

American Radio Archives

Arthur Frank Wertheim Collection

I. Introduction

The Arthur Frank Wertheim Collection of the American Radio Archives at the Thousand Oaks Library was donated to the archive by Wertheim in 1999. It contains approximately 3 linear feet of research materials for Wertheim's 1979 book "Radio Comedy" (Oxford University press) and 95 tapes of Old Time radio shows, most of which were recorded by Wertheim from the radio. "The book reveals how radio comedy functioned as both a traditional and a novel form of American humor. ... The book also explores the relationship of social history to radio comedy, showing how some comedians and shows reflected or commented on the Great Depression and World War II." (From the book jacket).

For a review of the book see: David Ossman, *Amos 'n' Andy to Bob and Ray*, New York Times Book Review 8/12/1979.

II. Biography

Arthur Frank Wertheim (1935-) was assistant professor of American studies (1971-1978) at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and from 1978 to 1979 Fulbright professor of American Studies at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta.

Wertheim's other writings include:

The New York Little Renaissance, New York University Press, 1976.

American Popular Culture: a historical bibliography (editor), ABC-Clio Information Services, Santa Barbara, 1984.

The Papers of Will Rogers: The Early Years. Vol. 1: November 1879-April 1904 (editor with Barbara Blair), University of Oklahoma Press, 1996. Review in: *The Journal of American History*, 6/1997, 266-267.

Will Rogers, Will Rogers at the Ziegfeld Follies (editor), University of Oklahoma Press, 1992.

Articles and reviews in history and popular culture journals.

Vaudeville Wars: How the Keith-Albee and Orpheum Circuits Controlled the Big-Time and Its Performers, Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History, 2006

III. Scope and contents of the collection

The papers consist mainly of notes, handwritten and typed parts of the manuscript and copies of: scripts, excerpts of scripts, books, magazines and scrapbooks as well as fan letters to various comedians, newspaper clippings, brochures and inventories on materials in other collections.

Box Inventory

Box	Folder	Chapter	
1	01	Ch. 1: Song and Patter	Radio pioneers: notes, handwritten manuscript and copies
1	02	Ch. 2: Sam 'n' Henry	copy of "Sam 'n' Henry" by Correll and Gosden, 1926
1	03	Ch. 2/3:	notes, handwritten manuscript, excerpts from scripts, copies from scrapbooks, magazines
1	04	Ch. 3: Amos 'n' Andy	Commercial relationships and sponsors, plots: notes and copies
1	05		Biography: notes and copies
1	06		Depression: notes, handwritten and typed manuscript, copies of script: letter from NBC to Correll and Gosden, 1/14/1939
1	07		Depression, social tensions: notes, copies of scripts, scrapbooks, fan mail
1	08		Formula: notes and copies of scripts and scrapbooks
1	09		copy of "Here they are - - Amos 'n' Andy" by Correll and Gosden, 1931 [817.52 C824h]
1	10		Minstrel influence: notes and copies from scrapbooks
1	11		Patriotism: notes, copies from scripts and scrapbooks
1	12		Popularity: notes, copies from scrapbooks, fan mail; article on Lowell Thomas from LA Times
1	13		Reactions of blacks: notes, copies from scrapbooks, part of manuscript: Estelle Elmeison, A Descriptive Study of the American Negro in U.S. Professional Radio, 1922-1953, unpublished Master's Essay, UCLS, 1954
1	14		Values, success, American dream, work: notes, clippings, copies of scripts
1	15		Women: notes and copies from scripts
1	16	Ch. 4: Radio's Court Jester	Will Rogers: notes, copies of articles, transcripts, excerpts of transcripts, letters (Calvin Coolidge etc.)
2	17		Depression, Roosevelt support: notes, copies of transcripts, letters (Charles Curtis, Dr. Charles H. Mayo, F. D. Roosevelt)
2	18		Squibb (sponsor): notes, copies of articles, "Squibb booklet"
2	19		notes, copies of transcripts, article, letters
2	20		notes, brochure, copies of articles, transcripts, inventory of tapes and transcripts in possession of Will Rogers Memorial,

