

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

ANNEX  
C-27-11-6

Accession # 86 M 61

Location

Title Chase Horton. Collection of papers relating to John Steinbeck, 1902-68

Approximate inclusive dates 1935-75

Date of receipt June 26, 1986

Received from Estate of Chase Horton

Volume on arrival 1 carton

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 2 AB 1 lin. ft.

Condition Good (excepting for carbon copies of correspondence by Elizabeth Otis which are very fragile)

Restrictions None

Description (see separate sheets)

Special Formats ☒ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☐ Graphics  
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records  
☐ Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries  
(SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

Accessioned by John Stinson

Date 8/4/86

## ACCESSION SHEET

86 M 61

Chase Horton. Collection of papers relating to John Steinbeck

## Description

Chase Horton (1897-1985) was born in Ohio. For many years he was associated with the Washington Square Bookshop on West 8th Street in New York City. During the 'fifties and 'sixties he collaborated with John Steinbeck during much of the historical research for the latter's book The Acts of King Arthur... (N.Y., Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976) which Horton edited and which was published after Steinbeck's death. Horton became a close friend of Elizabeth Otis of McIntosh & Otis, Inc. who was Steinbeck's literary agent from 1931 until the author's death. Upon Horton's death his Estate offered his collection of papers relating to Steinbeck to the Library.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence of John Steinbeck; and correspondence of Chase Horton and of Elizabeth Otis relating to Steinbeck. There are also desk diaries, a memorandum book, and research notes kept by Horton relating to his work with Steinbeck, two photographic portraits of Steinbeck, and inscribed volumes. The correspondence (1935-61) of John Steinbeck includes some thirteen autograph and typed letters signed by Steinbeck to various correspondents including his literary agent, Elizabeth Otis, together with carbon copies of letters (1935-40) by Otis to Steinbeck relating to motion picture rights to Tortilla Flat, his book Long Valley, royalty payments, publishers' contracts and other literary matters. There is also present typed transcript copies (1935-59) of Steinbeck's correspondence, and copies of correspondence relating to him.

## ACCESSION SHEET

86 M 61

Chase Horton...

Description (cont'd.)

-2-

The correspondence of Chase Horton consists of seventeen letters (1958-65) written to him by Elaine (Mrs. John) Steinbeck. Several of the letters were written while the Steinbecks were living in England and describe their travels and social life there and in Italy. There is also one folder of letters (1957-65) some in transcript form from Horton to Steinbeck regarding Horton's researches for the book on King Arthur, and some miscellaneous correspondence (1948-75) of Horton relating in part to Steinbeck. The correspondence <sup>(1935-72)</sup> of Elizabeth Otis relating to Steinbeck is mainly with publishers and relates to the publication of works by Steinbeck. The desk diaries (1957-60 - 4 vols.) contain a record of historical research performed for Steinbeck, notes on hours worked and appointments with Steinbeck and expenses incurred. The memorandum book contains notes by Horton of meetings and social encounters with the Steinbecks in London and environs during June and July of 1958. The research notes reflect Horton's work on the King Arthur book. There are also a few pages of typed notes for textual changes for Grapes of Wrath. The inscribed volumes are copies of Steinbeck, A Life in Letters, edited by Elaine Steinbeck and Robert Wallstein (N.Y., Viking Press, 1975 - 1 vol.); and The Acts of King Arthur... (1 vol.). Also, the Rare Book Room acquired some 36 books from the Horton Estate including inscribed first editions by John Steinbeck (The Winter of Our Discontent), Elaine Steinbeck (The Steinbeck House Cookbook), Thorn<sup>a</sup> Smith

ACCESSION SHEET

86 M 61

Chase Horton...

Description (cont'd.)

-3-

(The Bishop's Jaegers), <sup>7</sup>and Yeats (Latter Poems and Plays in Prose  
and Verse).

Chase Horton Collection of Papers  
Relating to John Steinbeck

Container list

Box 1. Correspondence of John Steinbeck  
Correspondence of Chase Horton with Elaine Steinbeck  
and with John Steinbeck  
Correspondence of Chase Horton and Elizabeth Otis  
relating to Steinbeck  
Research notes

Box 2. Desk diaries and memorandum book  
Photographs of Steinbeck  
Inscribed volumes

Oversize box Photograph of John Steinbeck (photocopy of same has been put in Box 2)