

# Edward Chodorov:

## A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Chodorov, Edward, 1904-1988
<b>Title:</b>	Edward Chodorov Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1936-1997
<b>Extent:</b>	22 boxes, 2 oversize boxes (9.87 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains Chodorov's notes, proposals, and scripts for produced plays, movies, and unrealized productions, including typescript drafts of <i>Kind Lady</i> and <i>Oh Men! Oh Women!</i> ; business and personal correspondence, including some relating to the Hollywood blacklist of the 1950s; other business and personal documents of Chodorov and his wife, including clippings, notes, travel documents, diaries, and address books; and a short story by Chodorov's brother Jerome, a television documentary proposal by his sister Isabelle Chase, and several versions of a play by his wife Rosemary.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-04977
<b>Language:</b>	Most material in English.
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research

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### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition:</b>	Gift 2003 (Gift no. 12422)
<b>Processed by:</b>	Isabel Morales and Hope Rider, 2005
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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## Scope and Contents

The Edward Chodorov Papers contain materials relating to his long career writing for film and stage. The collection is arranged in four series: I. Works & Related Files, ca. 1941-1993; II. Correspondence 1947-1997; III. Career-Related & Personal, 1936-1995; and IV. Works by Others.

Series I. Works & Related Files includes produced plays and movies, as well as notes, proposals, and scripts for many unrealized productions. Two of the works represented are *Kind Lady* and *Oh Men! Oh Women*, both produced on stage and in film. The bulk of the series contains typescript drafts of the works. Chodorov did not keep materials related to his early productions.

The correspondence in Series II. is primarily business related, although there are some personal letters. It is organized chronologically, with some folders also grouped by subject. There are several folders of notebooks, listing outgoing correspondence kept by Chodorov's wife, Rosemary. These record all of the mail, both business and personal, that the couple sent for the years 1970-1980. Of special interest in this series are folders relating to the Hollywood blacklist of the 1950s. Chodorov was blacklisted in 1954 and spent the rest of his life trying to reclaim his position and benefits. Throughout the series there are numerous letters to the artist Al Hirschfeld and the journalist Abe Rosenthal, both personal friends of the Chodorovs.

Series III. Career-Related & Personal includes reference files of clippings and notes collected by Chodorov, personal photographs and official travel documents, and diaries. The diaries were kept by Rosemary Chodorov, beginning several years before she met Edward, and continuing after his death. The bulk of the diaries chronicle their daily activities and appointments, both personal and business. There are several folders of address books covering time they spent in England, Europe, and New York.

The works by others in Series IV. consist of a short story by Chodorov's brother Jerome (also a playwright), a television documentary proposal by his sister Isabelle Chase, and several versions of a play by Rosemary entitled "Harry's Whore."

Audio and video cassettes received with this collection were transferred to appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.

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## Separated Material

Sound recordings were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recording collection and are described individually in a list at the end of this finding aid and in a [searchable database](#).

## **Index Terms**

### **People**

Chodorov, Rosemary.

Chodorov, Jerome.

Chase, Isabelle.

Hirschfeld, Al.

Rosenthal, Abe.

### **Subjects**

Screenwriters United States.

Blacklisting of authors.

Diarists.

### **Document Types**

Plays.

Motion picture plays.

Diaries.

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**Series I. Works & Related Files, ca. 1941-1993**

1932: Biographies and Other Events

Typescript

**Box 1 Folder 1**

Typescript photocopies

**Folder 2-5**

Britain's Traditional Americans, typescript photocopy

**Folder 6**

The Clubwomen (unproduced play), typescript

**Folder 7**Colonel Lutz: The Two Boon Companions, The Chief and Hollywood, short story  
typescript**Folder  
8***Common Ground* (play, 1946)

Published play and photocopy

**Box 1 Folder  
9-10**

The Crow and the Cradle, screenplay typescripts

First draft, 10 May 1978

**Box 2 Folder 1**

Photocopies

**Folder 2-5***Cue for Passion* (play, 1941), original cast list, photocopy**Folder 6***Decision* (play, 1946), published script and photocopies**Folder 7-8**

Dienbienphu

Story treatment and legal papers, 1974-1976

**Box 2  
Folder 9**

Typescript photocopy

**Folder 10**

Erskine (unproduced play), typescript photocopies

**Box 3  
Folder 1-3**

Flanagan (presumed title, EC's final play)