			part of bibliography on Will Rogers, letter from Will Rogers Memorial curator
2	21	Ch. 5: The Fire Chief	Ed Wynn: notes, copies from books
2	22		Eddie Cantor: notes, handwritten manuscript, typed manuscript, copies from books, copies of card file: jokes
2	23	Ch. 6: Zanies	Raymond Knight (Cuckoo Hour): notes, copies from books, article
Box	Folder	Chapter	
2	24	Ch. 7: The Fall Guy	Jack Pearl (Baron von Munchausen): copies from books
2	25		Joe Penner notes, copies of scripts, from book
2	26		Stoopnagle and Budd: notes, copies from book
2	27		Jack Benny: notes, handwritten manuscript, copies of script, excerpt of script, copy of part of manuscript: Estelle Elmeison, A Descriptive Study...
2	28		notes, inventory of Jack Benny materials at UCLA, bibliography of books and articles on Benny
2	29	Ch. 8: Townhall Tonight	Vaudeville: notes, handwritten manuscript, copies from books and articles, outline of Benny programs for December 1932
2	30		Rochester: notes, obituary for Eddie Anderson, copies from books, scripts, excerpt from script
3	31		Harry von Zell: notes, excerpt of script; copy: A Thirty-Year History of Programs Carried on National Radio Networks in the United States 1926-1956, Ohio State University
3	32		Fred Allen: notes, handwritten manuscript, excerpts from scripts
3	33		notes, copy from magazine, excerpts from scripts
3	34	Ch. 9: Scatterbrains	Allen - Benny feud: notes, handwritten manuscript, scripts, excerpts of scripts, copies from books
3	35		Benny on Allen: notes, handwritten manuscript, copy from magazine, excerpts of scripts
3	36		Hour of Smiles: notes, scripts, excerpts from scripts
3	37		Linit Bath Club Revue: notes, excerpts of scripts
3	38		Allen on Benny: notes, scripts, excerpts of scripts
3	39	Ch. 9: Scatterbrains	Burns and Allen - depression: copies from joke books and the Robert Burns Panatela Program
3	40		Biography: notes, newspaper clippings, copies from books, magazines
4	41		Values: copy of script, excerpts of scripts
4	42		copies of inventory of George Burns & Gracie Allen Collection (USC)
4	43		notes on Burns and Allen Collection, taken by Casey Hahn

4	44	copies of magazine articles and of photos
4	45	copies of scripts (w. guests Benny and Allen), Missing Brother
4	46	Censorship: excerpts from scripts
4	47	Stereotypic figures: excerpts of scripts
4	48	Political jokes/routines: excerpts of scripts
4	49	2 short scripts
4	50	Gracie flirting: excerpts of scripts
4	51	Influences of other media: 2 scripts 1931-1932

Box Folder Chapter

4	52		Depression: notes, handwritten manuscript, excerpts of scripts, copies from joke book
4	53		excerpts of scripts
4	54		Running gags: notes, excerpts of scripts
4	55		Easy Aces: notes, copies from books, newspaper clipping, handwritten manuscript
4	56	Ch. 10: Wistful Vista's	Fibber McGee and Molly: notes, handwritten manuscript, Comic Bungler excerpt of script
4	57		notes, handwritten manuscript, excerpts of scripts
4	58		notes, copies from books, obituary for Cecil Underwood (producer), script by Hal Kanter, letter to Wertheim – Pioneer Broadcasting Corporation
4	59		notes, handwritten and typed manuscript, copy from book
4	60	Ch. 11: Radio's Home	Vic and Sade: notes, copies from books and magazine, Folks newspaper clippings, obituary for Bernardine Doherty
4	61		notes, handwritten manuscript, copies from books
5	62		notes, copies from books, scripts, short biography of Paul Rhymer
5	63	Ch. 12: Hollywood and the Homefront	notes, newspaper clippings, copies from books, magazines, scrapbook, excerpts of scripts, handwritten manuscript
5	64		Jack Benny, Milt Josefsberg: inventory of scripts 10/10/1943-6/6/1954, donated by Mr. Josefsberg (written by him)
5	65		Burns and Allen: notes, excerpts of scripts from 1940's – references to war
5	66	Ch. 13: Smart-aleck	Bob Hope: notes, bibliography, handwritten manuscript, Wisecracker copies from books, excerpts of scripts, newspaper clippings
5	67		notes, description of scripts 1/9/1940 - 4/2/1940, copies from books, excerpts of scripts, handwritten manuscript, script
5	68		letter to Wertheim from Bob Hope public relations office, factsheet 1976, biography 1976, partial copy of unidentified

