

Caldwell, Erskine, Papers

Erskine Caldwell Papers

n.d.



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1972.001

Unit Date

n.d.

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection consists of five typescript short stories and a set of galley proofs written and signed by Erskine Caldwell.

Creator

Caldwell, Erskine, 1903-1987

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Erskine Caldwell Papers were purchased by Newman Library in 1972.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Erskine Caldwell Papers commenced and was completed in April 2007.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Erskine Caldwell Papers, Ms1972-001, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Erskine Caldwell was born in the town of White Oak, Georgia, on December 17, 1903. Caldwell's schooling was fragmentary; he attended high school sporadically and took college courses at the University of Pennsylvania, at Erskine College, in South Carolina, and at the University of Virginia.

As a young man, he worked in Atlanta, Memphis, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Baltimore as a mill laborer, farmhand, cotton picker, cook, stagehand in a burlesque house, and book reviewer. His prolific career as an author was launched by "The Bastard" (1929), "Poor Fool" (1930), and "American Earth" (1931).

But it was the 1932 publication of "Tobacco Road" that assured Caldwell's success. In 1933, "Tobacco Road" was dramatized and ran for a record-breaking seven years on Broadway, despite an obscenity charge that was brought against it by the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. The charge was dismissed, as was a similar charge against Caldwell's next novel, "God's Little Acre" (1933).

In 1984, Caldwell was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1985, the Georgia Endowment for the Humanities invited him back to his native state for a series of teas and lectures in his honor.

A heavy smoker for all of his adult life, Caldwell twice underwent surgery for the removal of portions of his lungs. Lung cancer finally overtook him on April 11, 1987, in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

Information quoted from: *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, vol. 3, 2nd ed., (Detroit: Gale Research, 1998), 223-224.

Scope and Content

The Erskine Caldwell Papers contains five, signed typescripts of his short stories including "Honeymoon," "A Day's Wooing," "Midsummer Passion," "Where the Girls were Different," and "Nacogdoches, Texas," as well as a set of galley proofs for "Georgia Boy."

Related Archival Materials

There are many collections at other repositories, including several collections at Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College; several collections at Special Collections, University of Virginia Library; and several collections at the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.

Keywords

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Signed Typescript of "Honeymoon"

folder 1

Signed Typescript of "A Day's Wooing"

folder 1

Signed Typescript of "Midsummer Passion"

folder 1

Signed Typescript of "Where the Girls were Different"

folder 1

Signed Typescript of "Nacogdoches, Texas"

folder 1

Signed Galley Proof of "Georgia Boy"

folder 1