

Arnold Sundgaard:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Sundgaard, Arnold, 1909-2006
Title:	Arnold Sundgaard Papers
Dates:	1938-2004, undated
Extent:	7 document boxes (2.94 linear feet)
Abstract:	The Arnold Sundgaard Papers consist of typescripts of works, incoming and outgoing correspondence, subject files, agreements, and contracts that document Sundgaard's varied writing career.
Call Number:	Performing Arts Collection PA-00188
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
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Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gift, 2004

Processed by: Helen Adair, 2005; Helen Baer, 2015; Daniela Lozano, 2017

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Biographical Sketch

Arnold Sundgaard (1909-2006) was a lyricist, librettist, and playwright who worked with many leading composers including Kurt Weill, with whom he wrote the folk opera *Down in the Valley* (1948), Alec Wilder, with whom he wrote *The Lowland Sea* (1952), and Douglas S. Moore, with whom he wrote the operas *Giants in the Earth* (1951) and *Gallantry* (1962). Plays written by Sundgaard include the documentary play *Spirochete: A History* (1938), which chronicled the spread of syphilis, and *Of Love Remembered* (1967). He is also the author of several children's books including *The Lamb and the Butterfly* (1988) and *The Bear Who Loved Puccini* (1992). His children's album, *An Axe, an Apple, and a Buckskin Jacket* (1957), was written with Wilder and recorded by Bing Crosby. In addition to writing, Sundgaard taught drama at the University of Texas, Columbia University, University of Illinois, and Bennington College.

Sources:

In addition to material found in the Arnold Sundgaard Papers, the following source was used:

Fox, Margalit. "Arnold Sundgaard, Lyricist and Playwright, Is Dead at 96." *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/31/obituaries/31sundgaard.html> (accessed 24 August 2017).

Scope and Contents

The Arnold Sundgaard Papers, 1938-2004, undated, consist of typescripts of works, correspondence, subject files, agreements, and contracts that document Sundgaard's varied writing career. The collection is arranged in two series: I. Works, 1947-1996, undated; and II. Personal and Career Related, 1938-2004.

Series I. Works consists of typescripts of works by Sundgaard including the children's album *An Axe, an Apple, and a Buckskin Jacket*, the plays *Forests of the Night*, *The Great Campaign*, and *Of Love Remembered*, and the operas *Giants in the Earth* and *Mosaic* among others. The works are arranged in alphabetical order.

Series II. Personal and Career Related is divided into two subseries: A. Correspondence and Subject Files, 1941-2004; and B. Contracts and Agreements, 1938-2001. The folder titles in this series are taken from Sundgaard's original files and are arranged in alphabetical order.

Subseries A. Correspondence and Subject Files consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence as well as various subject files related to organizations, publishers, and people. Correspondents include Willem Breuker, Eric Carle, Val Holley, and Ronald Prather.

Subseries B. Contracts and Agreements is made up of material related to Sundgaard's writing career. Some of the files are labeled with the title of the work with which the material pertains, while some are labeled with the name of the publisher or company. Correspondence is included in some of the files, especially the children's books files which also include reviews.

Related Material

Additional Arnold Sundgaard materials are located at George Mason University.

Series I. Works, 1947-1996, undated

Akron by Moonlight (2), 1959 and 1983	Container 1.1-2
An Axe, an Apple, and a Buckskin Jacket, undated	Container 1.3
Builders of the Nation, 1983	Container 1.4
The Carnival on Toulouse Street, undated	Container 1.5
The Cherry Orchard (3 copies), 1994	Container 1.6-7
Forests of the Night, undated	Container 1.8
Giants in the Earth (2 copies and narration), 1993	Container 1.9
The Great Campaign, 1947	Container 2.1
The Group Remembered, undated	Container 2.2
Hotel Cherokee, undated	Container 2.3
Innocency with Her Open Face (2 copies), undated	Container 2.4
Knock on Wood, 1981	Container 2.5
Mosaic (2 copies), undated	Container 2.6
Nothing Said, Nothing Spoken (3 copies), 1996	Container 2.7-8
Of Love Remembered, undated	Container 2.9
The Summer Wing, undated	Container 3.1

