

Thomas Fiske:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection of Norman Mailer at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

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| Creator: | Fiske, Thomas |
| Title: | Thomas Fiske Collection of Norman Mailer |
| Dates: | 1935-2005 |
| Extent: | 8 document boxes, 10 serials boxes, 3 oversize boxes, 3 oversize folders, 1 galley folder (10.75 linear feet) |
| Abstract: | Reflecting a long and prolific literary career, this collection of Norman Mailer, assembled by collector Thomas Fiske, includes typescript drafts, playscripts, screenplays, galleys and proofs, dust jackets, posters, lobby cards, publicity, poems, sheet music, articles by and about Mailer, correspondence, interviews, campaign materials, personal papers, photographs, programs, and speeches. |
| RLIN Record #: | None |
| Language: | English. |
| Access: | Open for research |

Administrative Information

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| Acquisition: | Purchase, 2005 (Reg. no. 15385) |
| Processed by: | Hope Donovan Rider and Liz Murray, 2005 |
| Repository: | Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin |

Scope and Contents

Reflecting a long and prolific literary career, this collection of Norman Mailer, assembled by collector Thomas Fiske, includes typescript drafts, playscripts, screenplays, galleys and proofs, dust jackets, posters, lobby cards, publicity, poems, sheet music, articles by and about Mailer, correspondence, interviews, campaign materials, personal papers, photographs, programs, and speeches. The collection is organized in two series: I. Works and Associated Material, 1942-1997; and II. Career-Related and Personal, 1935-2005.

The works series contains material for film, fiction and non-fiction works, plays, and other writings. Films represented are *Beyond the Law* (1968), *The Deer Park* (1982), *The Executioner's Song* (1982), *King Lear* (1987), *Maidstone* (1970), *Ragtime* (1981), *Tough Guys Don't Dance* (1986), *Town Bloody Hall: A Dialogue on Women's Liberation* (1979), and *Wild 90* (1967). Mailer's fiction and nonfiction works include *Cannibals and Christians* (1966); *The Executioner's Song* (1979); "The Foundation" (1942), working title for the novella "A Calculus at Heaven" (*Cross-Section*, 1944); *The Gospel According to the Son* (1997); *Harlot's Ghost* (1991); *The Prisoner of Sex* (1971); *The White Negro* (1959); and *Why Are We in Vietnam?* (1967). Two plays, *The Deer Park* and *Strawhead*, are also present. Other writings include two published contributions, "The Last Draft of *The Deer Park*" and "Rounding Camelot, 1958-1967." Published excerpts and other short works are also found in numerous serials included with the collection.

Series II. Career-Related and Personal includes articles by and about Mailer, correspondence, interviews, personal papers, photographs and portraiture, and programs related to public appearances. The correspondence dates from 1946-1996. Included are Mailer's outgoing letters to Peter Arthurs, Tom Fiske, and Howard Sounes. Of particular interest is a 1946 letter to Angus Cameron, an editor at Little, Brown, concerning the editing of profanity in *The Naked and the Dead*. A number of Mailer print and television interview transcripts are present, including the newspaper *Exposé* (1956), William F. Buckley, Jr. (1979), David Frost (1992), Charlie Rose (1993 and 1997), and Sean Abbott for *At Random* (1997). Also present are writings by Mailer scholar and archivist, J. Michael Lennon, especially his edited volume of correspondence, *Norman Mailer's Letters on An American Dream, 1963-1969* (2004).

Testifying to Mailer's eclectic career, this series also contains material on Mailer's unsuccessful 1969 campaign with Jimmy Breslin for New York City municipal leadership. The programs and print material related to public appearances range from his 1943 Harvard commencement program to conferences, symposia, literary festivals, debates, readings, benefits, and events at the 92nd Street Y Poetry Center. Mailer's speeches include his acceptance speech for the 1969 National Book Award and the 1995 spring commencement address at Wilkes University.

Separated Material

Audio cassettes, books, film (including original film prints for "Wild 90," "Maidstone," and "Beyond the Law"), and personal effects (including campaign buttons and a small section of "Vertical City" made from Lego Blocks) received with this collection were transferred to appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.

Index Terms

People

Cameron, Angus (Donald Angus).

Lennon, Michael.

Mailer, Norman.

Document Types

Programs.

Screenplays.

Serials.

Typescripts.

Series I. Works and Associated Material, 1942-1997

Beyond the Law (1968)

Film treatment, photocopy of uncorrected typescript, with notes by Jan Welt **Box 1
Folder 1**

Lobby card and posters (*removed to oversize folder) **Box
Folder ***

"A Calculus at Heaven" see "The Foundation"

Cannibals and Christians (1966), proof, Dial Press **Box 1
Folder 2**

The Deer Park: A Play (1967)

Playscript, no. 23, 1967 **Box 1 Folder 3**

Poster, Theatre de Lys, 1967 (*removed to oversize folder) **Box
Folder ***

Programs, Theatre de Lys, 1967 **Box 1 Folder 4**

Screenplay by Joan Didion and John Gregory Dunne, undated **Folder 5**

Dust jackets, various works **Folder 6**

The Executioner's Song (novel, 1979)

