

# John Herrmann:

## An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Herrmann, John, 1900-1959
<b>Title:</b>	John Herrmann Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1923-1971, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	3 boxes (1.26 linear feet), 1 galley folder (gf)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Includes manuscripts and letters written by the expatriate novelist John Herrmann, as well as letters he received, and items associated with his first wife, the writer Josephine Herbst, including a photo album with her reminiscences. Correspondents include Sylvia Beach, John Dos Passos, Ford Madox Ford, Ernest Hemingway, Herbst, H. L. Mencken, Katherine Anne Porter, William Carlos Williams, and others.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-1928
<b>Language:</b>	English, French, and German
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research

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### Administrative Information

<b>Processed by:</b>	Joan Sibley and Jamie Hawkins-Kirkham, 2011 <b>Note:</b> This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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**Works:**

- Unidentified collection of works, galley proofs / incomplete, 9 pages, undated. **Container**  
 Contents: primarily Foreign born and I hear you, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. gf 1
- Unidentified essay on writing and what books sell, typescript with one handwritten **Container**  
 correction, 3 pages, undated. 1.1
- Unidentified novel, typed and carbon manuscript / incomplete with handwritten  
 revisions and corrections, 69 pages, undated. Includes drafts of the first two chapters  
 of a proposed 24-chapter book. Characters: Bill Matthews, Hugh Folger, Ralph  
 Maltby, Leo Fredericks, Phil Cranford, Ronald Crosby, Jack Shepard, others. **Container**  
 Included with this: typescript / outline of chapters; flyers from the Workers and 1.2  
 Farmers Joint Committee calling for support of a street car strike. Written on verso  
 of one page: handwritten manuscript / fragment of an unidentified work by  
 Herrmann.
- Unidentified novella, typescript with some handwritten revisions and corrections, 67  
 pages, undated. Characters: The Mack family, Howard Weems, Hanley Brown, Dan. **Container**  
 B. Wright, Owen, Larry, Martha, Clint Fraser, Elsie, others. Included with this: 2 1.3  
 typescript / fragments of the same work, 6 pages.
- Unidentified play, typescript / outline with some handwritten corrections, 9 pages;  
 handwritten and typed manuscript / fragments, 2 pages; typescript / incomplete with **Container**  
 some handwritten revisions, 5 pages, undated. Characters: Art, Bud, Joe, Clyde, Vic, 1.4  
 and others.
- Unidentified story, typescript with handwritten revisions and corrections, 8 pages, **Container**  
 undated. Characters: Aaron Trexler, Frieda. 1.1
- Unidentified story, typescript with handwritten revisions and corrections, 15 pages, **Container**  
 undated. Characters: Captain Somers, Jed, Hansen. Included with this: additional 1.5  
 final page of the story.
- Unidentified story, typescript / fragment with one handwritten correction, 4 pages, **Container**  
 undated. Characters: Richard Walker, Frank Camiz, Leon Radell. 1.1
- Unidentified story, typescript / incomplete with handwritten revisions and  
 corrections, 14 pages, undated. Page 1 is lacking. Characters: Hazel Forrest, her  
 parents, Paul Lake.
- Unidentified story, carbon typescript / incomplete, 10 pages, undated. Characters:  
 Edward Peyton, Helen Peyton.
- Unidentified story, carbon typescript / incomplete with handwritten revisions,  
 some in an unidentified hand, 8 pages, undated. Page 30 is titled Rhapsody in  
 brew. Character: Jean-Baptiste.

- Autobiographical account, carbon typescript / fragment with a few handwritten revisions, 7 pages, undated. **Container** 1.6
- The big short trip, typescript / incomplete with handwritten revisions and corrections, 24 pages, undated. Includes pages 25-48.
- The big short trip, carbon typescript / incomplete with few handwritten revisions, 65 pages, undated (Erwinna, Pennsylvania). **Container** 1.7
- Boys and girls, typescript with some handwritten deletions and corrections, 10 pages, undated (New Preston, Connecticut). **Container** 1.6
- Brass buttons, carbon typescript / incomplete with some handwritten revisions, 26 pages, undated. **Container** 1.8
- Following the hounds, typescript with some handwritten deletions and corrections, 16 pages, undated. **Container** 1.6
- Following the hounds, carbon typescript with some handwritten revisions and corrections, 13 pages, undated (Erwinna, Pennsylvania). **Container** 1.9
- Foreign born, signed typescript with handwritten revisions and corrections, 207 pages, undated. Included with this: typescript / readers' report of Foreign born, 25 September 1926. **Container** 1.10-2.2
- Foreign born, handwritten and typed manuscript / fragments with handwritten revisions, 21 pages, undated. **Container** 2.3
- The girl with talent in college, typescript with handwritten revisions, 3 pages, undated. **Container** 2.4
- How the other half lives, typescript with handwritten revisions, 3 pages; typescript / fragment with one handwritten revision, 1 page; carbon typescript, 3 pages, undated (New York City). Includes quotes from Marie of Roumania; the intimate story of the radiant queen, by Mabel Potter Daggatt. Similar to The man who had two stars. **Container** 2.5
- I'll tell her tomorrow, typescript with some handwritten revisions and corrections, 25 pages, undated (Erwinna, Pennsylvania). Same text as The man who experimented with rats, or, The victor. **Container** 2.6
- Illuminati, 5 typescripts / fragments with handwritten revisions and corrections, 23 pages, undated. Alternate titles: Paul and Annette and Robert and Genevieve; Prologue in dialogue. Written on one page: handwritten manuscript / note by Herrmann reading "part of Illuminati- a long book (in progress) mainly in dialogue." **Container** 2.7

