Bernth Lindfors:
A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection of Amos Tutuola at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Lindfors, Bernth
Title: Bernth Lindfors Collection of Amos Tutuola
Dates: 1951-2000
Extent: 3 boxes (1.26 linear feet)
Abstract: 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.

RLIN Record #: None
Language: English.
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gift, 2005 (Gift no. 12435)
Processed by: Liz Murray, 2005
Repository: The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center
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, articles by Lindfors and others, book reviews, criticism, memorials and tributes, correspondence, certificates and awards, interviews, and photographs. The materials are arranged in three series: I. Works By and About Tutuola, II. Correspondence, 1951-2000, and III. Career-Related Material.

Tutuola's works in Series I. include 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, 1951-2000, 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*.

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**Separated Material**

Lindfors, Bernth
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.

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.
Series I. Works By and About Tutuola

Excerpts and short stories, photocopies of printed works

Articles, criticism, tributes

Articles, various authors

Book reviews

Literary criticism

Memorials and tributes, 1997

Lindfors's writings on Tutuola

Notes

Articles

Introduction to The Wild Hunter in the Bush of the Ghosts
Series II. Correspondence, 1951-2000

Amos Tutuola Festival, 1999

Faber & Faber

Tutuola's correspondence files, 1951-1967

Lindfors, 1968-1989

Herdeck, Donald (Three Continents Press, Inc.), 1980-1989

Kraszna-Krausz, Andor (Focal Press), 1975-1983

Omotoso, Kole, Yemi Ogunbiyi, and Wole Soyinka re "Sharks" article, with Lindfors's response, 1978-1981

Publishers (including Grove Press, Lutterworth Press, and United Society for Christian Literature)

Rota, Anthony and Ransom Center, 1978-1981

Tutuola, Amos, 1968-1997

Tutuola, Oluyinka, Ransom Center, and others re Tutuola estate, 1997-2000

Wren, Robert, 1982-1983

General, re Tutuola
Series III. Career-Related Material

Certificates and awards, photocopies  
Box 3 Folder 7

Interviews  
Folder 8

Photographs, family and friends  
Folder 9

Program for opera based on The Palm-Wine Drinkard  
Folder 10

Reading, announcement  
Folder 11