Descriptive Summary

Creator: Lindfors, Bernth
Title: Bernth Lindfors Collection of Amos Tutuola
Dates: 1947-2000, undated
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.
Call Number: Manuscript Collection MS-04986
Language: English
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by: Liz Murray, 2005; Christine Bethke, 2020
Repository: Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin
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.


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.

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.

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, 1947-1999, undated

Excerpts and short stories, photocopies of printed works, undated

The Palm Wine Drinkard, typescript, undated

Articles, criticism, tributes

Analogous folktales by other authors, photocopies, undated

Articles by Dunton and Low, undated.

Articles, various authors, 1963-1997, undated

Book reviews, 1954-1984, undated

Literary criticism, 1947-1971, undated

Memorials and tributes, 1997-1999

Summaries of works by Tutuola, holograph manuscripts, undated

Lindfors's writings on Tutuola

Notes, 1947-1983, undated

Articles, undated

Articles by Lindfors and others, photocopies, undated

Introduction to The Wild Hunter in the Bush of the Ghosts, undated
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


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, 1968-1983

Certificates and awards, photocopies, undated

Interviews, 1975-1981

Photographs, family and friends, 1958, undated

Program for opera based on *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*, 1967

Reading, announcement, undated