

Guide to the Maurine Watkins Papers

YCAL MSS 1079



by Rosemary K. J. Davis

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Maurine Watkins	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Plays, 1926-2012	6
Series II: Other writings, 1927-1949	8
Series III: Personal papers, 1890-1939	10
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1079

CREATOR: Watkins, Maurine

TITLE: Maurine Watkins papers

DATES: circa 1890-2012

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.75 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Maurine Watkins Papers, which span from 1890 to 2012, contain writings, including scripts and short stories, printed material, correspondence, photographs and other papers by or relating to Maurine Watkins. Watkins was a journalist and playwright whose most well-known work was the play "Chicago," which Bob Fosse adapted into an award-winning musical.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.watkins>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Ken Lopez Bookseller, Ann Margaret Brown Buckland and Peter L. Brown on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, and the Adele Gutman Nathan Theatrical Collection Fund, 2016.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Maurine Watkins Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Maurine Watkins Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of the Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Maurine Watkins

Maurine Dallas Watkins (1896-1969) was a playwright and journalist most well-known for writing the play "Chicago." Watkins was born in Kentucky, attended several colleges including Radcliffe College, and got hired by the Chicago Tribune as a reporter in 1924. While working at the Tribune, Watkins reported on the trials of Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner, who were both found not guilty of murder. Soon after, Watkins left her position at the Tribune and went to Yale University to continue her studies, eventually writing a fictionalized version of the Annan and Gaertner trials entitled "Chicago." Watkins went on to write over twenty plays. After Watkins's death of lung cancer, her estate sold the rights of "Chicago" to Bob Fosse, who adapted the play into a successful musical.

Scope and Contents

The Maurine Watkins Papers, which span from 1890 to 2012, contain writings, including scripts and short stories, printed material, correspondence, photographs and other papers by or relating to Maurine Watkins. Watkins was a journalist and playwright whose most well-known work was the play "Chicago," which Bob Fosse adapted into an award-winning musical.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Plays, 1926-2012. II. Other Writings, 1927-1949. III. Personal Papers, 1890-1939.

Collection Contents

Series I: Plays, 1926-2012

1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)

Primarily contains plays written by Maurine Watkins including manuscript drafts and typescripts, along with a small number of photographs and pieces of ephemera.

Materials arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 1	Against the day	undated
b. 1	An old fashioned girl	undated
b. 1	Blue roses	undated
b. 1	Chicago	undated
b. 1	Chicago	undated
b. 1	Chicago	1926
b. 1	Chicago: printed version	1927
b. 1	Chicago: printed version (in German)	1927
b. 1	Chicago 1975	undated
b. 2	Chicago: photographs	undated
b. 2	Photos, articles, and the "Chicago" file 2009	undated
b. 2	Gesture	undated
b. 2	Gesture	undated
b. 2	Glory	undated
b. 2	Henrietta's mother	undated
b. 2	Legend	undated
b. 2	Mardi Gras or Snatch the city	undated
b. 2	Mardi Gras	undated
b. 2	Marshland	undated
b. 2	Marshland	undated
b. 3	Marshland	undated
b. 3	Marshland	undated
b. 3	Prologue	undated
b. 3	Quick action	undated
b. 3	Real Jan Braaten	undated

b. 3	Real Jan Braaten	undated
b. 3	Revelry	undated
b. 3	Rivers of Babylon	undated
b. 3	Snatch the day!	undated
b. 3	Snatch the day!	undated
b. 3	Snatch the day!	undated
b. 4	So help me God!	undated
b. 4	So help me God!	undated
b. 4	So help me God!	undated
b. 4	So help me God!	undated
b. 4	So help me God!	undated
b. 4	So help me God!:: program	2009 December
b. 4	Tinsel girl	undated
b. 4	Tinsel girl	undated
b. 4	Velvet	undated
b. 4	Program for "Up the River"	1930 October 10
b. 4	Young must live	undated

Series II: Other writings, 1927-1949*0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Contains writings by Maurine Watkins including short stories, personal notes, and writings from her time in school.

Materials arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 5	Alimony	undated
b. 5	All out for love	undated
b. 5	All out for love	undated
b. 5	Blue flower	undated
b. 5	Blue flower	undated
b. 5	Blue flower	1949 June
b. 5	Bound	undated
b. 5	Bound	undated
b. 5	Bound	undated
b. 5	Bound	undated
b. 5	Butterfly goes home	undated
b. 5	Change	undated
b. 5	Circus story	undated
b. 5	Doors	undated
b. 5	Home free	undated
b. 5	Honors are even	undated
b. 5	Leaf from Eve	undated
b. 5	Miscellaneous short stories	bulk 1927-1928
b. 5	Morning glory	undated
b. 5	Notes on art, inc.	undated
b. 5	Poison	undated
b. 5	Poison	undated
b. 5	Same boat	undated
b. 5	Thistle	undated
b. 5	Thistle	undated
b. 6	Wait, colonel	undated

b. 6	World wise	undated
b. 6	Miscellaneous short stories	undated
b. 6	School writings	undated
b. 6	Bible college writings	undated
b. 6	Bible college writings	undated

Series III: Personal papers, 1890-1939

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Contains materials related to Maurine Watkins' personal life.

Materials within this series are organized maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 7	Correspondence	bulk 1920–1939
b. 7	Estate records	undated
b. 7	Hamburg trip itinerary	no year, August
b. 7	Passport	1933
b. 7	George Watkins theological notes	1890 September
b. 7	Photograph	undated

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

American drama -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Dramatists, American -- 20th Century --
Archives

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Dramatists -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Watkins, Maurine

Acquired From

Ken Lopez Bookseller , bookseller
Buckland, Ann Margaret Brown , bookseller
Brown, Peter L. , bookseller