

Arthur Scouten papers

Ms. Coll. 1426

Finding aid prepared by Cory Austin Knudson.

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

2019 December 23

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Scouten, Arthur H. (Arthur Hawley), 1910-1995
Title	Arthur Scouten papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1426
Date [inclusive]	1918-1994
Extent	0.6 linear foot (2 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	Arthur Hawley "Joe" Scouten was a scholar of British literature and theater and a University of Pennsylvania professor. This collection contains a small amount of his research materials and correspondence, as well as some biographical and memorial materials and a number of his school and work records.

Cite as:

Arthur Scouten papers, 1918-1994, Ms. Coll. 1426, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Arthur Hawley "Joe" Scouten (1910-1995) was a scholar of British literature whose work focused primarily on Jonathan Swift, William Shakespeare, and eighteenth-century English drama more generally. He taught English at the University of Pennsylvania from 1947 to 1980, achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 1950 and Professor in 1960. He was known for his passionate teaching style and reportedly never used a teaching assistant even in large lecture classes, preferring to personally help each student develop on an individual basis. His students' many commendations and reminiscences are collected in Box 1 Folder 4 of this collection. Some of the most notable among his many scholarly contributions include editing the volume *Lear from Study to Stage: Essays in Criticism* with Jack Ogden (research materials for which are collected in Box 1 Folder 18 of this collection) as well as compiling Part III (1729-1747) of *The London Stage*. In the course of this latter project, Scouten rediscovered a suppressed Restoration play, *The Country Gentleman*. He is also remembered for his central role in helping the University of Pennsylvania acquire the Teerink collection of Jonathan Swift books, some 1,800 Swift-related items. A letter from Teerink concerning that collection is included in Box 1 Folder 6. Scouten was born in Kapropita, Kenya in 1910 to missionaries Oren and Margaret Fraser Scouten. After his father's death, the young Scouten, his mother, and his infant sister moved back to the United States, where Scouten was sent to work to support the family before graduating high school and briefly attending a religious college. Uninterested in becoming a clergyman, Scouten worked odd jobs for a few years, during which time he developed an immense passion for literature and history. In 1931, he enrolled at Louisiana State University, earning his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. all at that institution in 1935, 1938, and 1942 respectively. While at LSU Scouten witnessed the rise of New Criticism firsthand, becoming a student and mentee of such figures as Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren. Within his first decade at Penn, Scouten received fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Guggenheim, and the Folger Shakespeare Library. After nearly 40 years of teaching, over which period he advised some 55 Ph.D. students on a wide range of subjects, Scouten retired to St. Germain-en-Laye near Paris. He remained a prodigious correspondent until his death in 1995. The A.H. Scouten Memorial Fund was established at Penn in 1998 to provide books and other materials in the fields of study to which Scouten devoted his professional life--theater history, the eighteenth century, and Jonathan Swift.

Scope and Contents

This collection is divided into three series: I. Personal and academic materials; II. Correspondence; III. Research. I. Personal and academic materials contains some biographical and memorial materials and a number of his school and work records, such as his CV, LSU transcripts, and various lists of students from his classes.

II. Correspondence contains much, but not all of the correspondence included in this collection. Researchers should note that some correspondence is also included among his research materials. His correspondents include family, students, former students, and colleagues; though colleagues are by far the most well-represented. Major figures in twentieth-century literary theory and criticism such as Robert Penn Warren and Stanley Fish occasionally appear in the correspondence. It should be noted that the vast majority of the correspondence is comprised of xerox copies and the location of the originals is not known.

III. Research is organized according to project. Occasionally, these files contain preliminary drafts or fragments of drafts of original scholarly articles; though more often, they contain only articles not written by Scouten, notes, summaries, bibliographies, letters, and other research materials. Though most noted as

a Jonathan Swift scholar, this collection contains very little relating to Swift, focusing instead primarily on Shakespeare (Box 1 Folders 13-16, 18).

Administrative Information

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

2019 December 23

Finding aid prepared by Cory Austin Knudson.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may exist. For most library holdings, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania do not hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the requester to seek permission from the holder of the copyright to reproduce material from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Source of Acquisition

Gift of Clémence Scouten, 2015.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Arthur Hawley Scouten collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Arthur Hawley Scouten Papers, Mss. 5049, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Herman Teerink manuscript notes for the second edition of A Bibliography for the Writings of Jonathan Swift, circa 1940-1961, Ms. Coll. 1285, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- University of Pennsylvania.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Research notes

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616

SUBJECT(S)

- College teachers
- Drama--History and criticism
- Dramatic criticism
- Education
- English literature
- English literature--17th century
- English literature--18th century
- Literature
- Literature--Study and teaching
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Criticism and interpretation--History--20th century.

Collection Inventory

I. PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC MATERIALS, 1938-1995.

	Box	Folder
Curriculum vitae and academic records, circa 1982, undated.	1	2
	Box	Folder
Copy of broadside print of W.B Yeats poem "Lapis Lazuli", undated.	106	

II. CORRESPONDENCE, 1918-1994 (BULK, 1947-1994) .

	Box	Folder
Letter to Scouten from Scouten's father, 1918 February 11.	1	3
Correspondence with students, former students, and colleagues from folder labeled "Student Letters", 1969-1994, undated.	1	4
Administrative correspondence, 1947-1994.	1	5
General scholarly correspondence and related materials, 1950-1992, undated.	1	6

III. RESEARCH, 1945-1992.

	Box	Folder
"Ballads," articles not by Scouten and notes, 1948-1958, undated.	1	7
18th-century drama and dramatists, article not by Scouten and notes, circa 1945.	1	8
James Boswell, articles not by Scouten, student paper, and notes, 1958, circa 1972.	1	9
"The Old Batchelor," notes, correspondence, and ephemera related to 17th- and 18th-century drama and a copy of <i>The Old Batchelour</i> by William Congreve, circa 1976.	1	10
Elizabethan drama and dramatists, articles not by Scouten and notes, 1977-1986, undated.	1	11
"Place Locations," articles not by Scouten, notes, and correspondence on place directions in Shakespeare's plays, 1982-1984.	1	12
<i>Richard III</i> by Shakespeare, article not by Scouten and notes, circa 1983.	1	13
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , notes and article draft, undated.	1	14
	Box	Folder
"Authorship--Last Version," articles not by Scouten, notes, and correspondence relating to the Shakespeare authorship question, circa 1983-1989.	2	1
	Box	Folder
Shakespearean tragedy, notes, transparencies, and correspondence, circa 1985.	2	2
Daniel Defoe, articles not by Scouten and notes, circa 1987.	2	3

"Lear Anthology," articles not by Scouten, correspondence, notes, and fragments of article drafts related to Shakespeare and the preparation of <i>Lear from Study to Stage: Essays in Criticism</i> , circa 1990-1992.	2	4
Old English language and literature, notes, undated.	2	5
"Theft of Art," magazine clipping and news clipping relating to stolen and forged works of art, 1973 March 3, 1967 December 7.	2	6