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Pearl S.Buck Collection 4079821

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

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:	Buck, Pearl S (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
Title:	Pearl S. Buck Collection
ID:	4079821
ID:	MS#0162
Date [inclusive]:	1932-1956
Physical Description:	.84 linear feet 2 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The collection consists primarily of carbon copies of manuscripts for Pearl S. Buck's short stories, essays, speeches, and screenplays. Some copies include corrections and additions in Buck's handwriting. The collection also includes publications by other authors including an exhaustive bibliography of Buck's work by Lucille S. Zinn of the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Inc.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Pearl S. Buck Papers; Box and Folder (if known); Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Pearl S. Buck is an American-born author and humanitarian best known for her fictional works containing nuanced descriptions of Chinese characters and lifestyles. Buck was a prolific writer credited with authoring more than 100 books of fiction and nonfiction. She was also known by her Chinese name, Sai Zhenzhu, and she published some works under the pseudonym John Sedges.

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Biographical / Historical

Born Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker in Hillsboro, West Virginia on June 26, 1892, Buck was the child of Presbyterian missionary parents who were primarily stationed in China. She was educated in Chinese villages until the age of 14 when she was sent to boarding school in Shanghai. She returned to the United States to study at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1914. She received a MA in English from Cornell University in 1926 as well as an honorary MA from Yale University later in life.

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Biographical / Historical

With the exception of the one year Buck spent at Cornell University, Buck lived, wrote and taught in China, primarily in Nanking, from 1918 to 1934 when she left China permanently for the United States. She attained international fame upon the publication of her second novel *The Good Earth* in 1931. *The Good Earth* won the Pulitzer Prize for the Novel in 1932. Buck's impressive body of work earned her the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1938. According to the Nobel Prize Committee for Literature, Buck earned the prize "for her rich and truly epic descriptions of peasant life in China and for her biographical masterpieces." She was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature and continues to be the sole female recipient of both the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize to date.

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Biographical / Historical

Buck was also an influential humanitarian who campaigned on behalf of a wide variety of causes particularly those relating to international and interracial adoption. In 1949, Buck founded Welcome House, the first international, interracial, adoption agency in the United States. In 1964-65, Buck established Opportunity House, an organization designed to address the issues of poverty and discrimination faced by children in Asian countries. Buck died on March 6, 1973.

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Summary

The collection consists primarily of carbon copies of manuscripts for Pearl S. Buck's short stories, essays, speeches, and screenplays. Some copies include corrections and additions in Buck's handwriting. The collection also includes publications by other authors including an exhaustive bibliography of Buck's work by Lucille S. Zinn of the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Inc.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. XML document instance created by Catherine C. Ricciardi. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-11-04 2010-11-05 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Typescripts: Source of acquisition--Asadorian, William. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--06/30/92. Accession number--M-92-06-30.

Processing Information

Papers processed by Jenny Mathias, July 2010.

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-- Other Repositories

The Papers of Pearl Buck 1933-1947, University of Virginia Libraries

Selected Related Material-- Other Repositories

Pearl S. Buck letters and papers, 1941-1969, Pennsylvania State University Libraries

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Controlled Access Headings

- American literature -- 20th century
- Authors, American -- 20th century
- China -- In literature
- China -- Social life and customs -- 1912-1949
- Articles
- Bibliographies
- Carbon copies
- Drafts (documents)
- Essays
- Fiction (general genre)
- Lectures
- Mimeograph copies
- Speeches (documents)
- Authors, American
- Novelists -- 20th century
- Philanthropists
- Women authors, American
- Women dramatists, American
- Women novelists
- Buck, Pearl S (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
- Buck, Pearl S (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
- Buck, Pearl S (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
- Sedges, John, 1892-1973

