

Stagg, Hunter T., papers

Hunter T. Stagg papers

1917-1981

Title Statement

Stagg, Hunter T., papers A Guide to the Hunter T. Stagg papers, 1917-1981 M 261

Subtitle: A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Collection number M 261

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Publication Statement

Publisher: VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Special Collections and Archives 901 Park Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23284

Business Number: (804) 828-1108

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URL: <https://www.library.vcu.edu/research-teaching/special-collections-and-archives/locations/#cabell>

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-06-19 07:02:30 -0400.

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 261

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/118

Unit Date

1917-1981

Language

English .

Creator

Stagg, Hunter T. (Hunter Taylor)

Extent

2.5 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the the Special Collections and Archives department by Mr. Robert Saylor (widower of Stagg's niece Charlotte Nance Saylor) in 1988. Edgar MacDonald provided additional material. Also, a collection of correspondence from Mrs. Elizabeth Norfleet was deposited in 1994.

Preferred Citation

Hunter T. Stagg papers, Collection # M 261, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical

Hunter Taylor Stagg was born in the city of Richmond, the younger son of Thomas E. and Sarah Stagg on 29 May 1895. Kicked in the head by a horse at the age of seven, Stagg became prone to seizures later in life. Stagg attended the Richmond school run by John Peyton McGuire and in 1921 joined with three other "literary minded" individuals (Mary Dallas Street, Emily Clark (Balch) and Margaret Freeman (who married James Branch Cabell in 1950) to establish *The Reviewer*, a literary magazine. "Hunter Stagg was an avid literary lionizer, the one of the four who sought meetings with writers for the thrill of associating with creative artists. His handsome appearance, his considerable charm, his genuine appreciation for writing aided him in establishing the friendships he cherished including that of Cabell. Carl Van Vechten, leader of avant-garde cultural circles in New York, responded to Hunter's appeal and opened literary doors for him." -- from the *Ellen Glasgow Newsletter #15* which also provides extensive lists of acquaintances met during these years. *The Reviewer* moved to North Carolina in 1924 and Stagg held several reviewing positions in Richmond before moving to Washington, D.C. in March 1938 to live with his sister, Helen Winston, and her family. He lived with Mrs. Winston until her death in the late 1940s. After spending some time in New York with Margaret Freeman recuperating from his sister's death, Stagg returned to D.C. and got a job managing a bookstore. Stagg only worked intermittently throughout his life and was prone to alcoholism. Chronically without funds, Stagg forfeited a portion of his library and his furnishings when he did not meet the storage payments. He was eventually committed to St. Elizabeth's in Washington, D.C. and died there, 23 December 1960. He was buried in the Stagg family section of Hollywood Cemetery. As of 2002, his grave had no marker or tombstone.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, notes, typescripts, reviews, bills and miscellaneous materials dating from 1917 to 1981. The bulk of the collection focuses on correspondence throughout the 1920s and 1930s, especially that of James Branch Cabell and Carl Van Vechten (including copies of letters written to Van Vechten from Stagg obtained from Yale University by Edgar MacDonald). Other notable correspondents include: Essie Robeson (wife of Paul Robeson, see 3.5), Marjorie K. Rawlings, Tom Rutherford (Rutherford), Gertrude Stein, Alice Toklas, Frances Newman, Langston Hughes, Ben Ray Redman, Ellen Glasgow, and Montgomery Evans. Much of the Evans correspondence are copies of letters from Stagg to Evans from the Morris Library, Southern Illinois University. These were provided by Dr. Edgar MacDonald during his research of Hunter Stagg.

Keywords

Reviewer.

Van Vechten, Carl -- Correspondence

Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958 -- Correspondence

Arrangement

Collection is arranged alphabetically within each series.

