

# Guide to the Norman Walsh Taylor papers

DRA 50



compiled by Rachel Mihalko

April 2023

Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu

<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Playwriting .....	5
Plays and scripts .....	5
Essays .....	6
Series II: Personal papers .....	7
Selected Search Terms .....	9

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections  
Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu  
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

**CALL NUMBER:** DRA 50

**CREATOR:** Taylor, Norman Walsh, 1930-2016

**TITLE:** Norman Walsh Taylor papers

**DATES:** 1925-1995

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.58 linear feet 3.58 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains material created by Norman Walsh Taylor related to his time at Yale Drama School, Union Theological Seminary, and other playwriting endeavors. It includes theatrical production photographs, scripts, class notes, and some biographical memorabilia.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.dra.0050>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.dra.0050>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Leonard Molczadski, 2020.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has been transferred to Yale University for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

## Preferred Citation

Norman Walsh Taylor papers, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Norman Walsh Taylor was a graduate of Carleton and Yale Drama School (1956). Born Norman Walsh, Taylor used a mononym, "Taylor" for several years before changing his name to Norman Walsh Taylor. He studied religious drama at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and later became a professor of English literature at State University in New York City. He wrote articles, won a Canadian playwriting contest, and his expedition down the Amazon River led to a documentary about mercury pollution in Grassy Narrows, Ontario. He became a Quaker and developed courses in peace and nonviolence, working on a project in Mississippi addressing violence against black voters.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Norman Walsh Taylor papers document Taylor's development and career as a playwright from his time at Yale Drama School and later at Union Theological Seminary. The papers are composed chiefly notes, sketches, and drafts of his plays, and photographs and programs relating to production. Additional materials are also present, including college notes, childhood memorabilia, and photographs and floorplans related to Davenport Theatre.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series: I. Playwriting and II. Personal papers.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Playwriting

#### Plays and scripts

b. 1, f. 1-8	Accuse Me Justly	
b. 1, f. 9-12b. 2, f. 1-8	Crossing Files include rough notes, drafts, and character studies.	1960-1970
b. 2, f. 9-10	Distant Voices, Nearby Drums: a play in two acts	1969
b. 3, f. 1	Douglas Thomas: a three act play Three act play by Norman Walsh	
b. 3, f. 2	End Against the Middle: a three act television comedy	
b. 3, f. 3	Les Entêtés, draft	Circa 1934
b. 3, f. 4-5	The Fallen, draft copies	
b. 3, f. 6	The Fallen, performance photographs, program, and publicity	1953
b. 3, f. 7	Inside	
b. 3, f. 8-9	Lavender and Spice: a comedy in one act	1955
b. 3, f. 10	Let There Be Farce This script was created for a TV-Radio Workshop of the Ford Foundation, Omnibus V, Volume 5.  Documents were removed from metal clasp binder for preservation purposes.	1956
b. 3, f. 11	Let There Be Farce, photographs and publicity	1955-1956
b. 3, f. 12	Number One: A Play in One Act, draft	1955
b. 3, f. 13	Number One at Ottawa Little Theatre, photographs and program This performance occurred as it won 2nd place in the Canadian Playwriting Competition	1954
b. 3, f. 14	Number One photographs, program, publicity	1954-1955
b. 3, f. 15	Number One, bound book	
b. 3, f. 16	Ol' Caesar: a play in one act, draft Performed first on March 20, 1954 at Annex Theatre, Yale University; Director Tom Rae	1954
b. 3, f. 17	Once Bitten: a comedy in one act First produced in NYC at Friends Seminary	
b. 3, f. 18-20	Pierre, His Play: a comedy in one act File includes a draft with working title "The Proud Ones".	

## Plays and scripts (continued)

b. 4, f. 1	The Scene Shifter	1953-1954
b. 4, f. 2	Three One Act Plays: Number One; Workers of the World; Pierre, His Play Notebook with plays arranged together	
b. 4, f. 3	Workers of the World (a farce in one act)	1954
b. 4, f. 4-5	Workers of the World (a farce in one act), draft copies	
b. 4, f. 6	Workers of the World (a farce in one act), photographs and publicity	1956

## Essays

b. 4, f. 7	The Relationship of the Playwright to his Theatre Second part to this essay is the script for Inside	
b. 4, f. 8	The Little Theatre	
b. 4, f. 9	Off-Broadway: Cafe Drama and the Witch Hunt	

**Series II: Personal papers**

## Academic

This series consists of files relating to Norman Walsh Taylor's studies in playwriting as well as his teaching.