Typescript **Box 1 Folder 7**

Typescript, cont'd **Box 2 Folder 1-6**

Typescript, cont'd **Box 3 Folder 1-5**

Publisher's press release packet **Folder 6**

Screenplay drafts, 1981

Corrected second draft, 15 April **Box 4 Folder 1**

Feature draft, 1 August **Folder 2**

Principal photography draft, 25 August **Folder 3**

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| Shooting draft, 25 September | Folder 4 |
| Poster (*removed to oversize folder) | Folder * |
| Production stills | Folder 5 |
| "The Foundation," May 1942, Harvard class project, mimeographed (working version for the novella "A Calculus at Heaven" published in <i>Cross-Section</i> , 1944) | Folder 6 |
| <i>Gargoyle, Guignol, False Closet</i> , broadside, extract from a correspondence, July 1964 | Folder 7 |
| <i>The Gospel According to the Son</i> (1997), uncorrected proof, with publisher's publicity | Folder 8 |
| <i>Harlot's Ghost</i> (1991) | |
| Printer's text block dummy | Box 5 Folder 1 |
| Publicity (*cardboard display removed to oversize folder) | Box Folder * |
| "How Writers Write: Norman Mailer," poster, 1971 (*removed to oversize folder) | |
| <i>King Lear</i> (1987), Godard film | |
| Poster (*removed to oversize folder) | Box Folder * |
| Publicity material, including production stills | Box 5 Folder 2 |
| "The Last Draft of <i>The Deer Park</i> ," in Thomas McCormack (ed.), <i>Afterwords, Novelists on Their Novels</i> (1969), galleys (*removed to galley files) | Box Folder * |
| <i>Maidstone</i> (1970), film poster and lobby card (*removed to oversize folder) | |
| Poems, in <i>Act IV Portfolio</i> , 1966 (*photocopy removed to oversize folder) | |
| <i>The Prisoner of Sex</i> (1971), unused handwritten page | Box 5 Folder 3 |

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| Publicity material, various works | Folder 4 |
| <i>Ragtime</i> (1981), film poster (*removed to oversize folder) | Box Folder * |
| "Rounding Camelot, 1958-1967," in <i>A Century of Arts and Letters</i> , typescript draft, 1996 | Box 5 Folder 5 |
| Short pieces, excerpts | Folder 6 |
| <i>Strawhead</i> , playscripts, 1986 and n.d. | Folder 7-9 |
| <i>Tough Guys Don't Dance</i> , screenplay, 1986 | |
| First draft, 1 May | Box 6 Folder 1 |
| Draft, 23 August | Folder 2 |
| Draft 4.2, 11 October | Folder 3 |
| Draft 5, 28 October | Folder 4 |
| Poster (*removed to oversize folder) | Box Folder * |
| Publicity packet, Cannon Films, with production stills | Box 6 Folder 5 |
| <i>Town Bloody Hall: A Dialogue on Women's Liberation</i> (1979), documentary film poster (*removed to oversize folder) | Box Folder * |
| <i>The White Negro</i> (1959), proof, City Lights Books | Box 6 Folder 6 |
| <i>Why Are We in Vietnam?</i> (1967) | |
| Uncorrected proof | Box 6 Folder 7 |
| Play fragment | Folder 8 |
| <i>Wild 90</i> (1967) | |
| Screenplay typescript with corrections and sound notations, 1967 | Box 6 Folder 9 |

Fiske, Thomas

Poster and lobby card (*removed to oversize folder)

Box
Folder *

"You'll Come Back (You Always Do)," sheet music, words by Mailer, 1988

Box 6
Folder
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Series II. Career-Related and Personal, 1935-2005

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| Articles by and about Mailer (<i>see also</i> serials in boxes 9-18 and oversize boxes 19-21) | Box 7 Folder 1 |
| Autograph book, Public School 161, New York City, with Mailer's handwritten entry, 1935 | Folder 2 |
| Correspondence, general, 1946-1996 | Folder 3 |
| Interviews for print and television, 1956-1997 | Folder 4 |
| Lennon, J. Michael | |
| <i>Norman Mailer's Letters on An American Dream, 1963-1969</i> , unbound signatures, 2004 | Box 7 Folder 5 |
| Works on Mailer | Folder 6 |
| Mayoral campaign materials, 1969 (*campaign poster removed to oversize folder) | Folder 7* |
| Monroe, Marilyn, 1974 calendars and datebooks | Folder 8-10 |
| Personal papers related to National Service Life Insurance, 1947-1952 | Folder 11 |
| Photographs and portraiture | |
| Photographs of Mailer, 1948-2000s | Box 7 Folder 12 |
| "Portrait of Norman Mailer," reproduction of a collage by Larry Rivers, 1998 | Folder 13 |
| Self portraits, Mailer drawings | Folder 14 |

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| Programs and print material related to public appearances, 1943-2005 (*oversize poster removed to oversize folder) | Box 8 Folder 1-4* |
| Speeches, typescripts | Folder 5 |
| Serials (*oversize removed to boxes 19-21) | Box Folder * |
| <i>America and the Intellectuals - The Cornhill Magazine</i> | Box 9 |
| <i>Cosmopolitan - Esquire</i> | Box 10 |
| <i>Esquire, cont'd - George</i> | Box 11 |
| <i>Harper's Magazine - Mediums</i> | Box 12 |
| <i>Michigan Quarterly Review - Newsweek</i> | Box 13 |
| <i>Nugget Magazine - Pharaon</i> | Box 14 |
| <i>Playboy - Publishers Weekly</i> | Box 15 |
| <i>Puritan - Stone Age</i> | Box 16 |
| <i>Story - Vanity Fair</i> | Box 17 |
| <i>Vanity Fair, cont'd - Writer's Digest</i> | Box 18 |
| Oversize | Box 19-21 |