

Gerald Clifford Weales writings

Ms. Coll. 1215

Finding aid prepared by Siel Agugliaro.

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

June 1, 2016

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Weales, Gerald Clifford, 1925-
Title	Gerald Clifford Weales writings
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1215
Date	circa 1956-1985
Extent	3 linear feet (6 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	Gerald Clifford Weales was a professor of English and Drama who taught for about 30 years the University of Pennsylvania, until 1987. This collection of writings includes the drafts and galley proofs of several books, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as the typescript of four unpublished plays.

Cite as:

Gerald Clifford Weales writings, circa 1956-1985, MS. Coll. 1215, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Gerald Clifford Weales, born in Connersville, Indiana on June 12, 1925, was a professor of English and Drama. In 1958, he completed his Ph.D. at Columbia University, the same institution where he also earned his A.B. and M.A. Shortly after his graduation he became a faculty member at the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania, a position that he held until his retirement in 1987.

Weales was widely recognized as an expert on English and American drama, and wrote extensively on these subjects. He published historical monographs on British and American drama, along with biographies of American playwrights, a book on American film comedy of the 1930s, and commented editions of plays by authors such as Arthur Miller and William Wycherley. Weales also wrote many works of fiction, including a novel, several plays, and two children's books.

As a theater reviewer, Weales worked for the *Reporter* magazine from 1964 to 1968, and the *Commonweal* magazine from 1968 to 1993, and also collaborated with the *Georgia Review*, for which he wrote the annual section "American Theater Watch" from 1978 to 2010. His reviews appeared on *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Life*, *The Village Voice*, and *The Nation*. Weales received a George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism in 1966, and a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant in 1981, which supported his research for the book *Canned Goods as Caviar: American Film Comedy of the 1930s* (1985).

Weales was married for 40 years to Nora Magid (1925-1991), an English and writing instructor who also taught at the University of Pennsylvania from 1970 to 1991. Weales died in a nursing facility in Easton, Maryland, in 2013.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of two separate series: drafts of published material, and unpublished material. Series I includes the typescript drafts of historical and critical monographs, such as *American Drama Since World War II*, *Canned Goods as Caviar*, and *Religion in Modern English Drama*. The draft of Weales's novel *Tale for a Bluebird* may also be found in the series, as well as the drafts and galley proofs of the commented editions of Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman* and of the plays of William Wycherley. This material offers insight into the genesis and writing process of those books, as well as possible evidence of intervention of external reviewers – most notably, English instructor (and Weales' wife) Nora Magid.

Series II contains four unpublished plays by Weales, three of which are part of a series titled "Explorations." These typescripts allow for a better assessment of Weales' production as a writer of dramatic and fiction works.

Administrative Information

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Finding aid prepared by Siel Agugliaro.

Access Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Gift of Gerald Clifford Weales, circa 2004

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Galley proofs
- Plays (performed works)
- Typescripts
- Writings (documents)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Weales, Gerald Clifford, 1925-

SUBJECT(S)

- Authors
- Authors, American--20th century
- Criticism, Textual
- Drama--History and criticism
- Theater

- Theater--England
- Theater--United States--History--20th century

Collection Inventory

I. DRAFTS OF PUBLISHED MATERIAL.

	Box	Folder
<i>American Drama Since World War II</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft, before 1962.	1	1-3
<i>American Drama Since World War II</i> , annotated typescript draft, before 1962.	1	4-6
<i>American Drama Since World War II</i> , galley proofs.	4	
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 3, before 1985.	1	7
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapters 3 and 6, possibly reviewed by Nora Magid, with a letter to Miss Smerler, possibly a student of Nora Magid, 1981.	1	8
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 4, possibly reviewed by Nora Magid, 1981.	1	9
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 5, possibly reviewed by Nora Magid, 1981.	1	10
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 7, before 1985.	1	11
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 8, before 1985.	1	12

<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 10, before 1985.	1	13
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft of chapter 11, before 1985.	1	14
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated typescript draft, before 1985.	1	15-17
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated typescript draft, copy I, before 1985.	2	1
	1	18-20
<i>Canned Goods as Caviar</i> , annotated typescript draft, copy II, before 1985.	2	2-5
<i>Religion in Modern English Drama</i> , annotated preliminary typescript draft, before 1961.	2	6
<i>Religion in Modern English Drama</i> , typescript draft, before 1961.	2	7-10
"Ronald Ribman: The Artist of the Failure Clowns", article, annotated preliminary typescript draft, with a rejection letter from Wayne Dodd, editor of <i>Ohio Review</i> , 1980.	2	11
<i>Arthur Miller: Death of a Salesman</i> , text and criticism, annotated preliminary typescript draft, before 1967.	2	12-13
<i>The Complete Plays of William Wycherley</i> , edited by Gerald Weales, annotated preliminary typescript draft, before 1967.	3	1-2
	2	14-15
<i>The Complete Plays of William Wycherley</i> , annotated galley proofs, before 1967.	5-6	
<i>Tale for the Bluebird</i> , novel, annotated preliminary typescript draft, before 1960.	3	3-4
<i>Tale for the Bluebird</i> , novel, dust jackets, circa 1960.	3	5

II. UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL.

	Box	Folder
"Ethics, Incorporated", typescript, circa 1956.	3	6
"Explorations" script on the family show, "The Hero at Home," typescript, undated.	3	7
"Explorations" script on the family show, "The Western Hero," typescript, undated.	3	8
"Explorations" script on the family show, "The Hero and Homicide," typescript, undated.	3	9