Collection Inventory

Series I: Manuscripts by Pearl S. Buck, 1932-1956

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of manuscripts for short stories, plays, essays, and speeches by Pearl S. Buck on a broad range of topics. Writings within the collection emphasize the need for global cross-cultural understanding in order to achieve harmony of the human race. The roles of various groups within the United States to achieve this goal are addressed in Buck's "A Letter to Colored Americans" essay and her

speeches both to the New York Urban League and the New York Board of Education. Other items of note include the incomplete manuscript for Buck's biography of her father, *Fighting Angel: Portrait of a Soul*, which includes corrections and additions in Buck's handwriting, and the unpublished play script inserts and prose manuscript for *Flight into China*, which Buck later expanded into her novel *Peony*.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Between These Two", undated	box 1	folder 1
"The Big Dance", undated	box 1	folder 2
The Big Wave, 1956	box 1	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
(Television drama from her book <i>The Big Wave</i> for the Alcoa Hour on NBC)		
"The Bullfrog", undated	box 1	folder 4
"Daughters of China", undated	box 1	folder 5
"Education for Life for Our World," Speech to Supervisors, Principals and First Assistants of the Board of Education, New York,, January 19, 1944	box 1	folder 6
The Empress: A Play in Three Acts, 1937	box 1	folder 7
"Fiction and the Front Page", undated	box 1	folder 8
Scope and Contents		
(Published in <i>Yale Review</i> , March 1936)		
"Fiction Versus Biography", undated	box 1	folder 9
"Fighting Angel: Portrait of a Soul", undated	box 1	folder 10
"Flight into China", undated	box 1	folder 11
Flight into China, undated	box 1	folder 12
Scope and Contents		
(incomplete manuscript, unpublished, produced at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey on September 11, 1939)		
"Going Home", undated	box 1	folder 13
"The Good Deed", undated	box 1	folder 14
"Heat Wave", 1935	box 1	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
(published in <i>American Mercury</i> , April 1935)		
"A Letter to Colored Americans", 1942	box 1	folder 16
"The Lovers", undated	box 1	folder 17

"Letter Home", undated	box 1	folder 18
"Of Men and Measuring Worms", undated	box 2	folder 1
"New World for Children", undated	box 2	folder 2
"Mrs. Witley's Husband", undated	box 2	folder 3
"Morning in Okinawa", undated	box 2	folder 4
"The Old Chinese Nurse", 1932	box 2	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
(autobiographical essay published in Fortnightly, June 1932)		
"Our Last Chance in China", 1944	box 2	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
(published in Common Sense, August 1944)		
"The Patriot", undated	box 2	folder 7
"The Scene in the American Novel", undated	box 2	folder 8
"The Sheriff", undated	box 2	folder 9
Speech Delivered at the Dinner of the New York Urban League, 1937	box 2	folder 10
"The Strawberry Vase", undated	box 2	folder 11
"The Three Daughters", undated	box 2	folder 12
"True Story U.S.A.", undated	box 2	folder 13
"The Wandering Little God", undated	box 2	folder 14
Scope and Contents		
(published in Asia, April 1928)		
"What the Heart Must", 1937	box 2	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
(published in Woman's Home Companion, September 1937)		
"What We Can Do About The Children Waiting", undated	box 2	folder 16
"The Writing of East Wind: West Wind", undated	box 2	folder 17
Scope and Contents		
(published in Colophon, December 1932)		
"Youth in China", undated	box 2	folder 18

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Series II: Manuscripts by other authors, 1930, 1964, 1977

Scope and Contents

This series consists of published materials by other authors including an exhaustive bibliography of Buck's work by Lucille S. Zinn of the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Inc.

Title/Description	Instances	
Cody , Lyman V, "An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy", undated	box 2	folder 19
Lindsey, Jason, "Pearl Buck I", 1964	box 2	folder 20
Slade, William Adams, China: A Bibliographical List, 1930	box 2	folder 21
Zinn, Lucille S., "The Works of Pearl S. Buck: A Bibliography", 1977	box 2	folder 22

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