Guide to the Robert J. Hare Powel Papers

YCAL MSS 494

by Michael Rush and Aubrey Novak

2011

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 494

**CREATOR:** Powel, Robert Hare (Robert Johnston Hare), 1895-

**TITLE:** Robert J. Hare Powel papers

**DATES:** 1869–1959

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.92 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain writings and other materials documenting the early career of playwright Robert J. Hare Powel. Writings include scenarios, outlines, and drafts for scripts of stage plays, most of which appear to date from the late-1920s to mid-1930s. Other materials include correspondence, photographs, and a scrapbook documenting Powel’s work and theater generally. Correspondence consists of letters to Powel and comments regarding productions of his plays. Photographs consist of stage shots of Yale productions and cartes de visite of actors. The scrapbook contains clippings, printed ephemera, such as theater programs, and photographs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.powel

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.powel.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Mrs. H. C. Howells (formerly Powel), 1978.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The Robert J. Hare Powel Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Robert J. Hare Powel Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
The collection received preliminary processing around the time of acquisition in 1978. During reprocessing of the collection in 2011, writings and other materials were established as separate series and arranged alphabetically by title and material type respectively.

Formerly classed as Za Powel.

Robert J. Hare Powel
Robert J. Hare Powel, graduate of the Yale School of Drama (1930) and playwright.

Scope and Contents
The collection contains writings and other material documenting the early career of playwright Robert J. Hare Powel. Writings include scenarios, outlines, and drafts for scripts of stage plays, most of which appear to date from the late-1920s to mid-1930s. Other materials include correspondence, photographs, and a scrapbook documenting Powel’s work and theater generally. Correspondence consists of letters to Powel and comments regarding productions of his plays. Photographs consist of stage shots of Yale productions and cartes de visite of actors. The scrapbook contains clippings, printed ephemera, such as theater programs, and photographs.

Arrangement
Organized into two series: I. Writings, 1928-1957. II. Other Material, 1869-1959.
### Collection Contents

**Series I. Writings**

*1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Series I. Writings contains scenarios, outlines, and drafts, many corrected, for scripts of stage plays, most of which appear to date from the late-1920s to mid-1930s.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 1 | “Adieu,” script  
Includes illustration | undated |
| b. 1, f. 2 | “Ain’t We Got Fun?” script | 1932–1933 |
| b. 1, f. 3-7 | “Beware of the Bull,” script | undated |
| b. 1, f. 8-11 | “Brief Candle,” script | 1933–1957, undated |
| b. 2, f. 12-14 | “By Request,” script | undated |
| b. 2, f. 15 | “Cross of Ages: An Outline for a Motion Picture” | [circa 1934] |
| b. 2, f. 16-19 | “Evensong,” scripts | undated |
| b. 3, f. 21 | “Masked,” script | undated |
| b. 3, f. 22 | “Night’s Lodging: A Play in One Act,” script | undated |
| b. 3, f. 23 | “Paroled,” scenario and script | undated |
| b. 3, f. 24 | “Prancing Nigger,” script | undated |
| b. 3, f. 25-27 | “Taps: A Play in Seven Scenes,” scenario and scripts | 1928, undated |
| b. 3, f. 28 | “A Ten-Second Man: A One Act Play,” script | undated |
| b. 3, f. 29 | “The Tragedy of the Misfit,” script | undated |
| b. 3, f. 30-31 | “The Unknown Soldier: An Episode in Two Scenes,” scripts and other material  
Includes clippings | 1928–1930, undated |
| b. 3, f. 32-33 | “We Shall Not Sleep,” scripts and other material  
Includes clippings | 1928, undated |
Series II. Other Material

0.67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series II. Other Material contains correspondence, photographs, and a scrapbook documenting Powel’s work and theater generally. Correspondence consists of letters to Powel and comments regarding productions of his plays. Photographs consist of stage shots of Yale productions and cartes de visites of actors. The scrapbook contains clippings, printed ephemera, such as theater programs, and photographs.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 34-36</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>[circa 1927–1959]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 37-40</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>1869–1936, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 41</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
<td>1928–1941, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
American literature -- 20th Century
Dramatists
Dramatists, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Theater -- Production and direction -- United States

Genres / Formats
Photographic prints

Names
Powel, Robert Hare (Robert Johnston Hare), 1895-

Corporate Body
Yale School of Drama