Series II. Personal and Career Related, 1938-2004

Subseries A. Correspondence and Subject Files, 1941-2004

ASCAP

Agreement, 1975-1995	Container 3.2
Correspondence, 1990-1993	Container 3.3
Information, 1991-1997	Container 3.4
Breuker, Willem / Carrie de Swaan, 1995	Container 3.5
Carle, Eric, 1988-1995	Container 3.6
Crown Books, 1991-1993	Container 3.7
Davenport, Beth (attorney), 1992-1996	Container 3.8
Gauch, Patricia, 1989-1994	Container 3.9
George Mason University, 1978-1993	Container 3.10
Greenwillow Books, 1992-1996	Container 3.11
Holley, Val, 1991-1992	Container 3.12
Kurt Weill Foundation for Music	
1949-1996	Container 3.13
1982-1995	Container 3.14
Margun Music, Inc., 1990-1992	Container 3.15
Orchard Books, 1993-1997	Container 3.16
Picture Book Studio (Andrew Clements), 1990-1993	Container 3.17
Plantier, Lawrence (accountant), 1994-1999	Container 3.18
Prather, Ronald E., 1990-1993	Container 4.1
Reviews, 1984-1992, undated	Container 4.2
Santa Fe Opera (John Crosby), 1991-1994	Container 4.3

Songwriters Guild of America, 1952-1992 **Container 4.4**

Sundgaard, Arnold

Articles by or about

The Drama Review, volume 21, number 1, March 1977 (contains article Spirochete and the War on Syphilis by John S. O'Connor) **Container 4.5**

Kurt Weill Newsletter, volume 10, number 2, Fall 1992 (contains article Alec Wilder: Curt about Weill by Sundgaard)

Biography, 1952-2004 **Container 4.6**

Copyrights, 1941-1999 **Container 4.7**

TRO – The Richmond Organization

1951-1993 **Container 4.8**

1990-1996 **Container 4.9**

Weissberger, Arnold, 1959 **Container 4.10**

Wilder, Alec, 1980-1990 **Container 4.11**

Wilson, Robert, 1990-2000 **Container 4.12**

Subseries B. Contracts and Agreements, 1938-2001

Children's books

The Bear Who Loved Puccini

Contracts, 1990 **Container 4.13**

Correspondence and reviews, 1988-1993 **Container 5.1**

'Special letters,' 1992-1993 **Container 5.2**

Ching Ching and the Seven Golden Nightingales

Contracts, 1991 **Container 5.3**

Correspondence and reviews, 1985-1992 **Container 5.4**

Jethro's Difficult Dinosaur

Contracts, 1976 **Container 5.5**

Correspondence and reviews, 1973-1986	Container 5.6
The Lamb and the Butterfly	
Contracts, 1988-1997	Container 5.7
Correspondence and reviews, 1987-1994	Container 5.8
Meet Jack Appleknocker	
Contracts, 1986-1994	Container 5.9
Correspondence and reviews, 1983-1996	Container 5.10
Cricket Magazine, 1989	Container 5.11
Douglas Mountain, 1978-1986	Container 5.12
Down in the Valley, 1945-1986	Container 5.13
The Dramatists Guild, 1955-1982	Container 6.1
The First Crocus, 1941	Container 6.2
The Ford Foundation / Omnibus Television Contracts, 1954-1955	Container 6.3
Forests of the Night / Of Love Remembered, 1965-1967	Container 6.4
G. Schirmer, Inc.	
Contracts, 1951-1991	Container 6.5
Correspondence, 1952-1992	Container 6.6
Giants in the Earth, 1949-1953	Container 6.7
The Great Campaign, 1945-1947	Container 6.8
The Griffon / RAF Molesworth, 1994	Container 6.9
Knock on Wood / The Carpenters Union, 1981	Container 6.10
Liebling-Wood Agency / William Morris Agency, 1938-1964	Container 6.11
Nobody's Earnest, 1973-1980	Container 6.12

Philomel Books, 1991	Container 6.13
Promised Valley	
1990-2001	Container 6.14
Copyrights, 1947-1986	Container 6.15
Omega Productions (movie adaptation), 1989-1993	Container 6.16
Utah Centennial, 1946-1989	Container 7.1
Spirochete, 1938-1939	Container 7.2
Troubadour Records, 1977-circa 1980	Container 7.3
Winnie, 1988-1991	Container 7.4
Young Abe Lincoln, 1961-1972	Container 7.5
Various contracts	
1938-1976	Container 7.6
1941-1976	Container 7.7
1944-1965	Container 7.8
1952-1985	Container 7.9
Various statements, 1997	Container 7.10