

WARD, THEODORE, 1902-1983.

Theodore Ward collection, 1937-2009

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Ward, Theodore, 1902-1983.
Title: Theodore Ward collection, 1937-2009
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1166
Extent: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)
Abstract: Collection of materials relating to African American playwright Theodore Ward including personal papers, play scripts, and printed material associated with his plays.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Theodore Ward papers](#), J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.

[Theodore Ward plays](#), Play Script Collection, New York Public Library.

Source

Gift of James V. Hatch and Camille Billops, 2011

Custodial History

Forms part of the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives at Emory University.

Citation

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

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Processing

Arranged and described at the folder level by Courtney Chartier and Sarah Quigley, 2017.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

Theodore Ward (1902-1983) was born in Thibodaux, Louisiana, on September 15, 1902. He left Louisiana at age 13 and traveled around the United States until he began college at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City) in the late 1920s. In 1931, after receiving a scholarship, he transferred to the University of Wisconsin, Madison to study creative writing. In 1935, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, and began working for the Works Progress Administration in the Federal Theatre Project. He produced his most famous play, *Big White Fog*, in Chicago in 1938, and then formed the Negro Playwrights Company in 1940 to produce the play in New York City, New York. Ward received a Rockefeller Foundation grant in 1976 to produce his *Our Lan'*, originally staged thirty years prior in 1946, with the Free Southern Theatre in New Orleans, Louisiana. The company produced another of his plays, *Candle in the Wind*, as their final production in 1978. Ward's plays were political and dealt with subjects such as Garveyism, anti-Semitism, color prejudice within the black community, the effects of racism, and the appeal of Communism.

James V. Hatch (1928-), theatre historian, has held numerous academic positions, most notably as Professor of English and Theatre, City College (New York, New York) and University of New York (1965-1993), and as Fulbright Lecturer, Cinema Institute, Cairo, Egypt (1962-1965). Hatch has published widely on the subject of African American theatre and, along with his wife, Camille Billops, collects primary source materials documenting African American art, literature, and drama. He served as Theodore Ward's theatrical agent in the 1970s.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of material collected by James V. Hatch relating to Theodore Ward from 1937-2009. The collection includes personal papers, play scripts by Theodore Ward, and printed material relating to his plays. Personal papers primarily contain correspondence, the bulk of which is between Ward and Hatch in the 1970s. There is additional correspondence between Hatch and Ward's daughter in the years following Ward's death. The letters between Hatch and Ward reflect the evolution of their relationship from acquaintances to business partners and friends. Personal papers also contain biographical materials including clippings, an annotated chronology of his works, and interviews conducted by Camille Billops. Printed material consists of advertisements, reviews, and programs, mostly for *Big White Fog* and *Our Lan'*. Play scripts by Ward include typescripts of his plays such as *Candle in the Wind*, *Charity*, and *Our Lan'*, among others.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type, then in alphabetical order.

Container List

Personal papers

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 1 | Agent contract with James V. Hatch, 1974 |
| 1 | 2 | "Are We Ready?" essay on Ward by James V. Hatch, 1980 |
| 1 | 3 | Biographical information on Ward |
| 1 | 4 | Correspondence, 1937-1938 |
| 1 | 5 | Correspondence, 1970, 1973-1974 |
| 1 | 6 | Correspondence, 1975 |
| 1 | 7 | Correspondence, 1976 |
| 1 | 8 | Correspondence, 1977 |
| 1 | 9 | Correspondence, 1978 |
| 1 | 10 | Correspondence, 1979 |
| 1 | 11 | Correspondence, 1980-1981, 1984 |
| 1 | 12 | Correspondence, circa 1994, 2001-2009 |
| 1 | 13 | Expense receipts, circa 1974-1977 |
| 1 | 14 | "For the Negro Actor-What?: A Forum in Honor of Negro History Week," flyer, undated |
| 1 | 15 | Letitia Toole autographed headshot, 1977 |
| 1 | 16 | "Interview with Playwright Ted Ward," Africa Must Unite, 1973 |
| 1 | 17 | Photocopies of photographs of Ward |
| 1 | 18 | Theodore Ward: Black American Playwright, by James V. Hatch, circa 1977 |
| 1 | 19 | Theodore Ward Day, Chicago, 1977 |

Plays by Theodore Ward: Printed material

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|---|----|---|
| 1 | 20 | Big White Fog, newspaper clippings, 1938, 1940 |
| 1 | 21 | Big White Fog, program, Lincoln Theartre, New York, 1940 |
| 1 | 22 | Big White Fog, program notes, 1980 |
| 1 | 23 | Big White Fog, St. Peter's Church Theatre Festival, 1980 |
| 1 | 24 | Big White Fog, program, Wayne State University, 1994-1995 |
| 1 | 25 | Big White Fog, reviews, Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, 1995 |
| 1 | 26 | Big White Fog, program and cast photos, Almeida Theatre, London, 2006 |
| 1 | 27 | Big White Fog, review, Almeida Theatre, London, 2007 |
| 1 | 28 | Big White Fog, review manuscript, "Staging the Garveyite Home: Black Masculinity, Failure and Redemption in Theodore Ward's Big White Fog, by Kate Dossett 2009 |
| 1 | 29 | Candle in the Wind, flyer and program, Chicago State University, 1979 |
| 1 | 30 | The Daubers, program, X-Bag, undated |
| 1 | 31 | "Our Lan': An American Classic," article by James V. Hatch, undated |

- 1 32 Our Lan', newspaper clippings, 1947, 1968
- 1 33 Our Lan', program and reviews, Henry Street Playhouse, circa 1947
- 1 34 Our Lan', review in The New Masses, 1947
- 1 35 Our Lan', program, Southside Center for the Performing Arts, Chicago, 1968
- 1 36 Our Lan', program, Black Repertory Theatre, University of Massachusetts, 1971
- 1 37 Our Lan', review, Joseph Warren Elementary, Chicago, 1975
- 1 38 Our Lan', newsletters, Free Southern Theater, New Orleans, 1976
- 1 39 Our Lan', reviews and photographs, Dartmouth College, May 1977
- 1 40 "Our Lan' Lives," article by James V. Hatch, circa 1977

Plays by Theodore Ward: Play scripts

- 2 1 The Bell and the Light, undated
 - 2 2 Black and Blue, undated
 - 2 3 Big Money, 1961
 - 2 4 Big White Fog, 1937
 - 2 5 Candle in the Wind, 1966
 - 2 6 Candle in the Wind, 1966
 - 2 7 Candle in the Wind, 1966
 - 2 8 Candle in the Wind, Act IV, circa 1966
 - 2 9 Charity (The Life of Blind Tom), 1960
 - 2 10 Charity, 1960
 - 2 11 Charity, 1980
 - 3 12 The Daubers, undated
 - 3 13 Deliver the Goods, undated
 - 3 14 Even the Dead Arise, undated
 - 3 15 The Falcon of Adowa, undated
 - 3 16 John de Conquerer, 1953
 - 3 17 Madison, undated
 - 3 18 Of Human Grandeur, circa 1949
 - 3 15 Our Lan', 1941
 - 3 16 Our Lan', 1941
 - 3 17 Shout Hallelujah, undated
 - 3 18 Sick and Tired, circa 1936
 - 3 19 Sick and Tiahd, 1964
 - 3 20 Throwback, 1964
 - 3 21 Whole Hog or Nothing, 1949
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