

Ruth Ford:

A Preliminary Inventory of Her Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ford, Ruth
Title:	Ruth Ford Collection
Dates:	1944-1991, undated
Extent:	1 box (.42 linear feet); uncataloged accessions: 24 record storage cartons, 1 oversize box (25.21 linear feet)
Abstract:	The materials of the Ruth Ford Collection provide a broad view of the career and life of the successful model and stage and film actor, including correspondence and reading and rehearsal copies of the script for Paul Bowles' <i>No Exit</i> .
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-05165
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials. Part or all of this collection is housed off-site and may require up to three business days' notice for access in the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Please contact the Center before requesting this material: reference@hrc.utexas.edu

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchases, 2010 (2010-02-05-P; 2010-02-07-P); Gifts, 2010 (2010-03-02-G; 2010-03-07-G)
Processed by:	Stephen Cooper, 2010
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

The materials of the Ruth Ford Collection provide a broad view of the career and life of the successful model and stage and film actor.

Close to thirty letters and postcards (1946-1991) from Elaine Steinbeck reveal an intimate and long friendship, with three of the letters written when Elaine was married to Zachary Scott. After Ford married Zachary Scott in 1952, Elaine Steinbeck (who divorced Scott in 1949 and married Steinbeck in 1950) wrote, "We've been friends for so long—but I never knew that one day we'd be related. It's a funny feeling, I have to say that to be honest, but it is one I am beginning to like very much. . . . Of course my first reaction was and is the wish for your and Zack's happiness. I wish it with all my heart. I don't see how it could be otherwise." One letter (1947) is from Zachary Scott to Ford.

Ruth Ford's reading and rehearsal copies of the script for Paul Bowles' *No Exit* (1946) are annotated in pencil, showing changes as Ford prepared for the role of Estelle. These changes provide evidence that director John Huston made changes against the wishes of Jean-Paul Sartre and Bowles. Related to this Ford performance are telegrams and letters offering congratulations on her opening night performance, including some from contemporary notables such as Gloria Safier, Mel Dinelli, Eustace Seligman, and Claude Dauphin. Also present is an original Biltmore Theatre playbill.

In addition, the collection includes a small amount of material from Fleur Cowles to Ruth Ford consisting of eighteen letters, cards, and telegrams (1968-1990), along with clippings, brochures, and various invitations to events honoring Cowles. Also present are four letters (1944-1969?) from Henry Miller to Ruth Ford, with a flyer for a Miller celebration event.

The Ruth Ford collection is made up of four 2010 acquisitions. Each acquisition contains some correspondence which has been arranged chronologically. Although the telegrams are on acidic and fragile paper, all of the materials are in relatively good condition.

Fleur Cowles letters, invitations, clippings, 1957-1991, undated

Container
1.1

Henry Miller letters, flyer, 1944-1969, undated

Container 1.2

No Exit typescripts, playbill, related telegrams, letters, notes, 1946-1971, undated

Container
1.3-1.4

Elaine Steinbeck letters, photograph, clippings, 1946-1991, undated

Container
1.5

Ruth Ford Collection, Uncatalogued Accessions, (10-10-001-G; 12-10-006-G)

Zachary Scott MSS	Container 2
Misc. items: Scrapbook to "mother lady" from Shelley, full of cat pictures; theater playbills, framed poem, stamp/craft journal, school journal, letters, notes, book, etc.	Container 3
Misc. correspondence	Container 4
Playbills, Theater files, contracts, clippings, radio, TV, Emmy panelist, letters, Greek Art Theater, theater stubs, graduation ceremonies, fan mail	Container 5
P.S. Your Cat is Dead!, journals	Container 6
Hamlet, poetry event, Kenward Elmslie show, Edith Sitwell poems read by Robert Phillips, Miss Macintosh, The Ice Queen, One Act Play festival, The Palace at 4 A.M., Tennessee Williams Literary Journal	Container 7
The Tree - Robert Guenette, The Stronger, Miss Julie, Flesh & Blood, Bombs Before Christmas, A Breeze From the Gulf, letters	Container 8
Letters, framed pictures, Zach Scott, misc.	Container 9
Playbills	Container 10
Zachary Scott MSS; vinyl record, photos, misc.	Container 11
The Case of the Slightly Assassinated Wife, correspondence, letters, Racine's Phaedra, "Old Friends," large (folded) movie poster of "Born to be Bad"	Container 12
Scripts: Eminent Domain, Le Bal, The Eyes of the Amaryllis, It's Only A Play, The Stronger, etc.	Container 13
Correspondence: Harold Stevenson, mom, Jose Cantero; book, publicity, scripts	Container 14
Scripts, clippings, publicity, playbills, planners, theater files, misc.	Container 15
Miscellaneous	Container 16
Miscellaneous	Container 17
Party lists, misc.	Container 18
Correspondence	Container 19
Diaries/planners	Container 20

Correspondence, letters, scripts	Container 21
Correspondence, letters, magazines	Container 22
Magazines, scripts, clippings, playbills, duplicates programs	Container 23
Scripts, clippings, misc.	Container 24
Misc. correspondence, misc. letters, archive materials	Container 25
Photography	Container 26

Barcode Index

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