### Summary Information

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<th>Call number:</th>
<th>C0691</th>
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| Repository: | Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections  
Manuscripts Division  
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA |
| Size: | 10 linear feet  
21 manuscript boxes  
one scrapbook |
| Language(s) of Material: | English  
French  
German |
| Abstract: | The Gordon Merrick Papers consist primarily of drafts of the manuscripts of Merrick's novels, written over a thirty-nine year period, from the late 1940s (The Strumpet Wind, 1947) to the mid-1980s (Measure of Madness, 1986). Also present is his business and financial correspondence with agents, publishers, and banks over a twenty-one year period, from 1967 until his death in 1988. In addition there is a clipping file which dates back to Merrick's first experiences as an actor in the 1930s, as well as photographs taken for publicity as well as for Merrick's personal collection. |
| Location: | This collection is stored offsite at the ReCAP facility. |
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Contents List
Gordon Merrick was born on August 3, 1916, in Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, a wealthy suburb of Philadelphia. His great grandfather was the founder of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and his father was a stockbroker. He enrolled at Princeton University as a member of the Class of 1939 and studied the modern French novel, especially Gide, Proust and Céline, with Professor of Romance Languages Maurice Coindreau. Outside the classroom Merrick was very active in campus theatre life. In his junior year he quit Princeton to move to New York and look for an acting job. He landed a three-year contract on Broadway and scored a hit with a role in Kaufman and Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner" at the Music Box Theatre. Becoming bored with the repetition of the same role after a year, Merrick found other parts, none of which proved successful.

In 1941 he abandoned the theatre to become a journalist. Exempt from the draft because of a hearing condition, he got his first journalism job with the Washington Star, then moved on to the Baltimore Sun, and finally to the New York Post. Merrick regarded journalism as his apprenticeship in writing. In early 1944, after training with the O.S.S. (or what is now the C.I.A.), he was sent to Algeria to engage in counter-espionage, but ended up in Cannes instead on the Côte d'Azur with French identification papers. In August of 1945 he repatriated to the United States. He tried but failed to obtain a job as Paris correspondent for the New York Post, so he went to Mexico instead, where he could live very cheaply, and began writing novels.

With the success of his first novel The Strumpet Wind (1947) he decided to return to France. The next nine years brought little success to his writing career, and, distressed by political unrest in France because of the Algerian War, Merrick decided to move to a Greek island by the name of Hydra where he bought a house and lived until tourism made life there intolerable too. In 1975 he discovered the Orient and bought himself a house in Ceylon, but on visiting France again purchased a home in Tricqueville in Normandy. Thus he ended up by dividing his time between France and Ceylon (Sri Lanka), where he died of lung cancer on March 27, 1988.

Merrick's best-known book, The Lord Won't Mind, appeared on the New York Times best-seller list in 1970 for sixteen weeks. It was the first in a trilogy that included One for the Gods (1971/72) and Forth into Light (1974). At a time when homosexuality was still viewed as a closet identity which could only end in tragedy, Merrick wrote openly about gay love that ended happily. Among the items left of the personal papers of Charles G. Hulse, in the series "Papers of Other Persons," is a summary of some of Gordon Merrick's novels which helps to illuminate their avant-garde timing in the history of gay and lesbian fiction. In addition to his trilogy, Merrick also wrote at least eighteen other novels in the course of thirty-nine years, including An Idol for Others (1977), The Quirk (1978), Now Let's Talk about Music (1981), Perfect Freedom (1982), The Great Urge Downward (1984), and A Measure of Madness (1986).

Description

Consists primarily of the working drafts, sometimes many versions, of the manuscripts for eighteen novels and three short stories, as well as fragments of two playscripts, the typescript of the television adaptation of his first novel The Strumpet Wind (1947), and drafts of three essays. The drafts are undated but range from early versions of The Lord Won't Mind to the unpublished draft of The Good
Life, a novel which Merrick was working on when he died. Not all of the novel manuscripts in the collection were published, and not all of the published novels are represented by manuscripts in the collection. Merrick did not date any of his manuscripts.

