathaway, Hanson H., 1937-1943. 60 items (2 items by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	1	11-15
Jacobs-Bond, Carrie, 1940. 1 item.	1	16
Los Angeles County General Hospital, 1950. 1 item.	1	17
Polson, Mary, 1930s. 1 item.	1	18
Robins, Lisa, 2000. 1 item.	1	19
Sachs, Herman, 1919-1939. 53 items (4 items by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	1	20-31
Note		
Includes clippings pertaining to Herman Sachs.		
Sadony, Joseph, 1940. 2 items (1 item by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	1	32
Sanderson, Dorothy, 1936. 229 items (mostly undated, 1 item by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	1-2	33-47
Shannon, Mary, 1965. 5 items.	2	48
Van Romsen, H. J. 1 item.	2	49
Whiteman, Luther, 1930s. 5 items.	2	50
Willson, Robert, 1943-1944. 6 items.	2	51
Winter, William, 1975. 2 items (1 item by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	2	52
Betty. 2 items.	2	53

Chris. 1 item.	2	54
Géla, 1937. 1 item.	2	55
Golka. 1 item.	2	56
John, 1935. 2 items.	2	57
Julie, 1969. 1 item.	2	58
Kat, 1931. 1 item.	2	59
LaVerne, 1992-1994. 4 items.	2	60
Lewis, 1942. 8 items.	2	61
Mike. 3 items.	2	62
O'N., 1949. 1 item.	2	63
Ramón. 2 items.	2	64
Roger, 1933-1934. 7 items.	2	65
Terry. 1 item.	2	66
Thompson. 1 item.	2	67
T., 1942. 2 items.	2	68
Unidentified. 21 items.	2	69-71

II. WRITINGS.

Series Description

Writings are arranged alphabetically by title and, when identified, chronologically within folders. Correspondence pertaining to the writings are kept with the relevant documents. Following the alphabetical arrangement are her assignments completed for a writing-class she took at Maren Elwood College. Notes, drafts and fragments are at the end of the series. They comprise typescripts, typescripts with annotations, and manuscripts. Two larger-sized copies of the satirical *Deesan's Dirty Daily* are arranged in Box 9.

	Box	Folder
"The Alcoholic Dog" , 1965-1967. 10 items (Includes six letters (of which three are by WRE) pertaining to "The Alcoholic Dog").	3	72
"American Rendevouz" , 1945-1946. 3 items (Includes two little notes (3x5") by Wyn Ritchie Evans pertaining to "American Rendevouz", and one "YMCA Radio Script Contest" bulletin).	3	73
"Cat's Eye" . 1 item.	3	74
Chaplain. 2 items.	3	75
"Corliss Stargazes" . 4 items (Includes one little note (2.5x3.75") by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	76-77
"The Corpse at the Copse" , 1946. 5 items (Includes one form submitted for "Stars Over Hollywood Prize Contest", signed by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	78-79
"A Dock Story" , 1945. 2 items (Includes one little note (3x5") by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	80
"Doctor Christian's Little Christian" . 1 item.	3	81
"The First Stone" . 1 item (Includes handwritten annotations by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	82
"The Hanging Clock" . 2 items.	3	83

"His Cranium Cowboy" , 1945. 2 items (Includes one letter by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	84
"Holiday" . 1 item (Includes handwritten annotations).	3	85
"Hulot" . 1 item (In collaboration with Hathaway. Includes a list of French vocabulary).	3	86
"The Journey of Domingo Rubio Garrita" . 2 items.	3	87
"Julio" . 2 items (With annotations by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	88-89
"Junked" . 4 items (With annotations by Wyn Ritchie Evans).	3	90
"The Lady and the Ripper" , 1953. 3 items (Includes two letters (of which one is by WRE) pertaining to "The Lady and the Ripper").	4	91
"A Man's Coat Hangs on a Rusty Nail" , 1953-1960. 11 items (Includes six letters (of which two are by WRE) pertaining to "A Man's Coat Hangs on a Rusty Nail").	4	92-94
"May" , 1953. 2 items (Includes one reader's comments).	4	95
"Old Friend" , 1954. 4 items (Includes two letters (of which one is by WRE) pertaining to "Old Friend").	4	96-97
"A Parisian" , 1950-1953. 5 items (Includes four letters (of which one is by WRE) and one reader's comment).	4	98
"Phidias Scorns the Tree of Knowledge" . 2 items (Includes one note (3.5x5.5") by the editors of "The Household Magazine").	4	99
"The Priest" . 1 item.	4	100
"Red Ryder" . 1 item.	4	101
"War Adventures of Wilbur T." , 1942-1943. 5 items (Collaboration with	4	102-103

Hanson H Hathaway, includes one letter by Wyn Ritchie Evans).		
Maren Elwood College Assignments.	4	104-106
Maren Elwood College Lectures.	4	107-108
Notes, Drafts and Fragments.	4-5	109-122

III. PHOTOGRAPHS.

Series Description

Photos in boxes 6 and 7 are mostly of Wyn Ritchie Evans, her mother Winifred Monroe Ritchie, and of Herman Sachs. Some of these photographs were originally part of her scrapbooks. For reference consult the photocopies of albums arranged at the end of box 6. Additional (larger) photos are housed in boxes 8 and 9.

