

SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION
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TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS

William Hauptman
Papers, 1954-1993
Bulk: 1975-1993

4 boxes, 1 map folder
(4 linear feet)

Acquisition: Gift donated by Hauptman, 1994.

Access: Open for Research.

Processed by: Amanda Oates, 2000.

Biographical Note:

Playwright and novelist William Thornton Hauptman was born November 26, 1942, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to working-class parents raised in the Midwest. As a child in Wichita Falls, Hauptman attended many plays, readings, and magic shows in the large municipal auditorium there, and saw such actors as Charles Laughton and Gene Autry. He graduated from Wichita Falls Senior High School in 1961, and earned a B.F.A. in Drama from the University of Texas in 1966. His undergraduate degree focused on acting; Hauptman did not decide until graduate school that he wanted to pursue playwrighting. He completed an MFA in playwrighting at Yale University School of Drama in 1973. He then went on to teach playwrighting at Adelphi College in Garden City, NY, 1973-75, and at Yale University School of Drama, 1976.

Soon thereafter Hauptman became the recipient of numerous grants which enabled him to pursue his writing full time. He won playwrighting grants from CBS (1977), the National Endowment for the Arts (1977), and the Guggenheim Foundation (1978). Many award-winning plays followed. The first was a Distinguished Playwrighting/Obie Award for "Domino Courts/Comanche Café" 1978. For "Denmark Vesey" (1981 PBS teleplay) he won a NAACP Freedom Foundation Award and an Emmy Award nomination. For "Big River" (1985), a Broadway musical based on Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, with music written by Roger Miller, he earned a Tony Award for Best Musical Book, Boston Theater Critics Circle Award for Best New Musical, San Diego Theatre Critic's Circle for Award for Best New Play. For the play *Gillette*, he won Los Angeles Drama League Award for Distinguished Playwrighting (1986). For *Good Rockin' Tonight and Other Stories* (1986), he received the Jesse Jones Award for Best Fiction by a Texas Author from Texas Institute of Letters.

"There is a remarkable wholeness about William Hauptman's dramatic writing that transcends the working-class milieu in which his plays are set... An awareness of the outdoors, the land, and the forces of nature permeates the writing and generates some striking scenic images. The visual sensibility is supplemented by his strongly imaginistic use of sound: the distant dog bark that ends *Domino Courts*, the low rumble that seems to comment on Carroll's line "Now can we have some peace and quiet, right honey?", in *Heat*, a passing train, the howl of a coyote, droning cicadas, and specific musical selections that often mock a character's pipe dreams." (*Contemporary Dramatists*, 6th ed., St. James Press, 1999.)

Hauptman served as Associate Professor at the Texas Center for Writers in 1996, and returned in 2000 to continue teaching. His novel, *The Storm Season*, originally published by Bantam Books in 1992, was published as a reprint edition by the University of Texas Press in Fall 2000, as part of the Southwestern Writers Collection Series.

Works published:

Plays

Shearwater, American Place Theater, New York City, published in
Performance Magazine, 1974

Heat (1977)

Domino Courts / Comanche Café (1977)

Durango Flash

Big River (1986)

Gillette (1985)

Teleplays

"Denmark Vesey's Rebellion" (an episode for PBS series
"A House Divided" (1981)

Short Stories

Good Rockin' Tonight and Other Stories. New York : Bantam Books,
1988.

Novel

The Storm Season. New York : Bantam, 1992.

Scope and Contents

Drafts, manuscripts, typescripts, notes, photographs, and correspondence comprise this collection, which was created and maintained by William Hauptman, with dates ranging from 1956-1993. This material has been arranged into the following series: 1. Works, 2. Photographs, and 3. Artifacts. The bulk of the collection is comprised of manuscript and typescript drafts of Hauptman's works, mostly his plays and screenplays, with sparse correspondence and publicity. Early works include a 1956 short story titled "Wild Life in Canada" (1956), complete with drawings of characters. A letter from Hauptman to Roger Miller regarding their collaboration on the award-winning play "Big River", is located with the typescript of that play. Of additional note are the poetry, journal entry, and short story which developed into the novel, *Storm Season*, as well as correspondence from Hauptman to editor Debbie Futter, at Bantam, Doubleday, Dell, regarding, among other things, the title of the novel.

Published works cataloged separately.

Series descriptions :

Series 1 : Works (1954-1993)

Drafts, manuscripts, and typescripts of Hauptman's plays, teleplay, screenplays, short stories, poetry, novel, articles and criticism are located in this series. Titles under each genre are filed alphabetically. Related correspondence, reviews, clippings, publicity, and playbills are filed after the draft or script for each title.

Series 2 : Photographs (1983, n.d.)