References, research materials

**Box 3 Folder 4**

Typescripts, heavily revised	<b>Folder 5-7</b>
Typescripts, cont'd	<b>Box 4 Folder 1</b>
"Give me YNFI," playlet, published version in <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , 26 February 1967	<b>Folder 2</b>
Have I Found You, Julie?, synopsis typescript	<b>Folder 3</b>
Hell on Wheels (alternate title, Saddle and Go)	
Typescripts	<b>Box 4 Folder 4-5</b>
Lyrics, songs, research materials	<b>Folder 6-7</b>
The Irrational Knot (unproduced play)	
Typescript photocopies	<b>Box 4 Folder 8-9</b>
Typescripts, cont'd	<b>Box 5 Folder 1-3</b>
Correspondence, contract draft	<b>Folder 4</b>
<i>Kind Lady</i> (play, 1936; films, 1935 & 1951)	
Published play	<b>Box 5 Folder 5</b>
Business correspondence, ca. 1960-1981	<b>Folder 6-7</b>
Contracts, misc. business correspondence	<b>Folder 8</b>
Houston production, correspondence, clippings, 1985	<b>Folder 9</b>
Samuel French Inc., correspondence re royalties, IRS lien, 1985-1986	<b>Box 6 Folder 1</b>
Like a Singing Bird, screenplay, first draft continuity, 7 August 1947; correspondence	<b>Folder 2</b>
<i>Listen to the Mockingbird</i> (play, 1958)	

Original version, typescript and photocopies	<b>Box 6 Folder 3-6</b>
Revised 1 February 1959	<b>Folder 7-8</b>
Revised version, photocopy	<b>Folder 9-10</b>
Contracts, correspondence, notes	<b>Box 7 Folder 1-2</b>
<b>The Lynching of Elizabeth Taylor (screenplay)</b>	
Story pamphlets, film treatments	<b>Box 7 Folder 3</b>
Typescript photocopies	<b>Folder 4-7</b>
Contracts, business correspondence, 1967-1993	<b>Folder 8</b>
Contracts, cont'd	<b>Box 8 Folder 1-2</b>
Mike Romanoff, typescript	<b>Folder 3</b>
<b><i>Monsieur Lautrec</i> (play, 1959)</b>	
Working copy, with notes	<b>Box 8 Folder 4</b>
"Auditions", scripts	<b>Folder 5-6</b>
Pictures from an Exhibition (alternate title), typescript	<b>Folder 7</b>
<b>Naked to Walk the Night, screenplay</b>	
Research materials	<b>Box 8 Folder 8</b>
Typescript photocopies	<b>Folder 9</b>
Typescript, cont'd	<b>Box 9 Folder 1</b>
"The Night They Made a Bum Out of Helen Hayes", television play script, photocopy	<b>Folder 2</b>
Nora, typescript sections	<b>Folder 3</b>
<b><i>Oh Men! Oh Women!</i> (play, 1955; film, 1957)</b>	

"Behold a Wonder" (early title), play synopsis typescript	<b>Box 9</b> <b>Folder 4</b>
Typescript	<b>Folder 5</b>
Cuts from script	<b>Folder 6</b>
Published play	<b>Folder 7</b>
Movie royalties reports	<b>Folder 8</b>
One Hot Night in Alabama, synopsis and references	<b>Folder 9</b>
<i>The Opening of a Door</i> (revised version of <i>Kind Lady</i> ; play, 1975), final draft typescript, 26 November 1975, program	<b>Folder</b> 10
Paris in the Twenties, proposal	<b>Folder 11</b>
Reflected Glory (screenplay, adaptation of play by George Kelly), typescript	<b>Folder</b> 12
Senior Service, news show proposal	<b>Folder</b> 13
<i>The Spa</i> (play, 1957), published play and photocopy	<b>Box 10</b> <b>Folder 1-2</b>
Sunday Father, typescripts, 28 July 1958	<b>Folder</b> 3-5
<i>Those Endearing Young Charms</i> (play, 1943), published play photocopy	<b>Folder 6</b>
Traffic in Innocents (screenplay)	
First script, 18 September 1963	<b>Box 10 Folder 7</b>
Correspondence re Chodorov vs. Ace Films Inc. and Onslow Square Corporations	<b>Folder</b> 8
Two Boards and a Passion, typescript	<b>Folder</b> 9
A Very Important Man Is Dead (stage adaptation of <i>Hall of Mirrors</i> by John Rowan Wilson	

Research materials, notes, typescript fragments	<b>Box 11</b> <b>Folder 1-2</b>
Typescript sections	<b>Folder 3</b>
<i>Hall of Mirrors</i> , heavily annotated, and clippings	<b>Folder 4</b>
Miscellaneous writings, includes newspaper and playbill articles	<b>Folder 5</b>



**Series II. Correspondence, 1947-1997**

1947-1949; re <i>My Dear Watson</i>	<b>Box 11 Folder 6</b>
1950-1956	<b>Folder 7</b>
1954-1959, re passport problems	<b>Folder 8</b>
1954-1997, re Hollywood blacklist	<b>Folder 9</b>
1957	<b>Box 12 Folder 1</b>
1958	<b>Folder 2</b>
1959, misc. 1950s	<b>Folder 3</b>
1960	<b>Folder 4</b>
1960-1974, with Leo Kerz	<b>Folder 5</b>
1961	<b>Folder 6</b>
1962	<b>Folder 7</b>
1963	<b>Folder 8</b>
1964	<b>Folder 9</b>
1965-1966, "Letters to do with motion pictures"	<b>Folder 10</b>
1965-1968	<b>Folder 11</b>
1969	<b>Box 13 Folder 1</b>
1970	<b>Folder 2</b>
1971-1973	<b>Folder 3</b>
1974	<b>Folder 4</b>
1975	<b>Folder 5</b>
1976-1979, misc. 1970s	<b>Folder 6</b>
1977-1980, teaching, California State University, Northridge; New York University; Showcase Theatre; Fairfield University, Westport	<b>Folder 7</b>

