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Philip Butcher papers 4079733

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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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Butcher, Philip, 1918-2011
Title:	Philip Butcher papers
ID:	4079733
ID:	MS#0176
Date [inclusive]:	1864-2005
Date [bulk]:	1940-1990
Physical Description:	6.75 linear feet 15 document boxes 1 flat box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Philip Butcher Papers contain correspondence, journals, subject files, research files, printed material, and photographs related to the life and work of Philip Butcher, primarily, but also related to James Butcher. Philip and James Butcher, brothers, were professors at Morgan State University and Howard University, respectively.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Philip Butcher papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Charles Philip Butcher (1918-), born and raised in Washington, D. C., graduated from the prestigious Dunbar High School. His mother, Jennie Rosa Lawrence Jones Butcher, like her mother before her, was a teacher. James W. Butcher (1875-1950), his father, retired in 1926 from a job with the Government Printing Office and became a wood-worker. He was best known for the "Butcher-Built Dollhouses" that he crafted and sold to fine department stores from Washington, DC to New York City.

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Biographical / Historical

Philip Butcher, who specialized in American Literature, received an AB (1942) and an MA (1947) from Howard University, and in 1956 he was awarded a doctorate from Columbia University. From 1947 until his retirement, Butcher taught in the English Department of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. He became a full professor in 1959, the same year that his first book, *George W. Cable: the Northhampton Years*, was published by Columbia University Press. Cable had been of interest to Butcher since his student days at Howard University and had been the topic of his Master's thesis. Butcher was married to Ruth Butcher with whom he had two daughters, Wendy and Laurel.

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Biographical / Historical

World War II temporarily interrupted Butcher's scholarly trajectory and he served three years (1943-1946) in the United States Army. Although Butcher spent most of the war in Great Britain as an NCO in the Special Service Division, he did a stint at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where the 92nd and 93rd Infantry--two entirely African-American Divisions--were trained. After V-E Day he was transferred from Britain to Germany with the 449th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion. Butcher, was discharged with the rank of Technical Sergeant.

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Biographical / Historical

Actor-playwright-director and Howard University professor James W. Butcher (1909-1994) was Philip's older brother. James received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in 1932 and his Master's degree, in theatre, from the University of Iowa in 1941. During World War II, James, who achieved the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, served as a Theatre Consultant with the Special Service Division of the United States Army, which had been established to provide recreation and entertainment for the troops. His initial posting was Fort Huachuca, Arizona, but in 1943 James was assigned to Liberia. When a German submarine sank the merchant vessel, *Cape Decision*, in which James was traveling, he and the other survivors drifted around the Atlantic on a life-raft for ten days before being rescued. His

second attempt to reach Liberia was successful and James spent over two years, writing and directing theatre productions, along with Ossie Davis, in Monrovia.

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Biographical / Historical

James taught at Howard University from 1934 to 1976, excluding his stints in the US Army or pursuing graduate education. For the last thirty years of his life he was married to Vada Easter Butcher, his third wife. He had one daughter, Grace Toni Jones, from his first marriage to Grace Desmond. Margaret Just Wormley was his second wife.

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Biographical / Historical

Philip and James Butcher had three sisters: Edith Harris, Nellie Forsyth (1904-1989) and Jennie Weir.

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Summary

These papers consist of correspondence, journals, photographs, printed material, ephemera, clippings, programs and playbills related to the professional careers and World War II service of Philip Butcher and his brother, James.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in four series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-06-26 2019-05-20

Conditions Governing Access

Books from Butcher's library are shelved on Stack 15, Cage 21, Range 6B

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Reproduction Note

The George Washington Cable letters and manuscripts in various U.S. repositories are on:
Type of reproduction--microfilm

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Butcher, Philip. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--10/06/86. Accession number--M-86-10-06.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Butcher, Philip. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--11/16/89. Accession number--M-89-11-16.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Butcher, Philip. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--12/26/90. Accession number--M-90-12-26.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Butcher, Philip. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--08/17/92. Accession number--M-92-08-17.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Philip Butcher, 1986, 1990 & 1992.

Processing Information

Papers Entered in AMC HR 02/--/91.

Processing Information

Papers Processed HR 02/10/92.

Processing Information

Papers Processed HR 02/10/92.

