



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Dan Hammerman papers**

1936-1980

\*T-Mss 1984-011

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Hammerman, Dan

**Title:** Dan Hammerman papers

**Date:** 1936-1980

**Size:** 2.52 linear feet (6 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Lillian Halpern, 1986.

**Abstract:** Dan Hammerman was an American travel writer and playwright. The collection (1936-1980) contains scripts, articles, essays, short stories, correspondence, and other materials.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

## Creator History

Dan Hammerman (circa 1906-1980) was an American travel writer and playwright. The majority of his plays were never published, though his historical drama, *Henri Christophe*, was produced by the American Negro Theatre in New York City in 1945. He wrote travel articles for *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Toronto Star*, *Newsday*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, among other publications. Hammerman also wrote short stories, songs, and plays for children. His song, *I Sing America*, was published in 1952.

Dan Hammerman sometimes went by the name Dan Hall or Dan Hall Hammerman. He died in 1980 in Nassau, the Bahamas.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Dan Hammerman papers date from 1936 to 1980 and contain scripts, articles, essays, short stories, correspondence, and other materials relating to Hammerman's career as a writer.

The majority of the collection consists of Hammerman's writings. Scripts date from 1936 to 1946 and consist of typescript and handwritten drafts of plays and musicals, such as *World on a Carousel*, *A Night in the Village*, *Goldtooth Sadie*, and *Henri Christophe*. Scripts for *Henri Christophe* are accompanied by production agreements and correspondence concerning edits of the script. Essays, short stories, and songs are also present. Song titles include *Land of Four Freedoms*, *I Sing America*, and *Abe Lincoln Said*. Children's plays and stories include *Stage and Radio Plays for Growing Children* and *Brotherhood Plays for Children*. An unpublished typescript book entitled *As I Went Traveling* contains accounts from Hammerman's travels.

Travel articles date from 1937 to 1978 and contain Hammerman's accounts of visits to the Caribbean, Europe, and North, Central, and South America. The articles are typescript drafts and published copies. Other materials in the collection include correspondence, theater programs, travel brochures, and an outline for a playwriting course for teachers. Correspondence primarily relates to Hammerman's work as a travel writer.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged by format. Writings are alphabetical by format or title.

### **Key Terms**

#### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Essays  
Scripts (documents)  
Short stories  
Travel literature

#### **Titles**

*Henri Christophe*  
*World on a Carousel*

#### **Subjects**

Playwriting  
Travel writing

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1936-1980
- b. 1 f. 2 Playwriting Course for Teachers 1940s
- b. 1 f. 3 Programs and Brochures 1937-1978
- Writings
- b. 1 f. 4-6 *As I Went Traveling* 1960s  
Autobiographical accounts of Hammerman's travels.
- b. 1 f. 7-8 *Call it Fate* 1950s  
A work of fiction.
- b. 2 f. 1-4 Children's Stories and Plays 1950s
- b. 2 f. 5 Essays 1936-1948
- b. 2 f. 6 *Miscast* 1950s  
Short story.
- b. 2 f. 7 Miscellaneous 1938-1950s
- b. 2 f. 8 Music 1952-1954
- Scripts
- b. 2 f. 9 *The Emperor's Sword* 1950s
- b. 2 f. 10 *Goldtooth Sadie* 1946
- b. 3 f. 1-7 *Henri Christophe* 1943-1950, 1972
- b. 4 f. 1 *Millions of Destinies* 1936  
*World on a Carousel*
- b. 4 f. 2-3 *A Night in the Village* circa 1946
- b. 4 f. 4-5 *Second Vision* 1945, 1947
- b. 4 f. 6 *World on a Carousel* 1936
- b. 5 f. 1-5 *World on a Carousel* 1936, 1946
- b. 5 f. 6 *The Story of Fort Pescadera* 1971-1972  
Written for a sound and light dramatization.
- b. 5 f. 7 Travel Articles 1937-1970
- b. 6 f. 1-5 Travel Articles 1938-1978