In Munich when the mark was falling, typescript with some handwritten revisions and corrections, 5 pages, undated. Written on verso of one page: unidentified author, **Container** untitled poem, Oh Mr. Ellis oh Mr. Ellis..., handwritten manuscript, 1 page, **2.4** undated.

A key to Elia, typescript with few handwritten corrections, 5 pages, undated. Concerns trying to locate a copy of Charles Lamb's Essays of Elia.

A little conspiracy, carbon typescript with handwritten corrections, 14 pages, undated.

The man who experimented with rats, or The victor, typescript with handwritten revisions and corrections, 24 pages, undated. Same text as I'll tell her tomorrow. **Container** **2.8**

The man who had two stars, signed typescript with handwritten revisions, 4 pages, undated. Similar to Herrmann's How the other half lives. **Container** **2.4**

No more bats, typescript with one handwritten correction, 1 page, undated (Erwinna, Pennsylvania).

The one-eyed Rose, typescript / incomplete with a few handwritten corrections, 2 pages, undated.

Pollyanna with a line - : - hook and sinker, typescript with few handwritten revisions, 10 pages, undated. Written using the pseudonym Theodore Johns III. **Container** **2.9**

A retold story, typescript / incomplete with handwritten revisions and corrections, 7 pages, undated. **Container** **2.4**

The story about the lead pencil, typescript with few handwritten revisions and corrections, 3 pages, undated.

Van do re ne fah sol etc., typescript with handwritten corrections, 3 pages, undated.

The young man who wrote the verses, typescript with few handwritten revisions and corrections, 10 pages, undated (Detroit, Michigan).

**Letters:**

TccL / draft to Arens, Egmont, 4 January no year.

**Container 2.10**

ALS to Herrmann, Ruth Tate, undated.

**Recipient:**

Unidentified author Anne. TLS / photocopy to Herrmann, 23 January 1937.

**Container**  
2.11

Unidentified author Dorothy. TLS to Herrmann, 22 October no year.

Unidentified author d'Saire. ALS to Herrmann, 13 June 1927. Letter is also addressed to Josephine Herbst.

Unidentified author Ro. ALS to Herrmann, undated.

Barth, Carl. TLS to Herrmann, 24 December no year.

Beach, Sylvia, 1887-1962. ANS to Herrmann, 12 December 1930. Letterhead: Shakespeare and Company.

Callaghan, Morley, 1903- . 11 letters to Herrmann, undated. Written on verso of TLS dated 16 December no year: Untitled work, Doubted if Coras God..., by Herrmann, handwritten manuscript, 1 page, undated. Included with these: 2 promotional quotes for Herrmann by Callaghan, signed typescript and typescript, 1 page each, undated.

**Container**  
2.12

Covici, Friede, firm, publishers, New York. 3 TLS to Herrmann, 1932-1933. Written on verso of TLS dated 4 October 1932: handwritten manuscript / address of Marion Greenwood.

**Container**  
2.11

DeSilver, Margaret. TL to Herrmann, undated.

The Dial. 2 TLS to Herrmann, 15 June and 16 December 1925. Letters signed by Marianne Moore.

Dos Passos, John, 1896-1970. 22 letters to Herrmann, 1929-1948, undated. Four letters also directed to Josephine Herbst; two letters also directed to Ruth Tate Herrmann. On verso of an undated letter: TLS Cape (Jonathan) & Harrison Smith, publishers, New York to Dos Passos, 5 July 1929. Written on envelope accompanying letter of 5 August 1948: handwritten manuscript / list of chores by Herrmann. Enclosed with letter of 1 July 1929: handwritten manuscript / notes by Herrmann.