			manuscript, copies from books, annotated inventory of scripts: 9/27/1938 - 6/15/1943, LA Times Magazine article, excerpts of scripts, notes
5	69		Hope - Crosby feud - 1: notes, copies from books, excerpts of scripts, newspaper clippings, script
6	70		Hope - Crosby feud - 2: notes, copies from books, magazine article, part of unidentified manuscript, excerpts of scripts, short biography of Milton Josefsberg
6	71	Ch. 14: Running Gags	notes, copies from books, magazines, excerpts of scripts and Talent Raids
Box	Folder	Chapter	
6	72		notes, handwritten manuscript, excerpts of scripts, Jack Benny script by Josefsberg, newspaper clippings
6	73		notes, excerpts of scripts, handwritten manuscript
6	74		Sponsorship, censorship, talent raids by CBS: notes, excerpts of scripts, copies from books, magazines, 3 letters concerning censorship of Jack Benny programs, handwritten manuscript
6	75	Ch. 15: Allen's Alley	Fred Allen: notes, scripts, excerpts of scripts
6	76		notes, excerpts of scripts
6	77		notes, scripts, excerpts of scripts, copies from books, letter from Library of Congress to Wertheim, with finding aid for Fred Allen radio scripts
6	78		notes, handwritten manuscript, excerpts of scripts, obituary for Alan Reed
6	79		typed manuscript
6	80		Censorship: notes, excerpts of scripts, copies from books, 8 letters concerning censorship of Fred Allen Show
7	81		Nat Hiken: notes, short biography, excerpts of scripts ("The Grouch Club")
7	82	Ch. 16: Radio Brats	Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy: notes, copies from books, newspaper clipping, script, excerpts of scripts
7	83		copies from book, magazine article, typed manuscript
7	84		notes, handwritten manuscript, script (first spot), excerpts of scripts, copies from books
7	85		Red Skelton: notes, newspaper clipping, copies from books, scripts, excerpts of scripts
7	86		notes, handwritten manuscript, scripts, excerpts of scripts
7	87		Baby Snooks: notes, handwritten manuscript, copies from books, excerpts of scripts
7	88		notes, scripts, copies from books

7	89	Ch. 17: The Impact of Television	notes, handwritten manuscript, copies from books, scrapbook, magazines, excerpts of scripts
7	90		copies from books, commented inventory of TV scripts for Jack Benny by Milton Josefsberg (1951-1953), newspaper clipping
7	91		Henry Morgan: excerpts of scripts
7	92		footnotes
7	93		photos, negatives, receipts

**Arthur Wertheim Collection
Sound Recordings**

A. Radio programs

Date	Program/episode	Accession no.
02-11-1934	Jack Benny program	2645B
03-07-1937	Jack Benny program	2644A
06-09-1940	Jack Benny program	2644B
12-24-1942	Command Performance: Christmas show	2640B
12-29-1944	Amos 'n' Andy: "New Year's Eve show"	2635A
10-08-1944	Jack Benny program	2645A
01-05-1945	Amos 'n' Andy	2635B
02-02-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "Breach of promise suit"	2634A
02-15-1945	Command Performance	2639AB
02-16-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "Valentine show"	2636A
03-16-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "Kingfish and Andy start a lecture bureau"	2634B
03-23-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "Prentice Clothing Company"	2636B
03-30-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "An Easter hat"	2637B
04-27-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "Marriage vows"	2638A
05-04-1945	Amos 'n' Andy: "Baby pictures show"	2638B
12-30-1946	Amos 'n' Andy	2637A
01-09-1972	Same Time, Same Station: Alan Reed	2641AB
05-14-1972	Same Time, Same Station: Goodman Ace, "Easy Aces"	2642AB
05-21-1972	Tribute to Eddie Cantor	2643AB

B. Interviews

Date	Subject	Accession no.
n.d.	Jack Benny, with unidentified interviewer	2640A
06-14-1977	Sylvester "Pat" Weaver, NBC executive, interviewed by Arthur Wertheim	2645AB