Published works were removed from the collection, including several plays by Thornton Wilder and compilations of short plays by Margaret Mayorga. Some plays were used in Taylor's teaching exercises, including Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth". Other Wilder plays removed include *The Ides of March*, *The Angel that Troubled the Waters*, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, *The Woman of Andros*, *Love and How to Cure It*, *Queens of France*, and *The Happy Journey*. Please see Orbis catalogue for copies available at Yale University Library.

b. 4, f. 10	Carleton column, writings from "Show Business" Contains newspaper sections	1952
b. 7	Carleton student newspaper from Carleton College, Ottawa, bound copy Available through the Internet Archive	1952-1953
Class notes		
b. 4, f. 11	Notes on readings and plays Paper removed from black three ring binder for preservation.	
b. 4, f. 12	Notes, play ideas	
b. 4, f. 13	Class notes	Undated
b. 4, f. 14	Class notes	Circa 1951
b. 4, f. 15	Class notes, Columbia University	1957-1960
Instruction		
Books		
These files contain Norman Walsh Taylor's annotated copies of the plays.		
b. 5, f. 1	The Skin of Our Teeth, by Thornton Wilder	
b. 5, f. 4	Class materials, discussion exercise for Skin of Our Teeth by Thornton Wilder	
b. 5, f. 5	Class materials, Our Town by Thornton Wilder Includes articles, instruction, and student papers	1959-1981
b. 5, f. 6	Phonetics and speech, notes	
b. 5, f. 7	Thornton Wilder bibliography	
b. 5, f. 8	Visuals of Thornton Wilder	Circa 1955
b. 6, f. 1-2	Union Theological Seminary production photographs	1957
Yale Drama School		
b. 6, f. 3	Commencement program and transcript	1956

## Academic &gt; Yale Drama School (continued)

b. 6, f. 4	Letters of recommendation	1956, 1975
b. 6, f. 5	Photographs of Yale Theatre performances and portraits of Norman Walsh Taylor	1953-1958
b. 6, f. 6	Slides of Yale performances Includes slides of Number One illustrations	1955-1957
b. 6, f. 7	Portraits of Norman Walsh Taylor, taken by Dorothy Kehaya	Circa 1958
b. 6, f. 8	Production book for Eugene O'Neil's <i>In The Zone</i> , by Norman Walsh for Drama 10 File contains a class project that includes an analysis of the play.	
Biographical materials		
b. 6, f. 9	Biography by Patricia Melville, photocopy	Undated
b. 6, f. 10	Newspaper clippings and photographs from ventriloquist performances	1938-1941
b. 6, f. 11	Feedback on writing	1955-1963
b. 6, f. 12	Correspondence from Roger Feller	1971 February 1
Davenport Theatre		
Norman Walsh met Butler Davenport in 1957 and refurbished his theatre and mounted two productions into repertory. Butler Davenport entrusted Norman Walsh with material that is now included in this collection, including copies of Davenport's scripts written under pseudonyms, photographs and floorplans of the building at its original opening, and printed material related to the theatre's history.		
b. 6, f. 13	Building, photographic prints and negatives	1957-1958
b. 8	Building, photographs on floppy disks <i>4 3.5_floppy_disks</i> As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use.	1957-1958
b. 6, f. 14	Building, slide photographs File includes images of building interior and exterior, advertising, set design, and stills from <i>The Servant of Two Masters</i> .	1957-1958
b. 6, f. 15-16	Clippings and research files	1971-1987
b. 7, f. 1	Floorplans	1958
b. 6, f. 17	<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i> File includes photographs and preparatory research for production of Carlo Godoni's play.	1959
b. 6, f. 18	<i>Noye's Fluddle</i> by Benjamin Britten at St. George's Episcopal Church, performance program and photographs	1964



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Drama  
Dramatists  
Playwriting  
Playwriting -- Study and teaching  
Theater  
Theater -- Education

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints  
Theater scripts

### **Acquired From**

Molczadski, Leonard S. , donor