

George B. Dowell papers

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1931-1986



Title Statement

George B. Dowell papersGeorge B. Dowell papers C0219

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0219

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/337

Unit 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, 1909-1997

Extent

1.5 Linear Feet 3 boxes

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

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 Research Center, 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 a play Dowell wrote entitled "The God Innis". 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 of cancer 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.

Keywords

Theater -- United States

New Deal, 1933-1939

Universities and colleges

Flanagan, Hallie, 1890-1969
Federal Theatre Project (U.S.)

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Description of Subordinate Components

George B. Dowell papers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85922

Unit Date 1931-1986

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

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85923

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85924

Unit Date June 7, 1955

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Can You Hear Their Voices by Hallie Flanagan

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85925

Unit Date 1931

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85926

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85927

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85928

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Covenant program with notes by Hallie Flanagan

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85929

Unit Date circa 1954

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Covenant published play

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85930

Unit Date June 1955

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Fear

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85931

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85932

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85933

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85934

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85935

Unit Date March - September 1938

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Hallie Flanagan bookplate; What Was Federal Theatre pamphlet

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85936

Unit Date circa 1939

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Heritage

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85937

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85938

Unit Date circa 1949-1950

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Heritage script

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85939

Unit Date March 1950

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

In Defense of Genius script

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85940

Unit Date 1939-1940

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

The Island volume 1 number 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85941

Unit Date June 15, 1931

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Middle of the Air directed by Hallie Flanagan, script

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85942

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85943

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85944

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85945

Unit Date December 1935; August 1936

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Newspaper clippings

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85946

Unit Date 1949-1986

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

One-Third of a Nation script

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85947

Unit Date circa 1938-1940s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

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

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85948

Unit Date 1931-1966

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Publications

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85949

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85950

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85951

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 3 (oversize)

Teaching materials and programs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85952

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85953

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Theatre Arts Monthly

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85954

Unit Date January 1935

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Vassar College Centennial

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85955

Unit Date 1959-1961

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Vassar newsletter; Alumnae Magazine

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/85956

Unit Date June 1959-December 1965

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)