

# Ben Russak papers

Ben Russak papers

1935-1942



## Title Statement

Ben Russak papers Guide to the Ben Russak papers C0221

**Subtitle:** Ben Russak papers

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0221

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/339

**Unit Date**

1935-1942

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Ben Russak papers is a collection of Federal Theatre Project and Federal Writers' Project material collected by Ben Russak from 1935 to 1942. The papers include playscripts and publications created by the Federal Theatre Project, as well as pamphlets and collections of folklore material created by the Federal Writers' Project.

**Creator**

Russak, Ben, 1912-1988

**Extent**

2.25 Linear Feet 5 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 Ben Russak on March 26 and April 17, 1979.

**Processing Information**

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

**Preferred Citation note**

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## Historical Information

The Federal Theatre Project was a division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which provided employment for large numbers of artists, writers, and performers during the Great Depression (1929-1939). The Federal Theatre began in 1935 and, until its end in 1939, flourished as the first and only federally sponsored and subsidized theater program in the United States. Directed by Hallie Flanagan (1880-1969), it was a way for theatrical professionals to gain employment during the Depression.

## Scope and Content

The Ben Russak papers is a collection of Federal Theatre Project and Federal Writers' Project material collected by Ben Russak from 1935 to 1942. The papers include playscripts and publications created by the Federal Theatre Project, as well as pamphlets and collections of folklore material created by the Federal Writers' Project. The collection is divided into two series based on origination of the material. Series one consists of material from the Federal Theatre Project and includes playscripts, magazine publications, and folk songs. Series two consists of material from the Federal Writers' Project including manuscripts, Nebraska folklore, and research pamphlets.

## Related Materials

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

Federal Theatre Project (U.S.)

Federal Writers' Project

# Arrangement

Collection is organized into two series. Each series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Missing Title

- Series 1: Federal Theatre Project, 1935-1939
- Series 2: Federal Writers' Project, 1937-1942

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Series 1: Federal Theatre Project**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85972

**Unit Date** 1935-1939

**Container Summary** (3.5 boxes)

#### **Scope and Content**

Series one consists of material from the Federal Theatre Project and includes playscripts, magazine publications, and folk songs.

#### **Ballads and songs from broadsides 1773-1776**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85973

**Unit Date** February 3, 1939

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **The Better Sort playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85974

**Unit Date** February 1938

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### **Brother Mose playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85975

**Unit Date** 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

#### **Chalk Dust playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85976

**Unit Date** September 1936

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

#### **Donogoo**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85977

**Unit Date** September 1937

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

#### **Excursion**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85978

**Unit Date** September 1937

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Federal Theatre Magazine (volume I number I)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85979

**Unit Date** November 25, 1935

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Folk music in America**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85980

**Unit Date** June 1939

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Folk songs mainly from West Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85981

**Unit Date** June 1939

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Folk songs of America**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85982

**Unit Date** December 1938

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Folk tunes from Mississippi**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85983

**Unit Date** July 1937

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Folk tunes from Mississippi**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85984

**Unit Date** July 1937

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Generations (Yiddish playscript)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85985

**Unit Date** 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Haven playscript (reissue)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85986

**Unit Date** February 1938

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Help Yourself playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85987

**Unit Date** November 1936

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Injunction Granted playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85988

**Unit Date** 1936

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**It Can't Happen Here playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85989

**Unit Date** September 18, 1936

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Magazine of Art**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85990

**Unit Date** January 1937

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**The Man of the Times playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85991

**Unit Date** 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**1935 playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85992

**Unit Date** October 16, 1936

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Power playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85993

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Precious Land playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85994

**Unit Date** February 1937

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Program of the Federal Arts Projects**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85995

**Unit Date** June 25-July 1, 1938

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Prologue to Glory playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85996

**Unit Date** May 1938

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**The Second Shepherd's Play playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85997

**Unit Date** October 1937

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Southwestern folk history (Oklahoma)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85998

**Unit Date** May 27, 1939

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**The Theatre Abroad (volume I, number VI)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/85999

**Unit Date** May 1939

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Theatre of the gold rush decade in San Francisco**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86000

**Unit Date** 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Traditional ballads mainly from West Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86001

**Unit Date** March 1939

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**Triple A Plowed Under playscript**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86002

**Unit Date** 1936

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Series 2: Federal Writers' Project**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86003

**Unit Date** 1937-1942

**Container Summary** 1.5 boxes

**Scope and Content**

Series two consists of material from the Federal Writers' Project including manuscripts, Nebraska folklore, and research pamphlets.

**Balance in (square dances, Kentucky)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86004

**Unit Date** October 1942

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**The builders of timberline lodge**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86005

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Conference on contemporary culture**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86006

**Unit Date** November 16-17, 1938

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Hoosier folklore bulletin (Indiana)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86007

**Unit Date** December 1942

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**MSS...manuscripts - Federal Writers Project (South Dakota)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86008

**Unit Date** circa 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Scope and Content**

3 issues - February, March, and September, of a periodical for and by WPA writers and workers prepared and published "after hours" by members of the state staff, Federal Writers Project in Pierre, South Dakota.

**Nebraska folklore pamphlets (numbers 1 to 18)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86009

**Unit Date** 1937-1938

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Animal legends**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86010

**Unit Date** August 1, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Ballads**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86011

**Unit Date** October 1938

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Children's games**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86012

**Unit Date** September 1, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Children's singing games**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86013

**Unit Date** June 1, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Cowboy songs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86014

**Unit Date** May 15, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Cowboy songs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86015

**Unit Date** November 1, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Farmers' alliance songs of the 1890's**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86016

**Unit Date** December 1938

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Historical legends**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86017

**Unit Date** June 15, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Indian ghost legends**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86018

**Unit Date** November 15, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Indian place legends**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86019

**Unit Date** May 29, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: More Santee-Sioux Indian legends**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86020

**Unit Date** October 1939

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Nebraska cattle brands**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86021

**Unit Date** November 1938

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Pioneer recollections**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86022

**Unit Date** January 1940

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Proverbs, prophesies, signs and sayings,**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86023

**Unit Date** October 1, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 21 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Proverbs, prophesies, signs and sayings (part II)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86024

**Unit Date** October 15, 1937

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 22 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Reminiscences of Dad Streeter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86025

**Unit Date** February 1939

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Container** 23 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Songs about Nebraska**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86026

**Unit Date** September 1938

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Nebraska folklore: Tall tales**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86027

**Unit Date** July 1938

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**New Jersey volume II research pamphlets (Federal Writers Project)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86028

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Over the Turquoise trail (volume I, number I and II)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86029

**Unit Date** 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**We ain't down yet (song)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/86030

**Unit Date** 1930s

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)