

A Guide to the John Steinbeck Collection

John Steinbeck Collection 1934-1962

1934-1962

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 6239-j

Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

1997

History

Processed by: Special Collections Department Staff

Date Completed: 1997

Encoded by: Courtney Boissonnault

Title Statement

A Guide to the John Steinbeck Collection

Subtitle: Steinbeck, John.

Collection: 6239-j

Author: Processed by Special Collections Dept. staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Courtney Boissonnault

Sponsor: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 30 Kilobytes

Date: © 1997 By the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia. All rights reserved.

Publisher: University of Virginia Library

[Conditions of Use](#)

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. [Date of source: 1997.]

Language Usage: Description is in English.

Revision Description

Feb 16, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::00387::John Steinbeck Collection)//EN" "ViU00387.sgm" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

6239-j

Language

English

Extent

ca. 41 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

Purchase-Deposit [1971 Dec 27] 1972 Mar 13

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Preferred Citation

John Steinbeck Collection, Accession 6239-j, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Item Listing

Letters

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1935 Aug 22]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses Jedworth [Jedwick], publishers, publishing slowly, a planned trip to Mexico and lack of gift for money-making.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1935 Sep]

Extent ALS,2 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses dislike for Hollywood, preparation for a trip to Mexico, prerequisites for fame; briefly discusses Jedwick, [Pascal] Covici's reissuing two early books [The Pastures of Heaven and To a God Unknown] and availability of a copy of [Tortilla Flat]; mentions Carmel, Woodstock, Left Bank, Laguane Beach and [San Francisco].]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [late 1935]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses Paramount [Pictures] purchase of a book [Tortilla Flat], his next book [In Dubious Battle], their stay in Mexico, his dislike of New York City, Ben Abramson, Frances [? Toor], American tourists in Mexico and Mexican Indians; mentions Pacific Grove, California.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Feb]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses dislike of Communists and difficulty publishing short stories; briefly discusses dislike of [David Herbert] Lawrence, not caring what the press will do, Esquire, [Arnold] Gingrich, McIntosh and Otis [Literary Agency], [Arthur Burton] Rascoe, ignorance of the theater, The North American Review and fear of getting down to work; mentions New Testament, New York City and Journey's End.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Feb]

Extent ALS, 2 p. (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a bad review [of In Dubious Battle] by Mary Ann McCarthy [Mary Theresa McCarthy] in The Nation; briefly discusses Paul's rejected book, [Arnold] Gingrich's request for stories for Esquire, his new book [Of Mice and Men], a possible visit by Paul, Herman Shumlin's production of the play In Dubious Battle and his problems getting published; mentions Caesar's Commentaries, Plato, Tortilla Flat, Joseph Henry Jackson, [San Francisco] Chronicle, Covici [Friede], Ben Abramson, his agents [McIntosh and Otis Literary Agency] and Hollywood.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Apr 6]

Extent APCS (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses his current work [Of Mice and Men], [William] Heineman's publishing [In Dubious Battle], death of his British agent, Paul's coming west and weather; mentions [William] Saroyan.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Jun 11]

Extent APCS (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a new house in Los Gatos, Paul's novel, difficulty with his new manuscript [Of Mice and Men] and the Republican Convention.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Jun 22]

Extent APCS (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses rain water as a symbol of security; briefly discusses his wife's [Carol Henning Steinbeck] building a new house [in Los Gatos], Paul's visit, [John Ernst Steinbeck] and "the new thing" [Of Mice and Men]; mentions [Pacific Grove].]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Aug 25]

Extent APCS (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses an article for The Nation, a series ["The Harvest Gypsies"] for the [San Francisco] News, his new book [Of Mice and Men], Paul's A Horse in Arizona, discovering a book "down the country" [The Grapes of Wrath] and a story he wrote for Esquire.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1936 Dec]

Extent APCS (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses Los Gatos, a very long book [The Grapes of Wrath], [Paul's A Horse in Arizona], his new book [Of Mice and Men] and a planned trip east; mentions his wife [Carol Henning Steinbeck].]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Jan 6]

