

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 85 M 66 Location Annex 19-p-1/7 (L)

Title ALBERT HALPER PAPERS

Approximate inclusive dates 1909-1984; bulk dates 1933-1982

Date of receipt 7 August 1985 Received from Lorna and Thomas Halper

Volume on arrival 21 boxes, 2 suitcases, 2 portfolios, 1 wicker basket

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 14RC, 11 AB, 2 FB, 1 FB (oversize), charter case file 231.f

Condition Good. However, there are many fragile carbon copies of letters and manuscripts which should be photocopied. Most clippings are in poor condition.

Restrictions Literary rights remain with Lorna Halper and Thomas Halper; request should be addressed to Lorna Halper.

Description Albert Halper (1904-1984), American author best known for his naturalistic short stories and novels, was born on Chicago's West Side, the fifth child of Jewish-Lithuanian immigrants. After graduating from high school, Halper worked at a variety of jobs in a mail order house, electrotype foundry, loose-leaf binder factory, wholesale beauty parlor supply house, and the post office. His career as a writer began in 1928, when Marianne Moore accepted an essay and a short story for publication in the Dial magazine. Thus encouraged, Halper moved to New York City. He first came to national attention in 1933 with the publication of Union Square, a novel about the lives of several residents of the neighborhood adjacent to New York's Union Square. The novel's theme of social protest and its focus on working class characters led critics to deem him a proletarian novelist, although the left-wing press chided him for not being sufficiently revolutionary and Halper himself rejected this classification. The success of Union Square was followed by the publication of a volume of short stories, On the Shore (1934), and four novels, The Foundry (1934), The Chute (1937), Sons of the Fathers (1940), and The Little People (1942), based on his experience of Jewish family life and labor in Chicago. A collection of related short stories, The Golden Watch (1953), drew on the same background. Halper's memoir of the Thirties, Goodbye Union Square, was published in 1970. A biography, Albert Halper by John E. Hart, appeared in 1980.

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

Literature	Joseph Epstein	Maxim Lieber	Family record
Authors, American	Marshall Best	Elliot Cohen	
Authors			
Labor and laboring classes in literature			
Chicago	Accessioned by	MY	
Photographs			

Date September 1985

The Halper Papers consist chiefly of his correspondence (1919-1984) and literary work (1928-1982?). The correspondence is divided into four sections. Family correspondence (1909-69) contains letters to Halper predominantly from his four brothers and sister, his first wife, Pauline, and son, Thomas, as well as a few letters exchanged among other family members. The Incoming letters (1928-84) contain all other letters written to Halper, while the Outgoing letters (1919-83) contain those written by Halper to family members and others. Both the incoming and outgoing letters are arranged chronologically by decade and consist heavily of correspondence with editors, and literary agents regarding Halper's work. Although there are very few letters to Halper from prominent literary figures of the 1930s, his own letters to his editors, fellow writers and friends reveal his opinions about his work, other writers, the Communist Party and political and literary issues of the period. In addition, there are letters from readers of Halper's memoir, Goodbye, Union Square and from researchers which discuss the radicalism of the period. The bulk of the correspondence dates from the 1950-80s, documenting Halper's struggles to get his work published and his plays Top Man and Aunt Daisy produced. Finally, there is a separate box of correspondence and other papers concerning the two anthologies he edited, This Is Chicago (1952) and The Chicago Crime Book (1965-67). Halper's correspondents in the literary world include Benjamin Appel, Edward Aswell, Leonard Ehrlich, John Fante, Nelson Algren, Elliot Cohen, Marshall Best, Maxim Lieber, and Joseph Epstein. In addition, there are single letters of encouragement or recommendation from Sherwood Anderson, H.L. Mencken, Lewis Mumford, and Paul Rosenfeld during the years 1928-33.

The most extensive series in Halper's papers consists of his writings, both published and unpublished. It includes preliminary notes and outlines, drafts, manuscripts, typescripts, and published copies of his novels, short stories, essays, plays, and screenplays. The published copies consist primarily of magazines containing his shorter works, and press clippings. Included also is a copy of Post War (1942), his privately published volume of drawings.

The remainder of the collection consists of publishing records (contracts, royalty statements, releases, copyright and permissions records), personal financial and legal records, desk calendars (1975-81), art work by Halper and others, photographs, ephemera and memorabilia, press clippings and writings about Halper and his work. The latter includes a biography, a dissertation, journal articles, book reviews, and other items clipped from magazines and newspapers.

ALBERT HALPER PAPERS

Container List

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	<u>Correspondence</u>
1	Family correspondence, 1909-1969
2	Family correspondence, 1970-1983
3	Incoming letters, 1928-1959
4	Incoming letters, 1960-1970s
5	Incoming letters, 1970s-1984
6	Halper's letters, 1919; 1923-1969
7	Halper's letters, 1970-1983
8	Correspondence and papers re <u>This Is Chicago</u> (1952) and <u>The Chicago Crime Book</u> (1965-1967)
	<u>Writings: Notes, drafts, manuscripts, typescripts</u>
9	<u>The Chute; The Foundry; Heroes of Our Time;</u> <u>The Man In the Tent; The Rooming House; So Long Again;</u> <u>There Once Was a Travelling Salesman</u> (George Bergman, pseud.)
10	<u>The Little People; Only An Inch From Glory; Sons of the Fathers;</u> <u>The Web; Windy City Blues</u>
11	<u>Waiting For Rain</u>
12	<u>The Fourth Horseman of Miami Beach; Goodbye, Union Square;</u> <u>Union Square</u>
13	<u>Between a Sleep and a Sleep; Oh Sidney, Oh Charmion;</u> <u>Secret Apparatus</u>
14	<u>Balkan Diary; I Met Her In London; London Sonata</u>
15	<u>Borough Hall; Brooklyn Hotel; The Deal; Eighty-sixth Street;</u> <u>The End of a Day; The End of the Game; Fire Island;</u> <u>Sam and Thelma; Separated; The Stammerers</u>
	Short stories and essays

<u>BOX #</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
16	Short stories and essays
17	Plays and screenplays
18	Plays and screenplays
19-20	Published copies and clippings of Halper's writings
21	Publishing contracts, royalty statements, releases, copyright and permissions records, 1933-1976
22	Financial and legal records
23	Desk calendars, 1975-1981 Personal memorabilia and ephemera, 1918-1974 Art work by Halper and others
24-25	Photographs
26	Writings and clippings about Halper, 1930s-1970s
27	Scrapbook of clippings about Halper, 1930s
28	Writings and clippings collected by Halper
Charter Case	Oversize art work by Halper and others Literary Guild commemorative broadside