Description of Subordinate Components

Stagg Materials, n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25624

Unit Date 1917-1976

Articles and Reviews, n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25627

Unit Date 1919, 1927

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

American Storage Company

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25628

Unit Date 1948-1949

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence--General, n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25629

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

1917, 1924-1925, 1927, 1933, 1937, 1947-1948, 1952-1953, 1956, 1976

Correspondence--Alastair (Hanael), n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25630

Unit Date 1925-1926, 1932-1933

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence-Cabell, James Branch, n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25631

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

1921, 1924, 1935, 1938, 1940-1941, 1943, 1946, 1948-1952

Correspondence--Cabell, Ballard

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25632

Unit Date 1951-1952

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence--Cabell, Margaret Freeman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25633

Unit Date 1949-1953

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence--Davis, Beale

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25634

Unit Date 1923-1924

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence--Glasgow, Ellen

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25635

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

1921, 1925, 1938, 1944

Correspondence--Evans, Montgomery (mostly from Stagg), n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25636

Unit Date 1923-1924

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence--Evans, Montgomery (mostly from Stagg)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25637

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Scope and Contents

1926-1926, 1935, 1950-1951

Correspondence--Hughes, Langston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25638

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Scope and Contents

Letters were pasted in the following Books from Stagg's Library : from *The Weary Blues*, a letter dated 12/1/26, and from *Fine Clothes to the Jew* a letter dated 2/10/27

Correspondence--Newman, Frances

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25639

Unit Date 1925

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Scope and Contents

See also *Frances Newman's Letter*, pasted in are two letters from Newman

Correspondence--Norfleet, Elizabeth (from Stagg)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25640

Unit Date 1938, 1940

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Rawlings, Majorie K.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25641

Unit Date 1953

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Redman, Ben Ray

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25642

Unit Date 1921

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Stein, Gertrude and Toklas, Alice

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25643

Unit Date 1924, 1945-1946

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Sympathy

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25644

Unit Date 1938

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Troubetzkoy, Amelie

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25645

Unit Date 1921

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl, n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25646

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25647

Unit Date 1923

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes a letter that was pasted in Stagg's copy of *The BlindBow-Boy*

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25648

Unit Date 1924

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25649

Unit Date 1925

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25650

Unit Date 1926

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25651

Unit Date 1927-1930

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25652

Unit Date 1931

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25653

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Correspondence--Van Vechten, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25654

Unit Date 1933-1934, 1938

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Correspondence--Woodford, Jack**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25655**Unit Date** 1950, 1953**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Miscellaneous, n.d.****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25656**Unit Date** 1976**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Notes, n.d.****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25657**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Passport****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25658**Unit Date** 1925**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Playbills, n.d.****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25659**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Portraits (photocopies), n.d.****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25660**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Publications--miscellaneous journals, some of which have articles written by Stagg****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25661**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Publications-- The Absence of Mr. Cabell****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25662**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Publications-- Cabell: A Reconsideration****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25663**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Publications-- Das Flammende Tal****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25664**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Taxes****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25665**Unit Date** 1950**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Typescript-- The Family of Julia Ambler****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25666**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

Typescript-- Fenris**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25667**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Typescript-- From the Left Hand Corner of the Page****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25668**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Typescript-- From the Left Hand Corner of the Pageversion B****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25669**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Typescript-- Murder. A Gamble in Revenge****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25670**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Inserts from Stagg's library of books written by James Branch Cabell****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25671**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Inserts from Stagg's library, miscellaneous authors****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25672**Mixed Materials** 4-A.1 (Box-folder)**Stagg Library-Book Description (inscribed, pages, inserts...)****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25673**Mixed Materials** 4-A.2 (Box-folder)**Associated Materials, n.d.****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25625**Unit Date** 1976-1981**Scope and Contents**

Much of this material contains correspondence and other items collected by Dr. Edgar MacDonald who in the 1970s researched the life and work of Stagg.

Associated materials**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25674**Unit Date** 1976**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Associated materials****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25675**Unit Date** 1977**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Associated materials****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25676**Unit Date** 1978**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Associated materials**

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25677

Unit Date 1979, 1981

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Evans, Montgomery--Diary (photocopy)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25678

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Ellen Glasgow Newsletter (about Stagg)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25679

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Firbank, Ronald

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25680

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25681

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Correspondence to Elizabeth Norfleet from Hunter Stagg and to Fillmore and Elizabeth Norfleet from H.H. Cooper

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25626

Unit Date 1938-1979

Correspondence--Stagg, Hunter (to Elizabeth Norfleet), n.d.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25682

Unit Date 1938-1940

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Correspondence--Cooper, H.. (to Fillmore and Elizabeth Norfleet)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25683

Unit Date 1961-1979

Mixed Materials 5 (box)