

Harry Segall:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Segall, Harry, 1897-1975
Title:	Harry Segall Papers
Dates:	1933-1959
Extent:	15 boxes, 1 oversize box (8.06 linear feet)
Abstract:	This collection contains stage plays, screenplays, and television scripts, as well as photographs of Segall and his family, scrapbooks, and works by others.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-3770
Language:	English
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Gift No. 10487
Processed by	Liz Murray, 1996
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

This collection of works by playwright, screenwriter, and TV scriptwriter Harry Segall spans his writing career from 1933-1959. Segall's plays, including *Lost Horizons* (1934), appeared on Broadway in the mid-1930s. In 1933, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer brought Segall to Hollywood as a contract writer. In 1936 he moved to RKO Radio Pictures where he wrote screenplays for films such as *Outcasts of Poker Flat*, based on a story by Bret Harte. During this time, Paramount Pictures and Universal Studios also produced his screenplays. In 1941 Segall won an Academy Award for best original story for the film *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*, starring Robert Montgomery, based on Segall's play *Heaven Can Wait*. A 1978 film version of *Heaven Can Wait* starred Warren Beatty. With the advent of television, Segall turned his writing talents to this medium, writing plots for TV series and "Playhouse 90."

The collection is arranged in three series: I. Works, II. Personal, and III. Works of Others. In the first series, Segall's works are arranged alphabetically in four subseries: Screenplays, Stage Plays, TV Scripts and Plot Ideas, and Script Outlines. Segall's works range in format from rough notes to final typescript copies. Segall wrote his handwritten scripts and revisions on scraps of paper, frequently using the verso of bank deposit forms. These were interspersed with larger pages of varying sizes to form paper clipped bundles. In some cases, works written for the stage became screenplays, with title changes occurring as the project evolved. Often several titles were considered for the same work. Dates have been recorded in the folder list when provided on the script. Some scripts were based on the works of others or were written in collaboration. In general, the script outlines are typescripts ranging from a few pages to forty pages in length. They are sometimes described as a comedy, farce, or satire but not identified as a screenplay, stage play, or TV series. A large amount of untitled holograph notes and typescript fragments exist. These remain in the original order as received.

The second series, Personal, contains photographs of Segall and his family. These photographs were not identified by name or place, except for one bearing the name Mrs. I. Siegell. Four scrapbooks, and associated fragments, contain newspaper clippings of Broadway and Hollywood projects with which Segall was involved. His personal life and activities are not reported in these books, with the exception of a newspaper announcement of his intention to marry Martha Salonen in 1934.

The last series, Works of Others, contains stories and scripts by David Dortort, Martha Salonen, Avery Segall, and Bela Tasek.

Several magazines received with the collection were transferred to the HRHRC book collection.

In general, the collection is in good condition with the exception of the scrapbooks which contain brittle pages and clippings. Some of Segall's paper choices for his notes included newsprint quality paper which is becoming brittle.

Series I. Works

Subseries A. Screenplays

Angel on My Shoulder (1946)

Script with holograph corrections, Jan. 3, 1944	box 1 folder 1
Revised script, n.d.	folder 2
Script, Feb. 6, 1944	folder 3
Script, Feb. 26, 1944	folder 4

Blindfolded Lady, revised script and holograph notes **folder 5-6**

But Beautiful, first draft, July 2, 1941 **box 2 folder 1**

Coast Guard, 2nd revised final draft, April 24, 1939 **folder 2**

Don't Turn 'em Loose, script, original story by Ferdinand Reyher, 1936 **folder 3**

Fountain of Youth

Holograph and typescript notes **folder 4-5**

Script with holograph revisions, ca. 1951 **folder 6-7**

Script with holograph revisions **box 3 folder 1-2**

Revised draft and treatment, July 2, 1951 **folder 3**

A Girl's Best Friend is Wall Street, estimating script, third draft, Oct. 2, 1940 **folder 4**

Lavinia, typescript **folder 5**

Let the Eagle Scream, estimating script, second draft, April 11, 1941 **folder 6**

<i>Mad About the Girl</i> , screen story with Allen Rivkin	folder 7
<i>The Next Woman</i> , holograph notes	folder 8
<i>Outcasts of Poker Flat</i> (1937)	
Script, story by Bret Harte	box 4 folder 1
Script, second copy	folder 2
Final script, with John Twist, Jan. 9, 1937	folder 3
<i>Park Bench</i> , holograph notes	folder 4
<i>The Seeing Eye</i> , second estimating script, with Ron Ferguson, Jan. 31, 1938,	folder 5
<i>Something for the Boys</i> , typescript	folder 6
<i>The Son of Dr. Jekyll</i>	
Second draft, with Mortimer Braus, Sept. 1, 1950	folder 7
Second draft, revised	folder 8
Holograph and typescript revisions	box 5 folder 1-3
<i>The Stork Club</i> , 1944-45 [holograph and typed notes]	folder 4
<i>Tomorrow We Change</i> , script, 1938	folder 5
<i>The Unveiling of O'Keefe</i> , script, 1950	folder 6
Miscellaneous notes for scripts, <i>The Woman Who Came Back</i> (re: Lumberjack) and others	folder 7-8
Subseries B. Stage Plays	
<i>Between Pictures</i>	box 6 folder 1
<i>Chronicle</i>	folder 2