**Container**  
2.13

Fay, A. C. ALS to Herrmann, 5 October 1927. Enclosed with this: 2 newspaper clippings concerning obscenity rulings against Herrmann's novel What happens; printed pamphlet by Fay entitled The unity of god with man.

**Container**  
2.11

Ford, Ford Madox, 1873-1939. ALS, TccLS to Herrmann, 3 March and 5 November 1939. Letters concern business of The Society of the Friends of William Carlos Williams.

Frank, Waldo David, 1889- . ALS to Herrmann, 17 November no year.

Gaston, Charles. TLS to Herrmann, Labor Day, no year.

Godwin, Murray. ALS, 5 TLS to Herrmann, 1925-1932, undated. One letter also directed to Josephine Herbst. **Container**  
2.14

Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961. 4 ALS to Herrmann, May - September 1930. **Container**  
2.15

Herbst, Josephine, 1897-1969. 11 letters to Herrmann, undated. On verso of one letter: handwritten manuscript / map of their house and property in Erwinna, Pennsylvania. **Container**  
2.16

Herrmann, Bob. TLS to Herrmann, 7 September 1923. **Container** 2.11

Herrmann, Dick. APCS to Herrmann, 22 February 1945.

Herrmann, Henry, Mrs. AL / incomplete to Herrmann, undated.

Imbs, Bravig, 1904- . TLS to Herrmann, 31 October 1939.

Josephson, Matthew, 1899- . APCS, TLS, TPC to Herrmann, 1929.

Levertov, Denise, 1923- . ALS to Herrmann, undated. Letter also from Mitchell Goodman.

Lieber, Maxim. 15 TLS to Herrmann, 1935-1936. Written on verso of 20 December 1935 TLS: handwritten manuscript / notes and address by Herrmann.

Mason, Harold T. TLS to Herrmann, 3 September 1930.

McAlmon, Robert, 1896-1956. ALS to Herrmann, undated. Written on verso of a handwritten and printed card from Houghton Mifflin Company.

Mencken, Henry Louis, 1880-1956. 2 TLS to Herrmann, 4 December 1926, 17 July 1930.

Mixter, Paul. TLS, TL to Herrmann, 28 January 1956, undated.

Mooney, Tom J., 1882-1942. TLS to Herrmann, 20 October 1932. Enclosed with this: newspaper clipping re Mooney's retrial for murder in the Preparedness Day disaster of 1916. **Container**  
2.17

New York City Public Library. TLS to Herrmann, 6 October 1927. **Container**  
3.1

Pagany: A Native Quarterly. 2 TLS Richard Johns to Herrmann, 15 July and 30 July 1930.



Porter, Katherine Anne, 1894-1980. TLS to Herrmann, 3 August 1932.

Powell, Dawn, 1897-1965. ALS, APCS, TLS to Herrmann, 23 February 1943, undated.

Powys, John Cowper, 1872-1963. 2 ALS to Herrmann, 19 May 1930, 3 April no year. **Container 3.2**

Random House, New York. TLS to Herrmann, 24 July 1939. **Container 3.1**

Sage, Robert, 1899- . ALS, TLS to Herrmann, 16 December 1924, 26 May 1939.

Schneider, Isidor, 1896- . 2 ALS to Herrmann, 13 August 1929, 10 March 1937. Letter dated 1929 is also from Helen Schneider and is directed also to Josephine Herbst. Letter dated 1937 begins as a TLS from Schneider to Herrmann.

Scribners (Charles) Sons, New York. 17 letters to Herrmann, 1927-1942. Written on verso of an incomplete letter: handwritten manuscript / instructions to the printer by Herrmann. **Container 3.3**

Sears (J. H.) and Company. TLS Henry to Herrmann, 15 October 1926. Enclosed with this: Reader's report of Foreign born by Herrmann, initialed carbon typescript, 2 pages, 30 August 1926. Initials: H. M. W. **Container 3.1**

Simon, Richard Leo. 2 TLS to Herrmann, 25 July and 3 October 1932. Letterhead: The Inner Sanctum of Simon and Schuster.

Simon and Schuster, Inc. 5 TLS to Herrmann, 1926-1939. Included with these: Reader's report of Foreign born by Herrmann, typescript, 1 page, 15 August 1928; TLS Simon and Schuster to Dawn Powell, 10 October 1935. Written on verso of one TLS to Powell: handwritten manuscript / grocery list by Herrmann.