Processing Information

Papers Reprocessed Megan French (Columbia University GSAS, 2013) Thai Jones (Columbia University GSAS, 2011) April Holm (Columbia University GSAS, 2010) 2009.

Processing Information

Findign Aid Written Alix Ross 03/--/2009.

Processing Information

Papers Processed HR 03/22/93.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared.
Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material-- at Other Repositories

James W. Butcher Papers, [Moorland-Spingarn Research Center of Howard University.](#)

Selected Related Material-- at Other Repositories

James W. Butcher Papers, 1910-1949 (MS 507) [Historical Society of Washington, D. C.](#)

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Liberia
- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States -- Personal narratives, American
- Butcher, James W., Jr.
- Butcher, Philip, 1918-2011
- Butcher, Vada E.
- Cable, George Washington, 1844-1925
- McPherson, James Alan, 1943-2016
- Howard University Players

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1940-1997

Scope and Contents

The ingoing and outgoing correspondence in this series relates primarily to Philip Butcher's academic career. Correspondents, many of whom were Butchers' mentors, colleagues and students, include Arna Bontemps, Lionel Trilling, and James Alan McPherson among others. Writing projects, conference proposals, research queries and other academic interests are the topics of most letters. A few brief manuscripts can be found within the correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Catalogued Correspondence--Arna Bontemps, 1948-1973	box 1	folder 1
Catalogued Correspondence--Braithwaite-West, 1940-1982	box 1	folder 2
Edgar Creek, 1943-1996	box 1	folder 3
Thomas Cripps, 1970-1987	box 1	folder 4
Ralph Ellison, 1954-1997	box 1	folder 5
Shelley Fisher Fishkin, 1985-1997	box 1	folder 6
David Levering Lewis, 1993	box 1	folder 7
James Alan McPherson, 1971-1984, Undated, 1971-1984, Undated	box 1	folder 8
William Rhoden, 1997	box 1	folder 9
Roy Simmonds, 1984-1996	box 1	folder 10
Publishing Correspondence, 1948-1971	box 1	folder 11
General Correspondence, 1943-1989	box 1	folder 12 to
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)		13

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Series II. Subject Files, 1864-2005, undated

Scope and Contents

Included here is an array of material, both personal and professional. Clippings, bulletins, conference proceedings, committee work, funding applications, photographs, and autographed articles written by Philip Butcher's former students and colleagues at Morgan State University are here. Also included are programs, playbills, and photographs of James Butcher's professional activities at Howard University. A smattering of correspondence can be found within the subject files.

Title/Description	Instances	
Afro-American Literature, 1928-1969		

Philip Butcher papers 4079733

	box 2	folder 1
William H. Beardsley, 1987-1988	box 2	folder 2
Arna Bontemps, 1943-1967	box 2	folder 3
William S. Braithwaite, 1928-1970	box 2	folder 4
Sterling Brown, 1947-1990	box 2	folder 5
Sterling Brown--Phonograph Record, Undated	box 14	
James Butcher		
Biographical Info, 1942-1996	box 2	folder 6
Howard University Players, 1937, undated, 1937, undated	box 14	folder 1
Howard University and Spelman College--Video Tapes and Film, 1965-1966, 1981, 1996, Undated, 1965-1966, 1981, 1996, Undated	box 16	
Howard University--Norway Theatre Workshop, 1949-1950	box 2	folder 7
Professorial Career, 1949-1986	box 2	folder 8
Plays, 1948-1957	box 2	folder 9
Playbills and Programs, 1935-1983 (2 Folders), 1935-1983	box 12	folder 2 to 3
Production Photos, circa 1920s-1960s, 1980s (2 Folders), 1920s-1960s, 1980s	box 12	folder 4 to 5
General, 1949-1999, Undated, 1949-1999, Undated	box 2	folder 10
James Butcher Sr., 1949-1950	box 2	folder 11
Margaret Just Butcher, 1947-1957, Undated, 1947-1957, Undated	box 2	folder 12
Vada Butcher, 1978-1987	box 2	folder 13
Center for Editions of American Authors, 1967-1971	box 3	folder 1
Clippings--General, 1951-1984	box 3	folder 2
College Language Association, 1956-1986	box 3	folder 3
Thomas Cripps, 1988-1989	box 3	folder 4
Ossie Davis, 1965	box 3	folder 5
Deans of Black Grad Schools, 1975-1992	box 3	folder 6
Frederick Douglass, 1967-1992	box 3	folder 7
Ralph Ellison, 1942-1976	box 3	folder 8
Walter Fisher, 1977-1988	box 3	folder 9
Stephen Foreman, undated	box 3	folder 10

