

# **DREISER, THEODORE, 1871-1945.**

## **Theodore Dreiser collection, 1921-1991**

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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945.  
**Title:** Theodore Dreiser collection, 1921-1991  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 753  
**Extent:** 4 linear feet (8 boxes), 1 oversized papers box (OP), and 1 oversized bound volume (OBV)  
**Abstract:** Collection of materials relating to American novelist Theodore Dreiser, including correspondence, research materials collected by Dreiser's niece, Dr. Vera Dreiser, pertaining to her uncle, and collected material.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access audiovisual materials in this collection.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction. Photocopies of letters from the collection of the Lilly Library may not be copied without the permission of the Dreiser Trust.

#### **Related Materials in Other Repositories**

[Theodore Dreiser papers](#), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Pennsylvania, the Huntington Library Manuscripts Dept., and the Theodore Dreiser papers I-IV, Lilly Library, Indiana. University

#### **Source**

Gift, with subsequent additions.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Theodore Dreiser collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Stephen Enniss.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Theodore Dreiser, American novelist, was born in 1871 and died in 1945. His niece, Vera Dreiser, published *My Uncle Theodore*, in 1976.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Theodore Dreiser and his family from 1921-1991. The collection includes a variety of primary and secondary materials used by Dr. Vera Dreiser in her own research and writing on her uncle, the novelist Theodore Dreiser. Among the papers are nine letters written by Theodore Dreiser (1924-1944), correspondence to and from other family members, as well as Vera Dreiser's own research correspondence. Also present are numerous photographs of Dreiser (ca. 1889-1946) and the Dreiser family, as well as clippings and other printed material related to Dreiser's life and work. The collection also includes some of Vera Dreiser's own writings (some of which relate to her uncle), research materials collected by her, and tapes of Richard Lingemann's 1982 interview of her.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into two series: (1) Dreiser family papers, (2) Vera Dreiser research materials, and (3) Collected material.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Dreiser family papers](#)

[Series 2: Vera Dreiser research materials](#)

[Series 3: Collected material, 1929-1942](#)

**Series 1**  
**Dreiser family papers**  
**Boxes 1-2 and 7; OP1**

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Correspondence**

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Paul Dresser to Miss South, 1897 November 5, West Baden, Ind., ALS [copy], 2 pp.
1	2	Charles B. Bayly to Paul Dresser, 1902 June 16, Washington, D.C., TLS, 2 pp.
1	3	Anthony Huhna to Mrs. EM Dresser, 1922 July 25, New York, ALS [photocopy], 1 p. [w/ transcript]
1	4	TD to Ed [Dreiser], 1924 February 11, New York, TLS [photocopy], 2 pp.
1	5	Mai V. Skelly Dresser to TD, 1924 February 24, n.p., ALS [photocopy], 1 p. [w/ transcript]
1	6	J.B. Bindley to Emma W. Nelson, 1925 September 17, Terre Haute, TLS, 2 pp.
1	7	Arthur Garfield Hays and Arthur Carter Hume [attorneys for TD] to Paramount Publix Co., 1931 June 26, n.p., TL [carbon], 7 pp.
1	8	TD to Mame, Syl, and Ed [Dreiser], 1941 March 22, Hollywood, TLS, 1 p. w/ envelope
1	9	Mai to Helen [Dreiser], 1943 May 13, n.p., ALS [photocopy] 1 p. w/ transcript
1	10	Helen [Dreiser] to Mai, [1943 May?], n.p., ALS [photocopy], 6 pp. w/ transcript
1	11	TD to "Whom It May Concern," 1944 September 6, Hollywood, TLS [photocopy], 1 p.
1	12	Photocopies of Dreiser correspondence from the Lilly Library, ca. 1896-1898, w/ some marginal notes in Vera Dreiser's hand
1	13	Photocopies of Dreiser correspondence from the Lilly Library, ca. 1896-1898, w/ some marginal notes in Vera Dreiser's hand
1	14	Photocopies of Dreiser correspondence from the Lilly Library, ca. 1896-1898, w/ some marginal notes in Vera Dreiser's hand
1	15	Photocopies of Dreiser correspondence from the Lilly Library, ca. 1908-1909, w/ some marginal notes in Vera Dreiser's hand

**Printed material**

1	16	Dreiser, Theodore, "Theodore Dreiser Writes" in Hubert Davis Lithographs [exhibition catalog], 1937, 4 pp.
1	17	Dreiser, Theodore, "Down and Out in Brooklyn," in The Pennsylvania Gazette, December 1983
OP1	1	Sheet Music by Paul and Edward Dresser [also includes some sheet music published by the Paul Dresser Publishing Company].

