

# Bernth Lindfors:

## A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection of Amos Tutuola at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Lindfors, Bernth
<b>Title:</b>	Bernth Lindfors Collection of Amos Tutuola
<b>Dates:</b>	1947-2000, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	3 boxes (1.26 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection relating to the literary career of African author Amos Tutuola (1920-1997) was compiled by Bernth Lindfors, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Texas at Austin. It contains a few tearsheets and photocopies of Tutuola's published works, articles by Lindfors and others, book reviews, criticism, memorials and tributes, correspondence, certificates and awards, interviews, and photographs.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-04986
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research

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### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition:</b>	Gifts, 2005-2019 (05-06-013-G, 06-11-005-G, 19-08-008-G)
<b>Processed by:</b>	Liz Murray, 2005; Christine Bethke, 2020
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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## Scope and Contents

This collection relating to the literary career of African author Amos Tutuola (1920-1997) was compiled by Bernth Lindfors, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Texas at Austin. A longtime friend and advocate, Lindfors engaged in extensive correspondence on behalf of Tutuola's literary interests. In addition, he was instrumental in raising awareness of Tutuola's importance as a leading African writer, which led to the purchase of Tutuola's manuscripts for the Ransom Center collections in 1988.

The Lindfors Collection of Amos Tutuola contains a few tearsheets and photocopies of Tutuola's published works, analogous works, articles by Lindfors and others, book reviews, criticism, memorials, summaries and tributes, correspondence, certificates and awards, interviews, and photographs. The materials are arranged in three series: I. Works By and About Tutuola, 1947-1999, undated; II. Correspondence, 1951-2000; and III. Career-Related Material, 1958-1981, undated.

Tutuola's works in Series I. include a typescript of *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*; photocopies of pages from a published edition of *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*; an Italian translation of a chapter from *The Witch Herbalist*; published short stories "Adisa and Ade," "Don't Pay Bad for Bad," "The Elephant Woman"; and excerpts from the short story "The Land Which Has the Eyes." Works about Tutuola comprise the remainder of the series and include articles by Lindfors and others, book reviews, literary criticism, and posthumous memorials and tributes. Included are typescript drafts of Lindfors's introduction to *The Wild Hunter in the Bush of the Ghosts*.

Series II. Correspondence contains Lindfors's letters to and from publishers and colleagues, as well as a long run of Tutuola letters to Lindfors, 1968-1997. Publishers files include Faber & Faber, Donald Herdeck (at Three Continents Press), Andor Kraszna-Krausz (of Focal Press), Grove Press, and Lutterworth Press. Of note is a file of correspondence between Tutuola and Faber & Faber from 1951-1967. Lindfors was successful in obtaining photocopies of this correspondence to document important transactions in the publishing of *The Palm-Wine Drinkard* and other titles. There is considerable material regarding a 1978 article written by Yemi Ogunbiyi critical of the handling of Tutuola's works, as well as Lindfors's response. Posthumous correspondence includes letters exchanged with Tutuola's son, Oluyinka Tutuola, regarding the estate, and a file regarding the plans for the 1999 Amos Tutuola Festival. Letters between Lindfors and African scholar Robert Wren are also present.

Series III. Career-Related Material includes photocopies of several of Tutuola's certificates and awards, interviews with Tutuola, and informal snapshots of family and friends. Also present is a program for a performance at Indiana University of an opera by Kola Ogunmola based on *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*.

## **Related Material**

Related Materials at the Harry Ransom Center are located in the Amos Tutuola Collection, the Christopher Okigbo Papers, the Robert M. Wren Collection, the Charles R. Larson Papers, the Transcription Centre Collection, and the Commonwealth Arts Festival Records.

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## **Separated Material**

A small number of books by and about Tutuola and three cassette tapes received with the manuscripts were transferred to appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.

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## **Index Terms**

### **People**

Herdeck, Donald E., 1924- .  
Kraszna-Krausz, Andor, 1904- .  
Omotoso, Kole, 1943- .  
Ogunbiyi, Yemi.  
Soyinka, Wole.  
Tutuola, Amos.

### **Organizations**

Faber and Faber.

### **Document Types**

Photographs.  
Typescripts.

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**Series I. Works By and About Tutuola, 1947-1999, undated**

Excerpts and short stories, photocopies of printed works, undated	<b>Box 1 Folder 1</b>
The Palm Wine Drinkard, typescript, undated	<b>Box 3 Folder 14</b>
Articles, criticism, tributes	
Analogous folktales by other authors, photocopies, undated	<b>Box 3 Folder 12</b>
Articles by Dunton and Low, undated.	<b>Folder 16</b>
Articles, various authors, 1963-1997, undated	<b>Box 1 Folder 2</b>
Book reviews, 1954-1984, undated	<b>Folder 3</b>
Literary criticism, 1947-1971, undated	<b>Folder 4</b>
Memorials and tributes, 1997-1999	<b>Folder 5-6</b>
Summaries of works by Tutuola, holograph manuscripts, undated	<b>Box 3 Folder 15</b>
Lindfors's writings on Tutuola	
Notes, 1947-1983, undated	<b>Box 1 Folder 7</b>
Articles, undated	<b>Folder 8</b>
Articles by Lindfors and others, photocopies, undated	<b>Box 3 Folder 13</b>
Introduction to <i>The Wild Hunter in the Bush of the Ghosts</i> , undated	<b>Box 1 Folder 9</b>

**Series II. Correspondence, 1951-2000**

Amos Tutuola Festival, 1999	<b>Box 2 Folder 1</b>
Faber & Faber	
Tutuola's correspondence files, 1951-1967	<b>Box 2 Folder 2-5</b>
Lindfors, 1968-1989	<b>Folder 6</b>
Herdeck, Donald (Three Continents Press, Inc.), 1980-1989	<b>Folder 7</b>
Kraszna-Krausz, Andor (Focal Press), 1975-1983	<b>Folder 8</b>
Omotoso, Kole, Yemi Ogunbiyi, and Wole Soyinka re "Sharks" article, with Lindfors's response, 1978-1981	<b>Folder 9-10</b>
Publishers (including Grove Press, Lutterworth Press, and United Society for Christian Literature), 1950-1983	<b>Box 3 Folder 1</b>
Rota, Anthony and Ransom Center, 1978-1981	<b>Folder 2</b>
Tutuola, Amos, 1968-1997	<b>Folder 3</b>
Tutuola, Oluyinka, Ransom Center, and others re Tutuola estate, 1997-2000	<b>Folder 4</b>
Wren, Robert, 1982-1983	<b>Folder 5</b>
General, re Tutuola, 1968-1983	<b>Folder 6</b>

**Series III. Career-Related Material, 1958-1981, undated**

Certificates and awards, photocopies, undated	<b>Box 3</b> <b>Folder 7</b>
Interviews, 1975-1981	<b>Folder 8</b>
Photographs, family and friends, 1958, undated	<b>Folder 9</b>
Program for opera based on <i>The Palm-Wine Drinkard</i> , 1967	<b>Folder 10</b>
Reading, announcement, undated	<b>Folder</b> <b>11</b>