David Harris, 2005	box 3	folder 11
Highlander Folk School, 1953-1961	box 3	folder 12
Lincoln Bible, 1864-1933	box 3	folder 13
Scope and Contents (information regarding)		
Lincoln and Sheridan Letters, 1864	box 3	folder 14
Scope and Contents (copies)		
London, 1991	box 3	folder 15
MELUS, 1988	box 3	folder 16
Kelly Miller Pamphlets, 1900-1917	box 13	folder 8
Modern Language Association, 1974-1982		
Hubbell Award Committee, 1981-1982	box 4	folder 1
Nominating Committee, 1974-1976	box 4	folder 2
Nominating Committee, 1976 (2 Folders), 1976	box 4	folder 3 to 4
Morgan State University, 1953-1978		
Faculty Pamphlets, 1953-1978 (2 Folders), 1953-1978	box 4	folder 5 to 6
General, 1958-1961	box 4	folder 7
Lucy Moten Fellowship, 1941-1942	box 4	folder 8
Negro Writers Conference, 1965	box 4	folder 9
<i>The Octoroon</i> , 1961	box 4	folder 10
Permissions-- <i>Ethnic Image in Modern America</i> , 1982-1983	box 4	folder 11
Printed Materials--Interracial Understanding, 1918-1981	box 4	folder 12
Printed Materials--General, 1923-1987	box 4	folder 13
Research--Louisiana, 1948-1987	box 5	folder 1
Research--The Race Problem, 1918-1980	box 5	folder 2
R.S. Simmonds, 1985-1990	box 5	folder 3
Southern Negro Youth Conference Bulletin--Autographed, 1937	box 5	folder 4
Students, Former--Published Articles, 1986, Undated, 1986, Undated	box 5	folder 5
Arlin Turner, 1948-1978	box 5	folder 6
Darwin Turner, 1958-1976		

	box 5	folder 7
Mark Twain, 1935-1991	box 5	folder 8
University of Iowa--Robert Corrigan, 1969-1970	box 5	folder 9
Carl Waltz, 1958-1966	box 5	folder 10
<i>World Literature Today</i> , 1973-1985	box 5	folder 11
Richard Wright, 1941-1968	box 5	folder 12

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Series III. Research Files, 1883-1997

Scope and Contents

William Stanley Braithwaite, George Washington Cable and Thomas Walker--three of Butcher's longstanding research interests--are the primary focus of this series. Materials include notes, clippings, correspondence, photographs and ephemera related to his research.

Title/Description	Instances	
William Stanley Braithwaite		
Correspondence--Edward Starr, 1969-1970	box 6	folder 1
Correspondence--Research, 1964-1977	box 6	folder 2
Correspondence--Library, 1964-1971	box 6	folder 3
Correspondence--Permissions, 1971-1972	box 6	folder 4
Research Files, 1938-1981	box 6	folder 5
George Washington Cable--Correspondence		
Publishing, 1958-1974 (2 Folders), 1958-1974	box 6	folder 6 to 7
Anna Gertrude Brewster, 1943-1972	box 7	folder 1
Brewster Diary, 1893-1897	box 7	folder 2
Alma Edwards, 1949-1967	box 7	folder 3
Adelene Moffat and Family, 1896-1997	box 7	folder 4 to 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (5 Folders)		
Adelene Moffat--Portrait, circa, 1900	box 14	folder 2
Letters to the Editor, 1965-1981	box 7	folder 9
Research Inquiries, 1947-1963	box 7	folder 10
Research Inquiries, 1944-1964 (2 Folders), 1944-1964	box 8	folder 1 to 2
College Libraries, 1948-1969	box 8	folder 3
Public Libraries, 1959-1971	box 8	folder 4

