

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

Accession # 85 M 15

Location *Annex 6-C-5(L)*

Title Robert and Merle Haas Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1911-1976

Date of receipt 12/19/84

Received from *Merle*
~~Mrs. Robert Haas~~

Volume on arrival 4 ~~record boxes~~ *CARTONS*

Number of boxes (after reboxing) ~~7 Hollinger boxes, 1 record box~~ *5 AB, 2 FB, 1 RC*

Condition good, aging newspaper

Restrictions *None*

Description Robert K. Haas (1890-1964) was born in New York. He represented the third generation of Haas males to attend the Deerfield Academy and Yale University. ~~In 1917 During WWI he fought with the 308th Infantry, 77th Division in France and later he actively served in the Officers Reserve Corps. Despite his accomplishments in the military, he established primary notariety in literary, rather than military circles.~~ In 1924 Haas founded "New Books, Inc.", a two-part reading program based on his booklet, "Hour-A-Week Reading Course" and books called the "Little Leather Library." In 1926 Haas and Harry Scherman, a New York advertising man created ^{the} Book-of-the-Month Club which was ^{expanded} ~~a continuation of~~ the successful mail-order marketing technique which he used in selling "New Books, Inc." As president and chief member of the Book-of-the-Month ^{selection committee}, Haas ^{helped} introduced the public to books by William Faulkner, Isak Dinesen and Sinclair Lewis. In 1932 Haas founded another publishing house, Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, Book Publishers and acted as its vice-president until its merger with Random House in 1936. ⁽¹⁸⁹⁷⁻¹⁹⁸³⁾ Merle Simon was born in 1897 in Portland, Oregon and grew up in New York. Active in volunteer work, she aided the American Red Cross in WWI and was a nurse's aide for 20 years at White Plains Hospital. Mrs. Haas is perhaps best known for her translation from French to English of dozens of Babar the Elephant books. ^{Active} The Haases had two daughters, Elizabeth and Priscilla and a son, Robert, Jr. who was killed in ~~1943~~ while on duty during World War II.

The collection consists of two main groups of materials, those relating to Robert and Merle Haas and their children, Robert, Jr. and Elizabeth, and those

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

Merle Simon and Robert Haas were married in 1919

Temporary catalog card added entries

William Faulkner

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

WWII, United States Air Force women

Accessioned by Amv Roche

Date May 13, 1985

Description, cont.

relations to Dorothy Canfield Fisher. The Haas materials include correspondence with children, friends, and professional associates (1911-1976). There is a separate sub-series for correspondence to-and-from William Faulkner (1943-1960, n.d.). Also included are writings by Robert Haas, papers relating to the Haas and Simon families, printed ephemera, photographs, and motion-picture films. There is no material relating to their third child, Priscilla Haas. The materials relating to Dorothy Canfield Fisher include correspondence (1925-1959) to-and-from the Haases, of both a personal and professional nature. Writings, printed ephemera and photographs are other source materials relating to Fisher.

Robert and Merle Haas Papers

Series Descriptions

- Series 1 Correspondence, 4 boxes
 subseries Personal, 1911-1976, n.d.
 arranged chronologically
 correspondence with children, 1931-1952
 unarranged
 subseries Professional, 1917-1926, n.d.
 arranged chronologically
 subseries William Faulkner, 1943-1960, n.d.
 arranged chronologically
- Series 2 Dorothy Canfield Fisher (1879-1958), 1 box
 subseries Correspondence, 1925-1959, n.d.
 arranged chronologically
 subseries Writings, n.d.
 unarranged
 subseries Printed Ephemera, ca. 1939-1953, n.d.
 unarranged
 subseries Photographs, n.d.
 unarranged
- Series 3 Robert Haas, writings, n.d., 1/3 box
 unarranged
- Series 4 Haas and Simon's Family Papers, n.d., 1/3 box
 unarranged
- Series 5 Printed Ephemera, n.d., 1/3 box
 unarranged
- Series 6 Photographs, n.d., 2 boxes
 unarranged
- Series 7 Motion-Picture Films, ca. 1930-1949, 1 box
 unarranged

Robert and Merle Haas Papers

Container Listings

Box 1 Robert and Merle Haas, personal correspondence

Folder 1 Feb. 1911-March 1917, Robert's letters to parents
 from France

2 1918, Robert's letters to parents from France

3 1919-1934

4 1935-1940

5 1941-1942

6 1943, sympathy letters to parents regarding loss of Robert, Jr.

7 1944-1951

Box 2 Robert and Merle Haas, personal correspondence

Folder 8 1952-1963

9 1964-1976

10 n.d.

11 ca. 1940-1952, letters from Elizabeth (Betty) Haas,
 numerous newspaper clippings on her career as W.A.S.P.

Box 3 Robert and Merle Haas, personal correspondence

Folder 12 ca. 1931-1936, letters to and from Robert "Bosco", Jr.

13 1931-1933, letters to and from Robert, Jr.

14 1934-1935, "

15 1936-1939, "

16 1940-1941, "

17 1941-1942, "

Box 3, cont.

- Folder 18 1942-1943, letters to and from Robert, Jr.
19 1942-1943, "
20 n.d., 2 periodical articles on the Robert Haas, Jr. Memorial Project established by his parents in Arlington, Vermont.

~~Box 4~~

- ~~Folder~~ 21 professional correspondence, ca. 1917-1926
22 letters from William Faulkner, 1943-1960, n.d.
232 writings by Robert Haas, n.d.
2433 Haas and Simon family papers, n.d.
2534 printed ephemera, n.d.

- Box 5 Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Folder 26 correspondence, 1925-1943
27 correspondence, 1943-1959
28 correspondence, n.d.
29 writings, n.d.
30 printed ephemera, ca. 1939-1953
31 photographs, n.d.

Box 5

Boxes 6-7 Photographs

Box 8 Motion-Picture films, ca. 1930-1949

Oversize box Photograph of William Faulkner (photocopy of same has been put in Box 6)