Extent APCS (w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses happiness in his work on the book [The Grapes of Wrath], a possible trip to New York, possible sources of a copy of "the little book" [? Saint Katy the Virgin], repair of a rain-damaged pool, a bad cold, drinking too much and the need to conserve money; mentions his sisters [Elizabeth Steinbeck Ainsworth, Esther Steinbeck Rodgers, Mary Steinbeck Dekker], [Arthur Burton] Rascoe, Harry Hansen and [Pascal] Covici.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Jan 27]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses unhappiness with his work [The Grapes of Wrath], a possible trip, his last book [Of Mice and Men], the weather in California, the sausage works [Multch Sausage Manufacturing Co.] and the death of [Arthur Burton] Rascoe's son [Albert Burton Rascoe]; mentions Esquire.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Mar 7]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a review in [New York Herald Tribune], a trip to New York City and the sausage works [Multch Sausage Manufacturing Co.].]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 May 4]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a visit to New York City; mentions Bedford Hotel.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Aug 15]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses being in the Atlantic Ocean near Greenland, plans upon landing in Albany, expecting Paul on the West Coast and a visit to New York City.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Aug]

Extent ALS, 1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a job [the script for the play Of Mice and Men], a trip to Europe and a desire to see Paul.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Nov 12]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a visit from Paul, his return from a trip, the house being a mess, Paul's hat, Carol Henning Steinbeck's need for a break, a planned Thanksgiving with the Jackson family [Joseph Henry Jackson and Charlotte E. Cobden Jackson] and being too busy to spend an afternoon with Paul and [Joseph Henry Jackson]; mentions Monterey and Mary [P. Engargiola Paul].]

[John Steinbeck] to Mary [P. Engargiola Paul] and Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Fall]

Extent

TL,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses a house warming party, Paul's hat, getting a phone and Paul's former job; mentions [Joseph Henry] Jackson, Charlotte [E. Cobden] Jackson, Ritchie Lovejoy and his wife [Natalya Lovejoy], the Bengston family, Long Island, Burlingame, Multch Sausage Manufacturing Co. and Elsa Maxwell.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1937 Dec 28]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a story by Paul [" A Lucky Day for Private Smoot"] in the January issue of Esquire; mentions Mary [P. Engargiola Paul].]

John Steinbeck to Louis [Paul]

Unit Date [late 1937 or early 1938]Monday

Extent

TL,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses a proposed trip with [Joseph Henry Jackson], a brief visit to the Jackson family and his rewriting [? The Grapes of Wrath].]

John Steinbeck to Louis [Paul]

Unit Date [late 1937]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses his and Carol Henning Steinbeck's praise for a manuscript by Paul; mentions Hollywood, Blingham [Burlingame].]

[John Steinbeck] to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1938 Jan 1]

Extent

TPC

Scope and Content

[Discusses stopping by Paul's, a trip by Carol Henning Steinbeck and a manuscript by Ritch[ie Lovejoy].]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul and Mary [P. Engargiola] Paul

Unit Date [1938 Mar 22]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a razor, a lily and having a good time.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1938 Aug 3]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses things interfering with his work [The Grapes of Wrath], Carol Henning Steinbeck's sore throat, "the eastern matter," a visit from Brod[erick] Crawford and the ranch; mentions [Charles] Scribner's [Sons].]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul and Mary [P. Engargiola] Paul

Unit Date [1938 Sep 6]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses The Grapes of Wrath(title source, method of work and typing by Carol Henning Steinbeck); mentions " Battle Hymn of the Republic. "]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1938 Oct 18]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses not wanting to hear criticism until he is finished [with The Grapes of Wrath]; briefly discusses weariness.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1939 Jul 6] Thursday

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a bad leg, his tonsillectomy and his unlisted phone number; mentions Mary [P. Engargiola Paul]; includes pencilled poem in another hand.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1939 Jul 15]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses his illness and not stopping by Paul's trip to Santa Cruz.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1940 May]

Extent TL,1 p.(w/xerox)

Scope and Content

[Discusses a planned trip [to Mexico to film The Forgotten Village], the ranch, Mary [P. Engargiola Paul's] illness, Paul's garden and a trip to the Gulf [of California] to collect animals.]