George Washington Cable--Research		
Cable Family, 1945-1968	box 8	folder 5
Williams and Franklin, 1946-1949	box 8	folder 6
Notes, 1960	box 8	folder 7
General, 1884-1967 (2 Folders), 1884-1967	box 8	folder 8 to 9
General, 1902-1978 (2 Folders), 1902-1978	box 9	folder 1 to 2
Notes, undated	box 9	folder 3
Northampton, 1908-1960	box 9	folder 4
Northampton Correspondence, 1949-1962	box 9	folder 5
Cable Speech, 1962	box 9	folder 6
Cable Publications, 1941-1971	box 13	folder 9
Walker Family		
Thomas Walker Correspondence, 1895-1932 (2 Folders), 1895-1932	box 9	folder 7 to 8
Thomas Walker Photo, 1951, undated, 1951, undated	box 10	folder 1
Walker Receipts, 1885-1899	box 10	folder 2
Annie Walker, 1948-1992	box 10	folder 3
Fannette Walker Penn, 1906-1924	box 10	folder 4
Walker Ephemera, Undated	box 14	folder 3
Walker Photographs, Undated	box 14	folder 4
Walker Memorials, 1935-1936	box 10	folder 5
Frederick Douglass, 1891-1945	box 10	folder 6
General Research, 1883-1995	box 10	folder 7
Other Subjects		
Mark Twain and Warner Thornton McGuinn		
Correspondence, 1963-1969	box 10	folder 8
Research, 1912-1968	box 10	folder 9
Twain Article Controversy, 1985	box 10	folder 10
Sterling Brown, 1940-1969 (2 Folders), 1940-1969	box 10	folder 11 to 12
General Research		
Articles, 1947-1973	box 15	folder 1

Books--Annotated, 1885, 1927, 1950-1969, 1885, 1927, 1950-1969 <u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)	box 15	folder 2 to 4
Books, 1941, 1956, 1941, 1956	box 16	
"George Washington Cable: Early Realist of Negro Life"-- Dissertation, M.A., 1947	box 15	folder 5

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Series IV. Personal and Professional, 1930-1989, undated

Scope and Contents

The bulk of this series concerns Philip and James Butcher's service in the US Army during World War II. A typescript copy of Philip's extensive World War II journal is here. The material created or gathered by James Butcher includes a journal, notes and photographs of a trip from Monrovia to Dunbar Farms in the interior of Liberia; and a lifeboat log kept by H. E. Sorenson, Master of merchant vessel *Cape Decision*, which was torpedoed early in 1943 enroute from Charleston, SC to Dakar. James was on the *Cape Decision*, when it was hit and spent ten days, journeying 900 miles to safety, with Sorenson. This series also contains US Army service handbooks and bulletins, Fort Huachuca publications and ephemera related to the variety of entertainment provided by the Special Services Division.

Scope and Contents

Also included here are a few of Philip Butcher's projects and proposals.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1930-1989	box 11	folder 1
Photographs, 1970, 1989, 1970, 1989	box 11	folder 2
World War II		
James Butcher		
Correspondence, 1941	box 11	folder 3
Diary and Lifeboat Log, 1943, 1948, 1943, 1948	box 11	folder 4
Liberia--Notes and Correspondence, 1943-1944	box 11	folder 5
Liberia--Photos, 1943-1944	box 14	folder 5
Philip Butcher		
Journals and Notes, 1945-1946 (3 Folders), 1945-1946	box 11	folder 6 to 8
Office of War Information--Radio Proposal, 1942	box 11	folder 9
Printed Material, 1942-1949, 1960 (1 of 2 Folders), 1942-1949, 1960	box 11	folder 10
Printed Material, 1942-1949, 1960 (2 of 2 Folders), 1942-1949, 1960	box 12	folder 1

Printed Material--Clippings, 1937-1944	box 13	folder 1
Writings and Projects		
"Freedom's People"--Scripts, 1941-1942	box 13	folder 2
Lectures, Undated	box 13	folder 3
<i>Phylon</i> , 1948-1949	box 13	folder 4
Proposals, 1948-1970, undated, 1948-1970, undated	box 13	folder 5
Society for the Study of Southern Literature, 1967-1976	box 13	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
(includes Louis D. Rubin correspondence)		
Television Script--The Negro in U.S. History, 1974-1975	box 13	folder 7

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