Stix, Thomas Louis, 1896- . TLS to Herrmann, 1 February 1949. Written on verso of this: handwritten manuscript / list of names and mathematical figuring by Herrmann.

Taggard, Genevieve, 1894-1948. 3 ALS to Herrmann, 19 January 1926, undated. 1926 letter also directed to Josephine Herbst.

Two Worlds Publishing Company. TLS to Herrmann, 14 April 1926.

Weeks, Howard. 26 letters to Herrmann, undated. Several letters are also directed to Josephine Herbst. Included with these: Untitled poem, A tree alive with eager troubled leaves..., by Weeks, carbon typescript / incomplete, 1 page, undated. **Container 3.4**

West, Nathanael, 1903-1940. TLS to Herrmann, 24 September no year. **Container 3.1**

Williams, William Carlos, 1883-1963. 25 letters to Herrmann, 1925-1948, undated. **Container**  
3.5

Zur Mühlen, Herminia, 1883-1951. 3 ALS to Herrmann, 1930-1931. **Container**  
3.1

**Miscellaneous:**

Unidentified author. Untitled poem, It was you that I loved in that furious fashion..., **Container**  
carbon typescript with few handwritten corrections, 1 page, undated. 3.6

Unidentified author. Untitled poem, There is a farmer in my blood and bones...,  
typescript, 2 pages, undated.

Unidentified author. Untitled poem, We long, we watchers on the hungry hills...,  
typescript, 2 pages, undated.

Unidentified author. Dialogue fragments, carbon typescript with few handwritten  
corrections, 3 pages, undated. Concerns Dora Dehli, John Herrmann, Jules and **Container**  
Grace Rauschert, Henry Neuhausen, Walter and Ruth Goldbeck, and Winifred 3.7  
Havlicek.

Unidentified author. A penny, a penny; a play in one act, perhaps for puppets,  
typescript with a few handwritten corrections, 23 pages, undated. Characters: Jester, **Container**  
Lady Gossip, Lord Cadaver, King Bluster, Queen Dutiful, Princess Languor, Prince 3.6  
Pamper.

Unidentified author. Ode to a sprig of parsley, carbon typescript, 3 pages, 1938.

Unidentified author Louise. ALS to Arens, Egmont, undated.

Callaghan, Morley, 1903- . TLS to Herbst, Josephine, 20 October no year.

Covici, Friede, firm, publishers, New York. TLS to Wallace, R. E., 29 September  
1930

Dos Passos, John, 1896-1970. 2 ALS to Herrmann, Ruth Tate, 11 February 1963,  
7 September no year.

Godwin, Murray. Essay in defense of Herrmann's story The big short trip and  
other controversial literature, typescript with handwritten revisions, 7 pages, 28  
July 1932.

Harcourt, Brace and Company. TLS to Asch, Nathan, 8 April 1926.

Herbst, Josephine, 1897-1969. Album of photographs and reminiscences, typescript,  
47 pages of text pasted into album, undated. Also pasted into album are 61 **Container**  
photographs of Herbst, John Herrmann, their families and places they lived, Ernest 3.8  
Hemingway, Katherine Anne Porter, and John Dos Passos. Reminiscences deal, in  
part, with Porter, Hemingway, Dos Passos, and Nathanael West. Loosely laid in: one  
page of handwritten manuscript / notes by Herbst.

Herrmann, John:

An ache in the gut, handwritten manuscript / list of dates and events, 1 page, undated. **Container**  
3.6

Document from the city of Nuremberg indicating Herrmann's date and place of birth, signed handwritten and printed document, 1 page, 28 February 1923. In German.

Fragments from unidentified works, 2 typescript / fragments torn from pages of text, 2 pages, undated.

Note and addresses, handwritten manuscript, 2 pages, undated. Written on postcard advertising Herrmann Lamps.

Mason, Harold T. TLS to Herrmann, Ruth Tate, 26 May 1971.

Porter, Katherine Anne, 1894-1980:

I am no more what once I was, by Clement Marot, translated by Porter. Signed typescript with handwritten inscription to Josephine Herbst, 1 page, 15 July 1935. **Container**  
Include with this: typescript of poem in French. Written on verso of poem: **3.6**  
handwritten manuscript / note by Herbst.

Sketches of John Herrmann, 2 initialed handwritten manuscript / sketches, 2 leaves, undated.

TLS to Herbst, Josephine, 18 March 1933. Written on verso of this: handwritten manuscript / note by Herbst.

Scribners (Charles) Sons, New York. TLS to Herbst, Josephine, 30 January 1930. Not described in card catalog.

## Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

### Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

### Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date