**Death and funeral**

- 1 18 Typescript of memorial service [mimeograph], January 3, 1946, 18 pp.
- 1 19 Miscellaneous items related to death and internment.
- 7 Death mask and cast of right hand (made by Edgardo Simone)
- OP1 4 Funeral photographs

**Photographs and artists' renderings**

- 2 1 Theodore Dreiser w/ group, ca. 1889-1890
- 2 2 Theodore Dreiser, ca. 1893
- 2 3 Theodore Dreiser and Jug, ca. 1910
- 2 4 Theodore Dreiser, ca. 1911
- 2 5 Theodore Dreiser, ca. 1918
- 2 6 Theodore Dreiser in Russia, 1928
- 2 7 Theodore Dreiser in Harlan Co., Kentucky, ca. 1933
- 2 8 Theodore Dreiser portraits by Carl Van Vechtan, 8 Nov 1933 (7 photographs)
- 2 9 Theodore Dreiser w/ Helen, Tjader, and Hillary, 1944
- 2 10 Theodore Dreiser w/ Paul Robeson, 1944
- 2 11 Theodore Dreiser, 1945
- 2 12 Theodore Dreiser in state, [1946], w/ typescript "The Road I Came"

**Photographs-undated**

- 2 13 Theodore Dreiser, n.d.
- 2 14 Theodore Dreiser, n.d.
- 2 15 Theodore Dreiser w/ Grant Richards and Sir Hugh Lane, n.d.
- 2 16 Theodore Dreiser, n.d.
- 2 17 Theodore Dreiser, n.d. [inscribed to Vera Dreiser, Sep 1945]
- 2 18 Theodore Dreiser w/ Deems Taylor, n.d.
- 2 19 Theodore Dreiser in Paris, n.d.
- 2 20 Theodore Dreiser, n.d. [2 photographs]
- 2 21 Theodore Dreiser w/ Vera Dreiser, n.d.
- 2 22 Theodore Dreiser w/ bust of John Cowper Powys, n.d.
- 2 23 Theodore Dreiser, n.d.
- OP1 2 Theodore Dreiser, photograph by Lotte Jacobi, n.d.
- OP1 3 Theodore Dreiser, caricature by Edmund Duffy, n.d.
- 2 24 Theodore Dreiser, photograph of portrait by Wayman Adams,
- 2 25 Theodore Dreiser, photograph of portrait by Marjorie Heath, n . d.
- 2 26 Theodore Dreiser, photograph of bust by Edgardo Simone

**Photographs-Dreiser family**

- 2 27 John Paul Dreiser [father of T.D.]

2	28	Sarah Dreiser
2	29	Paul Dresser, n . d.
2	30	Paul Dresser, n.d. [inscribed to Mai & Ed]
2	31	Paul Dresser composing (2 photographs), n.d.
2	32	Rome Dreiser
2	33	Mary Dreiser [Mame]
2	34	Emma Dreiser
2	35	Teresa Dreiser
2	36	Claire Dreiser
2	37	Edward Dreiser in "In the Baggage Coach Ahead," [ca. 1901]
2	38	Sarah White [Jug]
3	39	Helen Dreiser
2	40	Louise Dresser
2	41	Vera Dreiser

**Photographs-Events and places**

2	42	Dreiser funeral
OP2		Dreiser funeral
2	43	Harry Ward's Minstrals, n.d.
2	44	Residences
2	45	Terre Haute
2	46	Book display for My Uncle Theodore
2	47	Unidentified photographs

**Series 2**  
**Vera Dreiser research materials**  
**Boxes 3-6; OBV1; OP1**

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Research correspondence**

Box	Folder	Content
3	1	Correspondence, 1929-1959
3	2	Correspondence, 1960-1961
3	3	Correspondence, 1962
3	4	Correspondence, 1963-1965
3	5	Correspondence, 1966-1969
3	6	Correspondence, 1970-1972
3	7	Correspondence, 1973-1974
3	8	Correspondence, 1975-1979
3	9	Correspondence, 1980-1985
3	10	Correspondence, no date

**Writings by Vera Dreiser**

4	1	"Are You Planning to Be Married?"
4	2	"Bing, He's Got the World on a String"
4	3	"Continuum"
4	4	[Diary of Vera Dreiser], extracts, 1944, 1946
4	5	"The Flesh and the Spirit: The Dreiser-Dresser Family" w/ "A Genealogy of the Members of the Dreiser-Dresser Family"
4	6	"How to Avoid Unhappiness in Marriage"
4	7	"The Importance of Sexual Adjustment in Marriage"
4	8	"Let Dr. Dreiser Help You" [Screenplay columns]
4	9	"Lou Gehrig"
4	10	Miscellaneous fragments & notes
4	11	"The Misunderstood Dreiser"
4	12	Musical compositions by Vera Dreiser
4	13	My Uncle Theodore or A Wine of Bitterness, typescript_
4	14	"The Shah a Shah!"
4	15	"Theodore Dreiser"
4	16	"Theodore Dreiser: The Misunderstood Man"
4	17	"An Unforgettable Experience" [re: Paul Robeson]
4	18	Untitled [remarks at Dreiser Centennial]

