



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Paul Lovett papers

1943-1967

*T-Mss 1998-046

Processed by Elisabeth Elkind.

Summary

Creator: Lovett, Paul, 1909-1959

Title: Paul Lovett papers

Date: 1943-1967

Source: papers: gift, Phyllis Dunetz, sister-in-law, 12/31/1998

Abstract: Paul Lovett was a publisher of souvenir programs. During World War II worked in the Special Services Branch entertaining the troops. His papers consist of materials dealing with his work during World War II.

Conditions Governing Access:

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Creator History

Paul Lovett, publisher of souvenir theatrical programs in New York City beginning in 1935, served with the Special Services branch of the U.S. Army during World War II. He was Entertainment Specialist in the Air Transport Command and directed the Airborne Theatre in Alaska. While in the Army he married Anne Gloria Dunetz in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on July 4, 1944. Lovett also helped organize the Theatre of the Dance at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Clients for his program business, Dunetz & Lovett (which he ran with his brother-in-law) included Katharine Cornell, Helen Hayes, John Gielgud and Martha Graham. Lovett died of a stroke on June 23, 1959, aged 49.

Custodial History

The collection was donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division by Phyllis Dunetz, the sister-in-law of Paul Lovett, in 1998 and 1999.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of correspondence, scripts and other writings predominately reflects Lovett's theatrical work while in the Special Services Branch of the U.S. Army during World War II. It also contains a few personal documents and photographs.

Arrangement: The collection is organized in five series: Series I: Personal papers Series II: Correspondence Series III: Scripts Series IV: Other writings Series V: Photographs

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scripts

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945 -- Theater and the war

Names

Lovett, Paul, 1909-1959

Alaskan Division Airborne Theatre

Container List

Series I: Personal Papers and Ephemera 1944-1959 (1 folder)

This series consists of marriage certificates (both religious and secular), army papers, marriage and obituary clippings, and a passenger list documenting a trip he and his wife took to Sweden in 1957.

b. 1 f. 1 Personal papers / Paul Lovett 1944-1957 (1 folder)

Marriage certificates (both religious and secular) and a clipping on his wedding [1944], army discharge papers [1945], the first class passenger list for the Swedish American line [August 1957] on which Lovett and his wife travelled and his obituary [1959].

Series II: Correspondence 1944-1967 (6 folders)

The correspondence consists of letters from Army personnel to or about Paul Lovett, as well as letters that are not war related. A small file of business correspondence, 1954-1955, of the Lovetts concerns the preparation of a guidebook and souvenir program for the American tour of the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam. There are two personal letters to the Lovetts from the Irish playwright Padraic Colum, two letters from Katharine Cornell, a few letters from Lovett to his wife, Anne, and a few letters she received after his death.

b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence to Paul Lovett 1944-1945 (1 folder)

Letters of thanks or commendation from army personnel to or about Paul Lovett.

b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence / Padraic Colum 1957-1959 (1 folder)

Two letters the first to Paul Lovett and his wife Anne, the second to Anne alone after Paul's death, from the Irish playwright, Padraic Colum.

b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence / Katharine Cornell 1944, 1958 (1 folder)

b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence / Paul Lovett 1954-1955 (1 folder)

Professional correspondence of Paul and Anne Lovett concerning preparation of a guidebook and souvenir program for the American tour of the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam.

b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence / Paul Lovett 1945 (1 folder)

Letters [1945 and n.d.] from Paul Lovett to his wife Anne.

b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence to Anne Lovett 1959-1967 (1 folder)

Letters to Anne Lovett and a certificate she received.

Series III: Scripts 1943, undated (8 folders)

Scripts by Lovett are mostly from the period of World War II. Includes a script from his Army radio show, *Let's Linger*; a Christmas program for soldiers; a memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and a script set in a displaced persons camp after the war. A couple of undated scripts have no apparent connection to the war. In one, *Anfisa* by Leonid Andreyev, Lovett served as a translator.