John Steinbeck to Louis Paul

Unit Date [1940 Dec]

Extent TL,1 p.(w/xerox)

Scope and Content

[Discusses sending both books to Carnahans; briefly discusses working on the "marine book" [Sea of Cortez], returning from filming [The Forgotten Village] in Mexico, plans to work with [Lewis] Milestone[on the film The Red Pony] and a dog for Paul; mentions Monterey.]

John Steinbeck to [Louis Paul]

Unit Date [1941 Mar]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses an invitation to Paul to visit, the return of Carol Henning Steinbeck and work on the book [Sea Of Cortez], mentions Joe [Higashi].]

John Steinbeck to Louis [Paul]

Unit Date [1941 May]

Extent TLS,1 p.(w/xerox)

Scope and Content

[Discusses [Pascal Covici's] sale of the little Mexican book of pictures [The Forgotten Village]; briefly

discusses a book Paul sent, a house in Pacific Grove, sale of the ranch, working hard on the gulf book [Sea of Cortez], himself as "half bum and half voluptuary and half workman" and his bad nerves; mentions Ed[ward Flanders Ricketts], his agents [McIntosh and Otis Literary Agency], Mary [P. Engargiola Paul]and a film [The Forgotten Village].]

John Steinbeckto Louis Paul

Unit Date [1941 Jul 15]

Extent APCS(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses "that silly thing" getting to [Herb] Caen, his knife, Paul's hospitality and a new pen.]

John Steinbeckto Louis [Paul]

Unit Date [1941 Jul]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses "future leaks" especially to [Leonard] Lyons, his knife, work on the second draft [of Sea of Cortez], a possible trip to Los Angeles, [MacIntosh and Otis Literary Agency] and [Pascal Covici] liking the book, and plans to work on [" God in the Pipes"]; mentions Mary [P. Engargiola Paul]and Gwyndolyn Conger.]

John Steinbeckto Louis [Paul]

Unit Date [1943 Dec]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses Paul's book and [World War II].]

John Steinbeckto Louis Paul

Unit Date [ca. 1946 May]

Extent ALS,1 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses moving to an old house, a proposed visit from Paul, Gwyndolyn Conger Steinbeck's pregnancy, another book [The Wayward Bus] and a trip to Mexico.]

Louis Paulto John Steinbeck

Unit Date [1962] Oct 29

Extent TLS,1 p.(carbon)

Scope and Content

[Discusses the return of some letters to Steinbeck and Steinbeck's Nobel Prize in Literature; mentions New York Times Book Review.]

John Steinbeckto Louis [Paul]

Unit Date 1962 Nov

Extent ALS,2 p.(w/transcript)

Scope and Content

[Discusses his reasons for returning to Paul the letters Paul had returned to him, his fear of prizes, [Nobel Prize in Literature], the Soviet Unionrewriting its history, Paul's inking out hurtful references to living persons (except Mary McCarthy) in the letters and Walt Whitman.]

Photograph

John Steinbeck, seated

Unit Date [early 1930's]

Extent

Photo

Scope and Content

[" Sonya Noskowiak" written below lower right corner; photo appeared in the New York Herald Tribune, 1937 Feb 28.]

Miscellaneous

Map made by John Steinbeck for Louis Paul, giving directions to [first] house in Los Gatos, with four negatives

Unit Date [mid to late 1936]

Extent

Map

Notes made by [Mary P. Engargiola Paul] regarding John Steinbeck's personal life and a chronology of his works

Unit Date [1962 or later]

Extent Notes, 6 p. (xerox)

Scope and Content

[Discusses the rift between John Steinbeck and Carol Henning Steinbeck, Steinbeck's relationship with [Gwyndolyn Conger] and other women, including [Natalya] Lovejoy, his reluctance to leave either Pacific Grove or the first house in Los Gatos, his health and poor diet, his sexual problems, Carol's discomfort with wealth and his becoming too "rich" non-monetarily; mentions Sea of Cortez, The Forgotten Village, Ritchie Lovejoy, The Grapes of Wrath and Louis [Paul].]