**Research materials**

- 4 18 Paul Dresser
- 4 19 Edward Dreiser
- 4 20 Gertrude Nelson [daughter of Emma Dreiser]
- 4 21 Theodore Dreiser
- 4 22 *The Book Find News*, March 1946 [Dreiser issue]
- 4 23 Covell, Tom. *Dreiser: A Play*, 1980, typescript
- 4 24 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1970
- 4 25 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1971
- 4 26 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1972
- 4 27 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1973
- 4 28 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1974
- 5 1 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1975
- 5 2 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1976
- 5 3 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Fall 1977
- 5 4 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring 1978
- 5 5 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Fall 1980
- 5 6 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1981
- 5 7 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1982
- 5 8 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1983
- 5 9 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1984
- 5 10 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1985
- 5 11 *Dreiser Newsletter*, Spring-Fall 1986
- 5 12 *Dreiser Studies* (formerly *Dreiser Newsletter*), Spring 1987
- 5 13 *Dreiser Studies*, Spring-Fall 1988
- 5 14 *Dreiser Studies*, Spring-Fall 1989
- 5 15 *Dreiser Studies*, Spring-Fall 1990
- 5 16 *Dreiser Studies*, Spring-Fall 1991
- 5 17 *Dreiser Studies*, Fall 1992
- 5 18 *Dreiser Studies*, Fall 1995
- 6 1 *Dreiser Newsletter*
- 6 2 Dreiser, Vera. reviews of *My Uncle Theodore*
- 6 3 [Farrell, James T.] *The Coming of Age of a Great Book*, 1953
- 6 4 Farrell, James T. "Some Correspondence with Theodore Dreiser," [Univ. of Pennsylvania] *General Magazine & Historical Chronicle*, Summer 1951, offprint .
- 6 5 Gerber, Philip. Assorted offprints.
- 6 6 *Library Chronicle* [Dreiser Centenary Special Issue], 1972
- 6 7 Lingemann, Richard, reviews of *Theodore Dreiser: An American Journey*



- 6 8 Raja, L. Jeganatha ed., *Theodore Dreiser: The Man and His Message*, Annamalainager, India: 1984
- 6 9 *Theodore Dreiser Centenary Exhibition*, Univ. of Pennsylvania Library, 1971
- 6 10 Walton, Rena Bell, *Theodore Dreiser: Influence of His Mother's Mennonite Religion*, MA thesis (California State, 1972)
- 6 11 "Working Girls: Dreiser's Sister Carrie at Ninety" [SUNY Brockport Conference, 1990]
- 6 12 "Memories of Chester and Billy" [San Diego State University Conference, 1996]
- OP1 5 "Memories of Chester and Billy" [San Diego State University Conference, 1996], poster
- 6 13 Miscellaneous clippings
- 6 14 Donations of research material to museums & universities
- OBV1 Vera Dreiser scrapbook

### **Vera Dreiser-Richard Lingemann interview**

- 6 15 Interview w/ Vera Dreiser, 15 December 1982, tape 1
- 6 16 Interview w/ Vera Dreiser, 15 December 1982, tape 2
- 6 17 Interview w/ Vera Dreiser, 15 December 1982, tape 3

### **Vera Dreiser**

- 6 18 Vera Dreiser, resume
- 6 19 Clippings related to Vera Dreiser
- 6 20 Tedi Langdon

**Series 3**  
**Collected material, 1929-1942**  
**Box 8**

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Correspondence**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
8	1	TD to Sydney S. Albert, 6 May 1929, TLS, 1 p.
8	2	TD to Orrick Johns, 21 November 1932, TLS, 1 p.
8	3	TD to Orrick Johns, 12 January 1933, TLS, 1 p.
8	4	TD to Orrick Johns, 15 December 1933, TLS, 1 p.
8	5	TD to Orrick Johns, 30 December 1933, TLS, 1 p.
8	6	TD to Orrick Johns, 1 December 1942, TLS, 1 p.

**Manuscripts**

8	7	"My Creator," typescript w/ holograph inscription to Helen from TD, 11 pp. [gift of David Estes]
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