Raja Rao:
A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Rao, Raja, 1908-2006
Title: Raja Rao Papers
Dates: 1956-2006
Extent: 42 records storage cartons, 5 document boxes (44.1 linear feet)
Abstract: The professional papers of Raja Rao, essayist, novelist, and professor of philosophy. Materials include drafts of novels and non-fiction works, essays, correspondence, and articles written by others.
Call Number: Manuscript Collection MS-3382
Language: English and French
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gift, 2015 (15-12-008-G); Gift, 2016 (16-04-019-G)
Processed by: Elizabeth Preston and Stephen Cooper, 2016
Repository: The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center
Scope and Contents

This collection consists of professional materials relating to Raja Rao’s writing career and his career as a professor of philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. After his death and in the process of boxing his papers, Rao’s estate created detailed descriptions of much of the material; these descriptions are located in their corresponding boxes. The collection is roughly organized into four series: Series I. Correspondence; Series II. Professional Papers; Series III. Works; and Series IV. Works by Others. Series I contains both incoming and outgoing correspondence. Series II is made up of class notes, books read and annotated by Rao, and student papers. Access to student papers is restricted. Series III contains drafts of novels, monographs, essays, speeches, and interviews. Many of the drafts have extensive annotations by Rao. Series IV contains published and unpublished articles and papers by others. Rao divided the articles into papers from the West and papers from India. Also included here are articles written by others about Rao.

Note: This collection has not been fully processed and Ransom Center staff have relied on the descriptions prepared by Rao’s estate that accompany the material. The descriptions are included in the boxes to which they correspond. Not all boxes have such descriptions. Loose items were foldered during initial processing, but not organized, and the collection as a whole remains largely in the order in which it arrived at the Ransom Center.

Related Material

Additional Raja Rao materials at the Ransom Center are located in the Raja Rao Collection.

Separated Material

A typewriter and a bed desk, both used by Rao, were transferred to the Ransom Center’s Personal Effects collection.
Series I. Correspondence

Letters from C. D. Narasimhaiah  Container 1.1
Letters from W. P. Lehmann  Container 13.2
Important letters  Container 13.3-13.4
General correspondence  Container 14.1-14.16
Publisher correspondence  Container 15.1-15.8
Incoming, general  Container 16.1-16.6
Outgoing, general  Container 17.1-17.10
Series II. Professional Papers

Awards, clippings, IDs, trips

Address book, memorial service, and awards  Container 21.1
Awards, events, projects, and trips  Container 21.2-21.7
Passports and IDs  Container 21.8

Class plans

Plans for Into-European Studies Center  Container 45.5
Class plans  Container 45.6

Conferences  Container 20.1-20.10

Dictionaries, Sanskrit-English, Kannada-English  Container Box 12

Digital media (CDs and DVDs)  Container 13.5

Notes

Loose and unfiled pages from throughout the archive  Container 24.6

Rao’s library (books read and annotated by Rao)

The History of Classical Sanskrit Literature  Container 11.1
The Vishnu Purana  Container 11.2
The Garland of Letters; Bhartrihari: Poems  Container 11.3
A Brief History of Time; The Thirteen Principal Upanishads  Container 11.4
The Kadambari of Bana; The World of Vedic Life and Culture  Container 11.5
Sparks from the Vedic Fire; Banja Govindam; Wave of Bliss  Container 11.6
Bhartrhari  Container 11.7
Vāc; Chance and Necessity

Gaudapāda; Mallarme; The Figure of Beatrice

Container 11.8

Container 11.9
Series III. Works

Author’s notes, glossaries, introductions, and prefaces  Container 40.4

Autobiographical essays  Container 26.3

The Buddhist Collection  Container 24.8

The Cat and Shakespeare  Container 24.4-24.5

The Cat, a play

English drafts  Container 25.1-25.3

French drafts  Container 25.4-25.7

Incomplete French draft  Container 25.8

Complete French version  Container 25.9

The Chessmaster and His Moves

Drafts with corrections  Container 30.1-30.5

Original text with notes  Container 30.6

Notes  Container 30.7

Drafts  Container 31.1-31.11

Draft  Container 32.1-32.5

Letter to Malraux  Container 32.6

Manuscript first page  Container 32.7

Drafts  Container 33.1-33.4

Typescript draft with corrections, photocopy  Container 35.1-35.7

Comrade Kirillov  Container 42.5

Daughter of the Mountain

Draft with corrections, photocopy  Container 36.1-36.7

Typescript draft with corrections  Container 37.1-37.7
Typescript draft with corrections

Typescript draft with corrections, photocopy

Essays

World culture and politics

People

Gandhi

General

Longer typed essays

Shorter handwritten essays

Longer handwritten essays

America

The Ganges and Her Sisters

Harsha and Kailash Devi, unused stories

Handwritten draft

Typescript draft

Notes and papers

The Great Indian Way

Drafts of sections with notes

Missing pages and notes

Typescript drafts with corrections

Original working draft

Complete original manuscript

The Indian Way of Life, typescript drafts with corrections
Interviews

The Meaning of India

Contents of the compilation

Works included in The Meaning of India

Look, the Universe is Burning, draft

Wisdom and Power: a Marriage of Necessity

Mahatma Gandhi: Saint or Politician

The Ultimate Word

Letter to Father, drafts

Myrobalan in the Palm of the Hand, third volume of The Chessmaster and His Moves Trilogy, unpublished original typescript draft

On The Ganga Ghat

Drafts

Notes

Poetry

Published books

Letters: Raja Rao and Kathleen Paine (photocopy); The Chessmaster and His Moves; The Meaning of India; Kanthapura (English, Italian, and German versions); The Cat and Shakespeare (French and English versions); Collection Stories; Song of Woman (Kannada version); The Great Indian Way; The Story of the True Cow; On the Ganga Ghat (Italian version)

The Railway Line

Original draft with corrections

Corrections

Saints and Sage

Edited transcript of lectures

Typescript draft
Rough transcript of lectures

Handwritten chapters

The Serpent and the Rope

Notes and essays

Drafts with corrections

Draft

Short stories

India: A Fable

The Train to Trivandrum

Varanasi

The Policeman and the Rose

A Nest of Singing Birds

Divali Comes to Ramu

The Moon in Lucknow

Sound Goes Toward Silence

The Song of Love

Roi or Rome

The Bombay Story

Divali Come to Ramu-alternate

Jal Khusraujee Pothanwala

The Mad Monk

The Premiere of Shakunthala

Admiral de Argenlieu

Early short stories
Song of Woman
Son of a Barren Woman
Speeches
Stories for Paul
The Story of the True Cow
Unnamed last novel
Voyage to Man

Writings in French (essays, articles, lectures, and speeches)
Series IV. Works by others

Papers from the West (includes copies, typescripts, published and unpublished works, fiction, and academic articles)

Container
2.1-2.6,
3.1-3.9,
41.-4.8,
5.1-5.7,
6.1-6.5,
7.1-7.7

Papers from the India (includes copies, typescripts, published and unpublished works, fiction, and academic articles)

Container
8.1-8.9,
9.1-9.10

Articles about Rao

Container 10.1-10.10