1980-1988

**Folder 8**

1988, re death of Chodorov

**Box 14 Folder 1-4**

Collected correspondence: "Important notes and letters," business correspondence, and miscellaneous

**Folder  
5-8**

Outgoing, correspondence record books

1970-1972

**Box 14 Folder 9**

1972-1975

**Folder 10**

1976-1980

**Box 15 Folder 1**

**Series III. Career-Related & Personal, 1936-1995**

## Accounts, record books

1969-1971 **Box 15 Folder 2**1971-1978 **Folder 3**1979-1985 **Folder 4**1986-1990 **Folder 5**Address books **Folder 6**Address books, cont'd **Box 16 Folder 1-3**Chodorov, Wendy, birth certificate (copy), Christmas card, 1961 **Folder 4**

## Clippings

About EC **Box 16 Folder 5**re Writer's Guild of America **Folder 6**Contracts, various 1936-1967 **Folder 7-9**"Credits," résumé, works lists **Folder 10**

## Diaries created by Rosemary Chodorov

## Prior to marriage

1950-1951 **Box 16 Folder 11**1952-1954 **Box 17 Folder 1**1955-1959 **Folder 2**1960-1965 **Folder 3**1965-1966 **Folder 4**1967 **Folder 5**1967-1969 **Folder 6**1970-1972 **Box 18 Folder 1**

1973-1975	<b>Folder 2</b>
1976-1978	<b>Folder 3</b>
1979-1981	<b>Folder 4</b>
1981-1982	<b>Folder 5</b>
1986-1988	<b>Box 19 Folder 1</b>
After Chodorov's death	
1989-1991	<b>Box 19 Folder 2</b>
1991-1995	<b>Folder 3</b>
Financial documents, misc.	<b>Folder 4</b>
Memorial for EC, correspondence, program information	<b>Folder 5-6</b>
Obituaries of EC	<b>Folder 7</b>
Photograph album	
Guide, with numbered photograph descriptions	<b>Box 19 Folder 8</b>
1-19	<b>Folder 9</b>
20-37	<b>Box 20 Folder 1</b>
38-54	<b>Folder 2</b>
55-77	<b>Folder 3</b>
78-96	<b>Folder 4</b>
97-111, 113	<b>Folder 5</b>
112, ID and membership cards	<b>Folder 6</b>
"References," clippings, notes, correspondence drafts, misc. (*oversize removed to box 23)	<b>Folder 7-9*</b>
"References" cont'd	<b>Box 21 Folder 1-3</b>

Tax forms, 1950-1951, 1961-1963, 1965	<b>Folder</b> 4
Theatre scrapbook, reviews and clippings (*oversize scrapbook removed to box 24)	<b>Folder</b> 5*
Travel documents	
International driving permits, immunization records, registration cards	<b>Box 21</b> <b>Folder</b> 6
Passports, EC and RC	<b>Folder 7</b>

**Series IV. Works By Others**

Biographies of others that mention EC	<b>Box 21 Folder 8</b>
Chase, Isabelle (sister of EC). Career, television show proposal typescript	<b>Folder 9</b>
Chodorov, Jerome. The World's Biggest Caper (And How It Grew), typescript	<b>Folder 10</b>
Chodorov, Rosemary. Harry's Whore	
"Original script with original names," typescript (titled Eddie's Whore), 1973	<b>Box 21 Folder 11</b>
Script photocopy, 1978	<b>Folder 12</b>
Script photocopies, nd	<b>Box 22 Folder 1-2</b>
Directed reading script, EC copy	<b>Folder 3</b>
Screenplay, typescript photocopy	<b>Folder 4</b>
Correspondence, 1979-1983	<b>Folder 5</b>
Oversize	<b>Box 23-24</b>

**Sound Recordings List**

- C 0918 : audiocassettes : In honor of Edward Chodorov
- C 0919 : audiocassettes : Eddie Chodorov's last words to Sidney Kingsley
- C 0920 : audiocassettes : Edward Chodorov's Oral History, Tape 1 of 5
- C 0921 : audiocassettes : Edward Chodorov's Oral History, Tape 2 of 5
- C 0922 : audiocassettes : Edward Chodorov's Oral History, Tape 3 of 5
- C 0923 : audiocassettes : Edward Chodorov's Oral History, Tape 4 of 5
- C 0924 : audiocassettes : Edward Chodorov's Oral History, Tape 5 of 5
- D 0085 : phonograph records : The Crow and the Cradle and "The Sun is Burning"
- R 1565 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Hell on Wheels, "Saddle & Co.", Tape I
- R 1566 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Hell on Wheels, "Saddle & Co.", Tape II