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Milton M. Smith papers 13239907

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Repository: | Rare Book and Manuscript Library |
| Creator: | Smith, Milton Myers, 1890-1981 |
| Title: | Milton M. Smith papers |
| ID: | 13239907 |
| ID: | UA#0244 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1925-1983 [Bulk 1950s-1970s] |
| Physical Description: | 0.42 linear feet 1 document box |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Milton M. Smith papers; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

A native of Springfield, MA, Milton Myers Smith graduated from Clark University and received Master's (1919) and doctorate (1930) degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University. He taught speech and English at Teachers College from 1921 to 1946, when he became Professor of Dramatic Arts at Columbia. Smith directed the Morningside Players and helped to form the Columbia Theater Associates. He served as the director of the Brander Matthews Theater. The playhouse was named after the 33-year Columbia University faculty member and the first professor of dramatic literature in the United States. It was built as an experimental theater and workshop in 1940, on 117th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive. The building was torn down in 1958 to make room for the new Law School building. With the demolition, the School of Dramatic Arts was forced to announce in April 1957 that there would be no admission of a freshman class in the fall. Milton retired from Columbia in 1961. He passed away in November 1981.

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Summary

This collection consists of correspondence, photographs and an unpublished manuscript by Professor Milton Smith titled Ready or Not. This manuscript includes Smith's personal recollections of theater at Columbia and the 150 plays produced by the Morningside Players and the Columbia Theater Associates from 1927 to 1958, staged first in Earl Hall and then in the Brander Matthews Theater. He was working on it at the time of his death in 1981. The correspondence includes letters to and from Smith, in particular his correspondence with Helen Pond and Herbert Senn. There is also correspondence between Nancy Smith (Milton's daughter) and Herbert Senn after her father's death. The papers also include planning documents and correspondence concerning a memorial event for Smith which was arranged in 1982.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Re-named collection "Milton M. Smith papers" from "Milton M. Smith Manuscript" and added new materials received from Jessica Linehan in May 2023. 2023-10-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accrual

No additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Correspondence, photographs and memorial planning documents were donated by Jessica Linehan in May 2023. It is not clear how we came to possess the unpublished manuscript.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Related Materials

Related Materials

[Historical Biographical Files \(UA#0004\)](#)

Related Materials

[Historical Subject Files \(UA#0002\)](#)

Related Materials

[Milton Smith script collection, 1927-1946 \(MS/Smith,Milton\)](#)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Smith, Milton Myers, 1890-1981

- Matthews, Brander, 1852-1929
- Hughes, Hatcher, 1881-1945
- Columbia University. Brander Matthews Theater
- Columbia University. Columbia Theater Associates
- Columbia University. School of Dramatic Arts
- Senn, Herbert, 1924-2003
- Pond, Helen

Collection Inventory

| Milton Smith papers, 1925-1983 | | |
|---|------------------|------------|
| Title/Description | Instances | |
| Unpublished Manuscript: "Ready or Not", 1960s <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders | box 1 | folder 1-2 |
| Correspondence to Milton Smith, 1925-1961 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Milton Smith Correspondence with Helen Pond and Herbert Senn, 1956-1975 | box 1 | folder 4 |
| Correspondence between Nancy Smith and Herbert Senn, ca. 1981-1982 Scope and Contents Nancy Smith is Milton Smith's daughter. | box 1 | folder 5 |
| Milton Smith Memorial Correspondence, 1982 | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Milton Smith Memorial - Planning Documents, 1982 | box 1 | folder 7 |
| Photograph of Engraved Plate presented to Milton Smith, 1952 Scope and Contents Plate was presented to Smith at a 25th Anniversary event for Columbia Theater Associates held in 1952. | box 1 | folder 8 |
| Photographs - Brander Matthews Final Work "Play Party", 1957-1958 Scope and Contents Photos appear to be of one of the last productions produced in the Brander Matthews Theater. | box 1 | folder 9 |
| Photographs of Graves for Milton M. Smith and his Wife Helen Clare Smith, 1983 | box 1 | folder 10 |

Scope and Contents

Photos were taken by John J. Williams and sent to Helen Pond and Herbert Senn.

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