Carleton Hildreth and Harry Hervey papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Creator: Hervey, Harry, 1900-1951.
Title: Carleton Hildreth and Harry Hervey papers
Dates: 1920s-1976
Extent: 3.5 cubic feet (8 boxes)
Identification: MS 1695

Biographical/Historical Note

Born in 1908, Carleton Hildreth lived in Savannah, Georgia. He was an actor, writer, researcher, and copy editor, eventually working as proofreader for the Savannah Morning News. It was sometime during the 1920s that Hildreth met renowned author, Harry Hervey (1900-1951). At the time, Hervey was living in Savannah with his mother, Jane Davis Hervey, head of housekeeping for the Desoto Hotel. For approximately thirty years, until Hervey's death in 1951, Hildreth and Hervey lived together as companions and collaborators working on a number of artistic projects. Hildreth helped type and research many of Hervey's novels and travel books, co-wrote plays and screenplays with him, and acted in at least one of their productions on Broadway. Hildreth accompanied Hervey to Southeast Asia and the Orient in the mid 1920s, and later spent time with him in Hollywood, California, where Hervey was employed as a successful screenwriter. After Hervey's death, Hildreth remained in Savannah working as a proofreader. Hildreth died on 12 March 1977.

Scope and Content Note

The Carleton Hildreth and Harry Hervey papers contain correspondence, clippings, and literary productions of both Carleton Hildreth and Harry Hervey. The bulk of the papers include various versions of Harry Hervey's screenplays, mostly based on his original ideas. Some are also based on his novels and were co-written with Carleton Hildreth and other authors such as Alice D. G. Miller and Francis Marion. There are a few unpublished short pieces as well as published versions of short stories and essays. The majority of correspondence consists of letters from Harry Hervey to Carleton Hildreth documenting his artistic projects and daily life in Savannah, Georgia, in the 1940s. Some of the letters include information on gay life in the city at the time. Miscellaneous materials include estate papers of Harry Hervey, papers regarding Carleton Hildreth's brother, Walter Hildreth, and letters to Carleton Hildreth from his mother.

Also included are photographs that are organized alphabetically then chronologically by topic. Many of the photographs document trips to the Far East and include images from South East Asia. Significant portions capture Cambodia and Indo-China, present day Viet Nam, where Hervey conducted archeological expeditions for Cosmopolitan magazine. There are photographs of Hervey during all stages of his life as well as many family images of both Hildreth and Hervey. Photographs after 1950 document the life and travels of Carlton Hildreth and a man named J. Robert Swygert. Presumed to be a later friend and travel companion of Hildreth, Swygert appears throughout photographs dating from the 1960s to the 1970s. Miscellaneous photos include those of family animals, automobiles, and unidentified buildings. There are a small number of Georgia shots as well as an image of the DeSoto Hotel fire.

The collection is organized into three series: the Carleton Hildreth papers; the Harry Hervey papers; and photographs. The boxes containing photographs are noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

Index Terms

Art, Asian.
Authors.
Bars (Drinking establishments)
Clippings (information artifacts)
Essays.
Gay men--Georgia--Savannah.
Hervey, Harry, 1900-1951.
Letters (correspondence)
Motion picture industry--California--Hollywood.
Photographs.
Playwriting.
Savannah (Ga.)
Screenplays.
South America--Description and travel.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was purchased from Adam Wright.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Carleton Hildreth and Harry Hervey papers, MS 1695, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information


Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

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Container List

**SERIES 1:: Carleton Hildreth papers, 1930-1960s, undated**

This series contains items such as Christmas cards dating to 1945, contracts and telegrams concerning Hildreth's professional life, materials regarding Hildreth's sale of Hervey's Asian art collection, and items relating to Hildreth's relatives, the McLendon family.
Box  Fldr

1  1  Christmas cards and proofs, 1945

2  Clippings, contracts, and telegrams related to Hildreth's professional life, 1930-1931, 1960

Correspondence

   From Hildreth's mother, 1945

   Regarding the estate sale of Hervey's Asian art collection, 1954-1974

   Regarding Walter Hildreth's military service deferment, 1942-1964

6  McLendon family materials including Alcoholics Anonymous speeches, clippings, obituaries, and prayers, circa 1960s

SERIES 2:: Harry Hervey papers, 1920s-1976, undated

This series is arranged into two subseries: Correspondence, clippings, and estate papers; and Literary works.

SUBSERIES 2.1:: Correspondence, clippings, and estate papers, 1920s-1976, undated

This subseries includes a large collection of correspondence dating from the 1920s through 1976. Many of the letters are to Hildreth, and others are from friends telling of Hervey's health, monetary issues, travel, literary works, and estate. This subseries also includes clippings regarding Hervey's life, work, and time spent in Hollywood, as well as one folder of miscellaneous clippings.

Correspondence

Box  Fldr

2  1  Outgoing to friends while traveling in Saigon, 1920s

2  Incoming from friends, 1930s

3-5  Outgoing to Hildreth, 1943-1945

6  Incoming from friends, 1948-1949

7  Regarding health and money, undated

8  Regarding literary work, 1944-1974

9  Regarding burial plot, 1976

10-13  Regarding Hervey's estate, 1943, 1951-1953
Estate documents, undated

Clippings

Biographical, 1930s-1950s

Regarding literary work, 1931-1955

Regarding Hollywood, 1932, undated

Miscellaneous, circa 1940s

Lock of hair, undated

**SUBSERIES 2.2:: Literary works, 1921-1954, undated**

This subseries includes essays, news articles, novelettes, plays, short stories, and screenplays. They are arranged by type of work and alphabetically by title and often include more than one version.