<i>The Cockeyed Wench</i>	folder 3-4
<i>Fanny</i> , 1944	folder 5
<i>Floyd</i> [assumed title], holograph notes	folder 6
<i>The Great Urge</i>	folder 7
<i>Heaven Can Wait</i> , revised version	folder 8
<i>Here Comes Mr. Jordan</i> , with holograph revisions	folder 9
<i>I Return You Now</i> , holograph notes	folder 10
<i>Knock Wood</i> , 1933	box 7 folder 1
<i>Lost Horizons</i>	folder 2
<i>Love Now, Pay Later</i> , typescript and holograph notes	folder 3
<i>May We Come In</i> , with holograph revisions, 1949	folder 4
<i>Mother of Mine</i> , working copy, 1948	folder 5
<i>Mother of Mine</i> , n.d.	folder 6
<i>Now I Am Alone</i> , holograph notes	folder 7
<i>Rooftop</i> , holograph notes	box 8 folder 1
<i>The Sawdust Man</i> , partial script	folder 2
<i>Soloman</i> , holograph notes	folder 3-4
<i>The Stars Weep</i> , 1946 (6 versions)	folder 5-10
<i>Tailspin</i> , holograph notes	box 9 folder 1-2
<i>The Truth About Philip</i> , story, 1950	folder 3

<i>Welcome Back</i> , various versions and holograph notes	folder 4-8
<i>Windy</i> , 1948	folder 9
Idea for a play, holograph notes. Possible titles: <i>But Not For Love</i> , <i>Choose Your Mate</i> , <i>The Friendly Marriage</i>	folder 10
Plays with Stella Douglas character, various titles, holograph notes	folder 11
Subseries C. TV Scripts and Plot Ideas	
<i>After Office Hours</i> , holograph notes	box 10 folder 1
<i>Jane and John Doe</i> , 1959	folder 2
<i>Wardrobe Mistress</i> , Nov. 1956	folder 3
Notes for scripts, Playhouse 90	folder 4
Notes for scripts, various ideas	folder 5-9
Subseries D. Script Outlines	
<i>Alias Betty!</i>	box 11 folder 1
<i>Anna Looks Ahead</i>	folder 2
<i>Any Port in a Storm</i>	folder 3
<i>Curly</i> , 6th draft, Feb. 25, 1943	folder 4
<i>The Green Vault</i>	folder 5
<i>Hell Bent For Mr. Jordan</i> , Feb. 3, 1942	folder 6
<i>Hell Bent For Mr. Jordan</i> , May 4, 1942	folder 7
<i>The Impossible Wife</i>	folder 8
<i>The Kin From Limbo</i> , 4 copies, 1944	folder 9
<i>Lavinia</i>	folder 10

<i>The Lonely Husband</i>	folder 11
<i>Madam is Mistaken</i>	folder 12
<i>Nicky</i>	folder 13
<i>Nobody's Widow</i> , first draft, Aug. 5, 1941	folder 14
<i>The Sawdust Man</i>	folder 15
<i>The Smokey Years</i> , May 16, 1940	folder 16
<i>Spendthrift Wife</i> , Feb. 1950	folder 17
<i>Super Sleuth</i> 2 copies	folder 18
<i>Take Me As I Am</i> , 1952	folder 19
<i>The Unseen Juror</i>	folder 20
<i>Vigilantes</i> , first draft, June 4, 1940	folder 21
<i>The Wife Without a Chance</i>	folder 22
<i>Women Never Learn</i>	folder 23
<i>Yesterday's Husband</i>	folder 24
Holograph notes, miscellaneous untitled fragments	box 12-14
Holograph notes, miscellaneous untitled fragments	box 15 folder 1-3

Series II. Personal

Photographs and negatives, HS and family

box 15
folder 4

Miscellaneous: Memo from Robert Sparks to HS, 12/4/39 re *The Lone Wolf Strikes*; the Dramatists' Guild contract agreement, Feb. 29, 1936 with newspaper clippings; *The Billboard Index*, 1933-34; magazine articles re: HS

folder 5

Scrapbooks and clippings [removed to Oversize Box 16]

Series III. Works of Others

Dortort, David. <i>The Ox-Bow Incident</i> , final script, June 28, 1955	box 15 folder 6
Salonen, Martha.	
<i>Manhattan Yen</i> , typescript story	folder 7
<i>Trouble in Massachusetts</i> , play in three acts	folder 8
Segall, Avery, <i>Oliver</i> , typescript story	folder 9
Segall, Avery and Bela Tasek. <i>Better Late Than Never</i> , typescript radio play	folder 10
Untitled stage play, no author listed	folder 11
Oversize material	box 16