

MSS 599

Tennessee Williams Collection

1948-1946

Extent: 24 Items

Scope and Content Note:

In 2000, The Collection acquired 16 of the 44 lots being auctioned at Neal Auction Company in New Orleans. According to the auction house, the items were being sold by a rare book and manuscripts dealer from Thibodaux, Louisiana, who had acquired them from someone who had found them in the garbage outside of one of Tennessee Williams's French Quarter apartments. A complete list of this material can be found in Neal Auction Company's Spring Estates Auction Catalog for April 8 and 9, 2000. The lots were sold to a number of private and institutional collectors.

Among the items in this collection is a draft of "Presentation or Masque or Roses"; a draft of "Blue Mountain, Mississippi"; other drafts and typescripts; a telegram to Tennessee Williams from Audrey Wood; a clipping about "The Glass Menagerie"; a financial document; letters to Tennessee Williams from Audrey Wood and Maria; and a letter from Margaret Mayorga to Audrey Wood.

Biographical Note

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983, born Thomas Lanier Williams), was an American playwright who received many of the top theatrical awards. He moved to New Orleans in 1939 and changed his name to Tennessee. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1948 and for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in 1955.

Cite as: Tennessee Williams Collection, MSS 599, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Arrangement: Material is in the original order it was in at the time of acquisition.

Languages: English.

Restrictions: Researchers may be limited to consulting one or two items at a time, per the discretion of the Reading Room staff. Reproduction of original documents, when permitted, must be performed by the Williams Research Center staff.

How to Order: Please provide the reference staff with the manuscript call number and folder number.

Accession number: 2000-33-L

Folder List

Folder 1	[n.d.]	Presentation or Masque of Roses, typewritten manuscript play with revisions. Also included is an outline of The Spinning Song. 38 pages. Undated. 1 item.
Folder 2	[n.d.]	Blue Mountain, Mississippi (A Group of Southern Sketches), typewritten manuscript play fragment with revisions and notes. 8 pages. Undated. 1 item.
Folder 3	1945 March	Initial of Eros, multiple typewritten versions of a manuscript poem with revisions and notes. 30 pages. 1 item.
Folder 4	1945 July	The Christus of Guadalajara, typewritten manuscript poem. Also included is a photocopy of a published version. 2 items.
	1947 March 18	Telegram to Tennessee Williams from Margo Jones. 1 item.
Folder 5	[n.d.]	The Good Time House, typewritten manuscript play, with revisions. Material is out of order. 60 pages. Undated. 1 item.
Folder 6	[n.d.]	A Streetcar Named Desire, typewritten manuscript play fragment. 10 pages. Undated. 1 item.
Folder 7	1946 Oct. 16	Audrey Wood Telegram to Tennessee Williams. Wood informs Williams that the rights to The Glass Menagerie have been purchased by the Charles K. Feldman Group. Also included is a clipping about the sale of the rights. 2 items.
Folder 8	1946 Jan 10	Royalty Statement from Random House in account with Lieblich Wood Agents for Tennessee Williams regarding The Glass Menagerie. Includes official statement, a note from Audrey Wood, and the envelope. 3 items.
Folder 9	[n.d., ca. 1943]	Provisional Film Story Treatment of The Gentleman Caller. The treatment describes how the play might be turned into a movie. Also includes fragments of the play. 33 pages. Undated. 2 items.

- Folder 10 **1945 Feb. 15** Audrey Wood Letter to Tennessee Williams. Wood discusses the potential sale of the motion picture rights to The Glass Menagerie and notes that all communication should be channeled through her. She also discusses the publication rights and the possibility of the play being on the radio. TLS, 2 pages. 1 item.
- Folder 11 **[n.d., ca. 1947] July 22** Letter to Tennessee Williams from Maria St. Just. The letter discusses the possibility of Williams taking a bow in front of an audience and Maria's love of Paris, where Williams resided at the time. ALS, 2 pages. July 22, [?]. 1 item.
- Folder 12 **[n.d.]** Children Star in Cinemas for Children, typewritten manuscript poem with revisions and notes. 10 pages. Undated. 1 item.
- Folder 13 **[n.d.]** The Interval, multiple typewritten versions of a manuscript short story with revisions. 5 and 6 pp. Undated. 2 items.
- Folder 14 **1944 Nov. 30** Margaret Mayorga Letter to Audrey Wood. Margaret attempts to explain the changes she had previously suggested for Williams' play Cotton. TLS, 1 page. 1 item.
- Folder 15 **[n.d.]** Opening Sequence Proposed for Film Script, annotated typewritten manuscript, 4pp. and fragment of a copy, 2pp.; 2 carbon copies of a later revised manuscript, 4pp. each. Undated. 4 items.
- Folder 16 **[n.d.]** Fish in the Sky, annotated typewritten manuscript, 14 pages. Undated. 1 item.