**Essays**

**Box Fltr**

3 1 "Christmas Carol", 1941

2 "Stories I Shall Never Write", 1941

3 News articles by Hervey, 1931-1951

4 Novelette entitled, "Guest Star", undated

**Plays**

5 "Black Maria" by Hervey and Hildreth, undated

6 "Black Orchid" by Hervey and Hildreth, undated

7 "Congia" by Hervey and Hildreth, undated

8 "Devil Dance" by Hervey and Hildreth, undated

9 "Wedding Dress", undated

**Short stories**

10 "Black Leopard", undated

11 "Conquering Magenta", undated

12 "Devil Business", 1921-1922

13 "Girl Who Was Watched", undated
"Monsieur Satan", 1921

"On the Wall", 1954

"Wedding Dress", undated

Screenplays

Box Fldr

4 1 "Appointment in Korea", undated
2 "Armada", undated
3 "Barracoon", undated
4 "Black Banquet", undated
5 "Black Bridal Wreath", undated
6 "Black Paradise", undated
7 "Black Pearls", undated
8 "Brave Music", undated
9 "Bridal Song" by Alice D. G. Miller and Hervey, undated
10 "Count of Monte Cristo", 1934
11 "Devil Business", undated
12 "Devil's Daughter", undated
13 "Diamond in the Sky", undated
14 "Flying Stair", undated
15 "Green Hell" By Francis Marion with Hervey, 1939

Box Fldr

5 1 "Ho, For Shanghai", undated
2 "Indo-China", 1934
3 "Mrs. Medusa", undated
4 "On Top of the World", undated
5 "Return Engagement", undated
6 "Safari", 1936
7 "Saigon", undated
8 "Saigon", 1943

Box Fldr

6 1 "Saigon", 1943
2-3 "Swamp Fox", undated
4 "This Man's Heaven", 1931
5 "Ticket to Morocco", undated
6 "Ticket to Paradise", undated
7-8 "Wedding Dress", undated

SERIES 3: Photographs, 1890-1975

This series contains photographs that are organized alphabetically then chronologically by topic.

vm_box Fldr

1 1 Animals, undated

vm_box Fldr

1 2 Asian art, undated

vm_box Fldr

1 3 Children, undated

vm_box Fldr

1 4 Georgia photographs, undated

vm_box

1 Harry Hervey

Baby photographs, circa 1900

Adolescent images, circa 1910

Formal portraits, circa 1910-1930s
Informal portraits, circa 1910-1930s

Shadow and sketch portraits, circa 1910-1930s

In costume, 1920s View online.

Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items

Formal portraits, 1940s

Smoking, 1940s

Working, 1940s

With Carleton Hildreth and friends, bar scenes, 1940, 1950, 1955

Burial plot, circa 1970

vm_box Fldr

1 17 Hervey relatives, undated

vm_box

1 Carleton Hildreth

Miscellaneous, circa 1920-1950s

Beach, circa 1920-1950s View online.

Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items

Young men, circa 1920-1950s

Miscellaneous, circa 1950-1970s View online.

Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items

Savannah Morning News, circa 1960-1970s

vm_box

1 Hildreth relatives
McLendon family image, undated

McLendon, Laura Virginia Martin photographs, circa 1930-1940s

Miscellaneous, undated

**vm_box**

1. J. Robert Swygert

Miscellaneous, circa 1950-1960s

Bar scenes, circa 1950-1960s

Swimsuit images, circa 1950-1960s

Travel portraits at unidentified locations, circa 1950-1960s

Work images, circa 1960s

Miscellaneous, circa 1960-1970s

Travel

**vm_box Flldr**

2. 1. Anthropological or archaeological, circa 1920-1930s

**vm_box Flldr**

2. 2. China, circa 1920-1930s [View online](#).

   Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items

**vm_box Flldr**

2. 3. Egypt, circa 1920-1930s

**vm_box Flldr**

2. 4. Indo-China, circa 1920-1930s

**vm_box Flldr**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2  5</td>
<td>Japan, circa 1920-1930s</td>
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<tr>
<td>2  6</td>
<td>People, circa 1920-1930s</td>
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<tr>
<td>2  7</td>
<td>Portraits of Hervey, circa 1910-1930s</td>
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<tr>
<td>2  8</td>
<td>Portrait of Hervey and Hildreth, circa 1920-1930s</td>
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<tr>
<td>2  9</td>
<td>Unidentified, circa 1920-1930s</td>
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<td>2 10</td>
<td>India, 1960s</td>
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<td>2 11</td>
<td>Peru, 1960s</td>
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<td>2 12</td>
<td>Venezuela, 1960s</td>
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<td>2 13</td>
<td>Unidentified, circa 1960-1970s</td>
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<td>2 14</td>
<td>Group photos, circa 1920-1930s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 15-19</td>
<td>Men, circa 1900-1960s, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 20-22</td>
<td>Women, undated</td>
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