Alphabetical

b. 1 f. 8 Anfisa / Leonid Andreyev (1 folder)

Lovett, Paul, 1910?-1959

Typescript [n.d.] with handwritten annotations was translated by Paul Lovett and Olga Ivanovna d'Ille.

b. 1 f. 9 Christmas Eve program station 20 / Paul Lovett December 24, 1943 (1 folder)

Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870--Stage adaptationsDickens, Charles, 1812-1870

Typescripts for a marionette play of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol and a telling of The Christmas Story, both adapted by Lovett for a Christmas program at an Air Force base in Alaska. Includes a program Lovett inscribed to his future wife, Anne.

b. 1 f. 10 *Let's linger (Radio script) / Paul Lovett* (1 folder)

Typescript and handwritten scripts from Lovett's Army radio show.

b. 1 f. 11 *The letter / Paul Lovett* November 25, 1943 (1 folder)

Typescript in two versions of a short play staged at an Air Transport Command base in Alaska on Thanksgiving Day. Includes a handwritten poem by Lovett.

Series III: Scripts (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 12 *Living memorial / Paul Lovett* (1 folder)
Typescript in various versions [n.d.], one annotated with staging directions for a play, the others are for a radio show. The piece was a tribute to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt after his death. Typescript public relations release is included.
- b. 1 f. 13 *Over the top! / Paul Lovett* February 17, 1947 (1 folder)
Two typescript skits, originally titled: *A Flying Officer Faces Baron Bombast: A Fantasy of Fates*, later changed to *Over the Top!: A Fantasy of Fates*.
- b. 1 f. 14 *The Sabbath candle (Radio script) / Paul Lovett* (1 folder)
Typescript radio script in two versions by Lovett. Setting is a displaced persons camp after span class="topic">World War II/span>. Includes a few handwritten annotations and a pencil drawing.
- b. 1 f. 15 *Sam's woman--a gamblin' man's doll (Monologue) / Paul Lovett* (1 folder)
Typescript monologue [n.d.] by Lovett with handwritten annotations.

Series IV: Other Writings 1943-1944, undated (6 folders)

Other writings include articles by Lovett in Army newspapers, a letter to the editor on the soldier's right to vote, poems he wrote, and a few stories he received from Florence M. Berkson.

- b. 1 f. 16 *Poems / Paul Lovett* (1 folder)
Poems, typescript and handwritten, some in two versions, only one is dated [6/20/1958], but some others were written when he was a sergeant in the army. Includes notes to his wife Anne
- b. 1 f. 17 *The soldier's vote / Paul Lovett* 1944 (1 folder)
Letter to the editor by Lovett, in various drafts, supporting legislation that would provide soldiers the opportunity to vote no matter where in the world they are stationed.
- b. 1 f. 18 *Air base beacon (Periodical)* 1944 (1 folder)
Writings by or about Paul Lovett in a U.S. army air base newsletter.
- b. 1 f. 19 *Moose call (Periodical)* 1943-1944 (1 folder)
Army post newspaper with a contribution by Paul Lovett in each issue.
- b. 1 f. 20 *North star (Periodical)* 1944, undated (1 folder)
Writings [1944 and n.d.] by Paul Lovett which appeared in the *North Star*, an army newspaper.
- b. 1 f. 21 *Writings / Florence M. Berkson* (1 folder)
Writings [n.d.] apparently sent to Paul Lovett.

Series V: Photographs 1943, undated (1 folder)

Photographs are mostly personal snapshots of Lovett in uniform and/or with his wife Anne. Includes one photograph of the Alaskan Division Airborne Theatre.

- b. 1 f. 22 *Photographs / Paul Lovett* 1943, undated (1 folder)
Lovett, Anne
Photographs [1943 and n.d.] of Paul Lovett, most from his army days including one of the Alaskan Division Airborne Theatre, or with his wife Anne.