

# George B. Dowell papers, 1931-1986

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## Title Statement

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**Subtitle:** George B. Dowell C0219

**Author:** Finding aid prepared by Greta Kuriger Suiter

## Publication Statement

**Date:** November 2012

**Publisher:** George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2012-11-29T14:04-0500

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

**2019-02-13**          Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

C0219

### Date

1931-1986

### Language

English

### Abstract

This collection contains personal papers donated by George B. Dowell and includes playscripts, programs, photographs, correspondence, and publications relating mostly to theatre activities with the Federal Theatre Project, Smith College, and Vassar College.

### Creator

Dowell, George Brendan

### Physical Characteristics

1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

### Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the George B. Dowell papers must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

## **Acquisition Information**

Donated by George B. Dowell in May 1987.

## **Processing Information**

Processing and EAD markup completed in November 2012 by Greta Kuriger Suiter.

## **Preferred Citation note**

George B. Dowell papers, C0219, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

# **Biographical Information**

George Brendan Dowell was born in New York City on December 15, 1909. He spent his life working in the theatre and academic institutions. In 1933 he received a certificate in playwriting from Yale University. In 1939 the Federal Theatre Project produced *The God Innis*, a play Dowell wrote. Dowell met Hallie Flanagan while working with the Federal Theatre Project and continued to work with her throughout his career. He served with the Army in World War II from 1941 to 1943. In 1946 he graduated from New York University and received a doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College in 1949. He worked at Smith College from 1949 to 1955, first as a Visiting Lecturer of Theatre and then as an Assistant Professor of Theatre from 1950 to 1955. Dowell and Flanagan worked together on the play "Heritage" in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Smith College in 1950. After teaching at Smith he went on to work at Skidmore College (1954-1956), Vassar College (1957-1961), and Goucher College (1962-1975). His work at Vassar College revolved around their Centennial Celebration in 1961. At Goucher College he was instrumental in developing the drama program and held the position of Associate Professor of Speech and Drama. He died in Towson, Maryland, in January of 1997.

# **Scope and Content**

This collection contains personal papers donated by George B. Dowell and includes playscripts, programs, photographs, correspondence, and publications relating mostly to theatre activities with the Federal Theatre Project, Smith College, and Vassar College.

# **Related Material**

The Works Progress Administration oral histories collection, the Federal Theatre Project collection, the Federal Theatre Project photograph collection, as well as numerous other personal papers.

# **Index Terms**

## **Persons:**

Dowell, George Brendan.  
Flanagan, Hallie, 1890-1969.

## **Corporate Names:**

Federal Theatre Project (U.S.)

## **Subjects:**

New Deal, 1933-1939.  
Theater--United States.  
Universities and colleges.

# **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

# **Contents List**

## **George B. Dowell papers,**

**Unit Date** 1931-1986

### **American Theatre: A panorama of theatrical activity from the 16th to the 20th century,**

**Unit Date** 1970

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

#### **Scope and Content**

Draft with handwritten notes by Hallie Flanagan.

### **Article for the Alumnae Quarterly on Hallie Flanagan Davis,**

**Unit Date** June 7, 1955

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

### **Can You Hear Their Voices by Hallie Flanagan,**

**Unit Date** 1931

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

### **Correspondence,**

**Unit Date** 1932-1987

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

#### **Scope and Content**

Pertains to play writing in general.

### **Correspondence - Dowell and Flanagan,**

**Unit Date** 1949-1961

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

#### **Scope and Content**

Includes two photographs of George Dowell and Hallie Flanagan at the 1961 Vassar Centennial.

### **Course packets for Dramatic Arts 221 and 230 at Goucher College,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

### **Covenant program with notes by Hallie Flanagan,**

**Unit Date** circa 1954

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

### **Covenant published play,**

**Unit Date** June 1955

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

## **Fear,**

**Unit Date** 1934

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

Script adapted from the publication Fear by A. Afinogenov. Written by Hallie Flanagan for the Vassar Experimental Theatre.

## **Federal Theatre Project,**

**Unit Date** circa 1936-1939

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

7 photographs of the Helen Tamjris Dance Unit performance of Hecuba and Cassandra.

## **Federal Theatre Project,**

**Unit Date** 1937-1938

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 11 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

Two letters to Dowell regarding The God Innis; typewritten account of visiting Federal Theatre productions in Seattle - "Seattle Saga - Battling in the Western Wilderness", letter to Flanagan.

## **Grinnell College,**

**Unit Date** 1959

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 12 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

Brochure for Grinnell College and receipt for contribution gift in memory of Murray Flanagan.

## **Haiti program,**

**Unit Date** March - September 1938

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 13 (Folder)

## **Hallie Flanagan bookplate; What Was Federal Theatre pamphlet,**

**Unit Date** circa 1939

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 14 (Folder)

## **Heritage,**

**Unit Date** 1950

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 15 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

Two published copies; note from Hallie Flanagan to George Dowell.

## **Heritage and Smith College related typewritten notes,**

**Unit Date** circa 1949-1950

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 16 (Folder)

**Heritage script,**

**Unit Date** March 1950

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 17 (Folder)

**In Defense of Genius script,**

**Unit Date** 1939-1940

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 18 (Folder)

**The Island volume 1 number 1,**

**Unit Date** June 15, 1931

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 19 (Folder)

**Middle of the Air directed by Hallie Flanagan, script,**

**Unit Date** 1945

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 20 (Folder)

**Miscellaneous,**

**Unit Date** 1944-circa 1980s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 21 (Folder)

**Scope and Content**

Roosevelt newspaper advertisements; menu for The Lambs restaurant; organization chart for Teatro Colon (Spanish); Emlyn Williams as Charles Dickens poster; American tour of players summer tour of Britain itinerary; Holiday card from Julia Thorn Kuhl to Dowell.

**New Masses,**

**Unit Date** 1929; 1931

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Scope and Content**

Three issues: May 1929; March 1931; May 1931.

**New Theatre,**

**Unit Date** December 1935; August 1936

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Newspaper clippings,**

**Unit Date** 1949-1986

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**One-Third of a Nation script,**

**Unit Date** circa 1938-1940s

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

## **Programs from Vassar College, Smith College, Yale University, and Goucher College,**

**Unit Date** 1931-1966

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

## **Publications,**

**Unit Date** 1943-1986

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

The Dream and the Deed: Seattle's official centennial play by Glenn Hughes; American Art Today: New York World's Fair published by National Art Society (catalogue); And There Were Voices: An Abraham Lincoln play in three acts by Robert Knipe; The Living Theatre Repertory 1959-60; Theatre U.S.A.: A catalog of books and plays forming a history of the American theatre from circa 1750 to the present.; Yale Drama, alumni newsletter.

## **Smith department of theatre newsletter; Smith Alumnae Quarterly,**

**Unit Date** 1948-1949; Summer 1955

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

## **Smith department of theatre poster for The Way of the World,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed materials** 3 (Oversize)

## **Teaching materials and programs,**

**Unit Date** 1933-1950s

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

One program from 1933, mostly 1950s teaching and conference materials from Smith College and New England.

## **The Second Fourteen - script by student with handwritten notes by Hallie Flanagan,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

## **Theatre Arts Monthly,**

**Unit Date** January 1935

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Folder)

## **Vassar College Centennial,**

**Unit Date** 1959-1961

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 11 (Folder)

## **Vassar newsletter; Alumnae Magazine,**

**Unit Date** June 1959-December 1965

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 12 (Folder)