	Box	Folder
Early Days. 6 items.	6	123
Studio Portraits. 8 items.	6	124
Studio Portraits with Scarf. 7 items.	6	125
Stage Role Portraits. 8 items.	6	126
Herman Sachs. 15 items.	6	127-128
Herman Sachs - Art School.	6	129
Herman Sachs - Art Works. Photographs of works by Herman Sachs and by Georg Schrimpf.	6	130

Herman Sachs - Miscellaneous. 13 items.	6	131-132
Photos with Inscription. 11 items.	6	133-134
Portraits of Others. 6 items.	6	135
Animals. 3 items.	6	136
Miscellaneous. 5 items.	6	137
Early Childhood Photograph. 1 item (Mounted on round metal).	6	138
Photocopies of Album "Animals WSA" . 1 folder (48 leaves).	6	139
Photocopies of Album "Wyn" . 1 folder (43 leaves).	6	140
Photocopies of "Grey Album" . 1 folder (21 leaves).	6	141
Photocopies of Album "Hermann Sachs and Wyn Ritchie" . 1 folder (54 leaves).	6	142
Photocopies of Album Pages "Herman Sachs - Europe" . 1 folder (27 leaves).	6	143
Photocopies of Album "Friends" . 1 folder (34 Leaves).	6	144
Winifred Monroe Ritchie - Personal Photographs.	7	
Winifred Monroe Ritchie - Studio Portraits.	7	
Winifred Monroe Ritchie with Wyn Ritchie Evans.	7	
Winifred Monroe Ritchie - Later Life.	7	
Winifred Monroe Ritchie - Miscellaneous.	7	
Wyn Ritchie Evans Work - On Stage.	7	

Wyn Ritchie Evans Work - Studio Portraits.	7
Wyn Ritchie Evans - Early Years, Personal Photos.	7
Wyn Ritchie Evans - Early Years, Miscellaneous.	7
Wyn Ritchie Evans - Herman Sachs, Personal Photographs.	7
Wyn Ritchie Evans - Herman Sachs with Wyn.	7
Wyn Ritchie Evans - Herman Sachs, Objects and Places.	7
Wyn Ritchie Evans - Herman Sachs, Miscellaneous.	7
Art and Antiques.	7

IV. SCRAPBOOKS.

Series Description

These two boxes contain pages from several scrapbooks. They comprise a few original photographs, photocopies of pictures, art works and telegrams, and clippings. Copies of the original scrapbooks are arranged at the end of box 6.

	Box	Folder
Portrait of Wyn Ritchie Evans taken by M. Seely, Hollywood, 2 copies.	8	145
Portraits of Wyn Ritchie Evans. 2 items.	8	146
Photographs of Herman Sachs. 5 items.	8	147
Photographs of Wyn Ritchie Evans with Herman Sachs. 4 items.	8	148

Portrait of unidentified man. 1 item.	8	149
Pages from Album "Animals WSA" . 1 folder (2 pages with clippings from an Asian Newspaper and three pictures from New Mexico, Mexico, and Mexico).	8	150
Pages from Album "Wyn" . 1 folder (6 pages, two photocopied cables of Charlie Chaplin written to Wyn Ritchie Evans; mostly clippings including announcement of plays in which WRE was involved, pictures of Marcel Marceau).	8	151
Pages from Album "Herman Sachs and Wyn Ritchie" . 1 folder (10 pages with clippings and copies of art works).	8	152
Pages from Album "Herman Sachs - Europe" . 1 folder (5 pages, 1920s-1930s).	8	153
"Ultima Hora" , 1943. 1 item (Pages 3-6 of Spanish paper "Ultima Hora" dated 9 October 1943).	8	154
Herman Sachs - Saturday Children's Class, 1938-1939. 1 folder (Includes four lectures, October 1938 and April 1939).	8	155
<i>Deesan's Dirty Daily</i> . 2 items (typed copies of a satirical magazine).	8	156
1988 <i>Art Deco Calender</i> , 1988. 1 item.	8	
Pages from Album "House and Wyn" . 1 folder (15 pages).	9	157
Pages from Album " Friends, Work" . 2 folders (27 pages).	9	158-159
Pages from Album "Friends" . 1 folder (11 pages).	9	160

V. PERSONAL PAPERS AND MEMORABILIA.

Series Description

Includes Wyn Ritchie Evans's birth certificate, naturalization certificate, pages from her personal diary, travel diaries and various booklets. Arranged in boxes 10-14, larger documents are housed in box 8.

	Box	Folder
Diary Pages, 1936-1939. 7 leaves.	10	161
Birth Certificate, 1900-1901. 1 item.	10	162
Naturalization Certificate, 1943. 1 item.	10	163
Adresses of Dealers in Antiques.	10	164
Clippings. 1 folder.	10	165
Copies of Postcards - Images.	10	166
Photocopy of email pertaining to humorous small ads.	10	167
Obituaries and Hopi Prayer.	10	168
Travel Diaries. 3 items (Asia, Carribbean, Europe).	11	
Various Booklets, 1938-1979. 4 booklets (Hathaway's Grudge, October 1938; Liberia Atenea 1896-1946; Spanish Short Stories read in Spanish by Jorge Juan Rodriguez, record-booklet Flokways Records Album FL 9931, 1961; Ronald A. Wilford presents Marcel Marceau, 1979).	12	
Various Booklets, 1985-1999. 3 booklets (Rudi Gernreich - A Retrospective, 1922-1985; A Tribute to Henry Mancini, 19 April 1994; Angels' Night '99).	13	
Booklets and Books. Archipenko - Recent Polychromes, 1957; Alexander Archipenko - A Memorial Exhibition 1967-1969; Revolutionary Songs of	14	

China, 1971; Art Against Aids Exhibition 1988-1989; Joey & Maria 25th
Anniversary, 2004.