Color 3.5"x5" snapshots taken and annotated by Hauptman document people (including Hauptman's brother and father), places (including Wichita Falls and the Oklahoma Union Power Plant), and various tornadoes and cloud formations.

Series 3 : Artifacts (n.d.)

This series includes a harmonica owned by Hauptman.

Inventory

	Box	File
Series 1 : Works		
<u>Subseries A: Plays</u>		
<i>Big River</i> (1986)		
Typescript	602	1
Correspondence (letter to Roger Miller)		2
Reviews		3
<i>Domino Courts / Comanche Café</i>		
Manuscript with drawings		4
Playbills		5
Reviews		6
<i>Durango Flash</i>		
Typescript, Second draft, with annotations		7
Typescript		8
<i>Gillette</i>		
Playbill and poster		9
<i>Heat</i> (1972)		
Manuscript / Typescript		10-11
Typescript		12
As published by Samuel French Inc., 1975	603	1
Reviews and poster		2
<i>Shearwater</i>		
Typescript		3
Portion published in <i>Performance magazine</i>		4
Playbill		5
<u>Subseries B : Teleplays</u>		
Denmark Vesey (First draft shooting script, 1981)		6
<u>Subseries C : Screenplays</u>		
<i>Cody</i> (typescript)		7
<i>Gillette</i> (typescript)		8
<i>Good Rockin' Tonight</i>		
Second draft typescript		9
Typescript		10
<i>Never Never Land</i> (typescript), 1993		11
<i>Storm Season</i> (typescript), 1992		12
<i>There Aint No Such Animal</i> (typescript, based on story by Bill Bret), n.d.	604	1
<u>Subseries D : Short Stories</u>		
"Echo Park" (1985)		2
<i>"Good Rockin' Tonight"</i> (ca. 1981)		
Typescript		3
As published in <i>Playboy magazine</i>		4
Reviews		5
"Holes" (typescript, ca. Yale Univ.)		6

Inventory, cont.

	Box	File
<u>Series 1 : Works, cont.</u>		
Subseries A : Short stories, cont.		
"Tornado Story" (photocopy of manuscript), 1956	604	7
Tornado Journal (notes regarding development of tornado story), 1986-1991		8
"Wild Life in Canada", by Hauptman and Frank Joiner, photocopy of manuscript, 1954		9
<u>Subseries E : Poetry</u>		
It Is My Brother (poem which became Storm Season)		10
<u>Subseries F : Novel</u>		
<i>The Storm Season</i> (1992)		
First draft (typescript)		11-13
Second draft		14
	605	1-2
Portion published in Southwest Review		3
Correspondence with editor Debbie Futter, at Bantam, Doubleday, Dell (n.d.)		4
Address re Storm Season		5
Reviews		6
Dust Jacket art – color copy		7
<u>Subseries G : Articles and Criticism</u>		
Articles		8
"They Love Him Tender, Love Him True"		
New York Times Magazine, Aug. 7, 1988		
"Close encounters with Tornadoes"		
Reader's Digest, July 1985		
"Will the World Flock to Wichita Falls?"		
New York Times Magazine, Aug. 7, 1988		
"The Desert : A short Story"		
The Atlantic Monthly, March 1983		
"On the Dryline"		
The Atlantic Monthly, May 1984		
Criticism (Book reviews by Hauptman)		9
<i>Strange Angels</i> , by James Agee, n.d.		
<i>The Fifties</i> , by David Halberstam, n.d.		
<i>Young Men and Fire</i> , by Norman Maclean, 1992		
Series 2 : Photographs (1983, n.d.)		
Mountain Men Rendezvous (2)		10
People (4)		11
Hauptman, Tom (brother)		
Drenan, Willie (father)		
Brett, Bill		

Inventory, cont.

	Box	File
<u>Series 2 : Photographs, cont.</u>		
People, cont.		
People participating in Hands Across America	605	11
Places (7)		12
Wichita Theater		
Riverside Cemetery		
Abandoned gas station near Olney		
Old Magnolia Recovery		
Burl's apartment		
Medicine Park home		
The Holy City (near Lawton)		
Power plants (3)		13
Tornadoes and clouds (13)		14
Mammatus clouds		
Laminar showers around rotating supercell		
Wall cloud		
Supercell near Archer City with curtain cloud going into funnel by hidden rainshower		
Vernon tornado, 1983		
Big merocyclone near Oklahoma Union Power Plant		
Blue Norther		
Strange Clouds		
Roll cloud		
Rainbow lensing effect near Graham		
Looking up at storm tower of Archer City supercell		
Supercell (11x14 – see Phtgs. H's, Oversize B)		
 Series 3 : Artifacts		
Harmonica		15