



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.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Theatre Division at theatre@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Dan Hammerman papers, *T-Mss 1984-011. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

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 An unpublished typescript book entitled *As I Went Traveling* contains accounts from Hammerman's travels.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
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