There is also correspondence in the collection, including three boxes of business and financial correspondence, dating from 1967 until Merrick's death in 1988, then a folder of correspondence dated 1989-1990, dealing with the Merrick estate, as well as one folder of undated material. There is very little personal correspondence but what has been preserved includes nine letters and notes from E.M. Forster, dating from 1948 to 1954. There is also fan mail, dating from 1977 until the year after Merrick's death. The documents in the collection include photographs, awards, passports, and some medical and financial records. There are publicity photographs, as well as photographs from Merrick's personal collection, dating from 1959 to 1987. The diaries and calendars in the collection date from 1967 to 1988. The printed material in the collection is primarily clippings, but includes some of Merrick's published journalism as well as playbills from his stage career. The series "Papers of Other Persons" consists of a small amount of material relating to Merrick's life-long partner Charles Hulse.

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Please consult with Rare Books and Special Collections about having the collection recalled to Firestone Library for your use. This process normally requires 48-72 hours notice.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

Merrick's papers were left to the long-term partner of his adult years, Charles Hulse, who sold them to the Library in 1991.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Subject Headings

- Hulse, Charles G.
- American fiction -- 20th century.
- Gays in literature -- 20th century.
- Gays' writings, American -- 20th century.
- Novelists, American -- 20th century.
- Novelists, English -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
- Correspondence.
- Manuscripts.
- Photographs.
- American literature
Series 1: Writings, dates not examined

Description: This series is remarkable for the multiplicity of drafts of the manuscripts of eighteen of Merrick's novels. However, several of the earlier novels are early drafts for some of the later ones, e.g., The Award for An Idol for Others, The Fluke for The Quirk, Reflections in the Mirror for The Lord Won't Mind, and Who'll Go Down in History for Forth into Light. Although the collection does not include a manuscript for Demon of Noon, it includes a published copy interleaved with additions which Merrick made to transform it into the novel Perfect Freedom. All of the manuscripts are in typescript, but some are heavily annotated and even interleaved with handwritten pages. Many of the typescripts are accompanied by corrected carbon copies. The earliest drafts seem to be those that have been typed single-spaced. For The Good Life, Merrick's last novel, there is also an outline a forward, and an addition of a complete typescript. There is one typescript of five chapters with no title. The typescripts usually have no chapter divisions.

Arrangement: This series is arranged into four subseries: Novels, Short Stories, Scripts, and Essays.

Subseries 1A: Novels, dates not examined

Description: Consists of manuscripts and typescripts for novels, including The Award, The Day the Dog Talked, and Measure of Madness, as well as others.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

- The Award, pp. 1-100, dates not examined
- The Award, pp. 101-200, dates not examined
- The Award, pp. 201-300, dates not examined
- The Award, pp. 301-400, dates not examined
- The Award, pp. 401-482, dates not examined
- The Award, pp. 483-543, dates not examined
- The Day the Dog Talked, pp. 1-100, dates not examined
- The Day the Dog Talked, pp. 101-200, dates not examined
- The Day the Dog Talked, pp. 201-291, dates not examined
- The Day the Dog Talked, pp. 301-388, dates not examined
- The Fluke, pp. 1-100, dates not examined
- The Fluke, pp. 101-200, dates not examined
- The Fluke, pp. 201-300, dates not examined
- The Fluke, pp. 301-388, dates not examined

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One for the Gods, corrected carbon copy of working draft, pp. 101-200, dates not examined  
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One for the Gods, corrected carbon copy of working draft, pp. 201-246, dates not examined  
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One for the Gods, corrected carbon copy of working draft, pp. 247-350, dates not examined  
Box: 11 Folder: 4

One for the Gods, corrected carbon copy of working draft, pp. 351-425, dates not examined  
Box: 11 Folder: 5

One for the Gods, corrected carbon copy of working draft, pp. 426-510, dates not examined  
Box: 11 Folder: 6

Perfect Freedom, carbon copy of early draft of the beginning, dates not examined  
Box: 11 Folder: 7

Perfect Freedom, photocopy of corrected but incomplete draft, pp. 1-100, dates not examined  
Box: 11 Folder: 8

Perfect Freedom, photocopy of corrected but incomplete draft, pp. 101-200, dates not examined  
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Perfect Freedom, photocopy of corrected but incomplete draft, pp. 201-300, dates not examined  
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Perfect Freedom, photocopy of corrected but incomplete draft, pp. 301-400, dates not examined  
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Perfect Freedom, photocopy of corrected but incomplete draft, pp. 401-500, dates not examined  
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Perfect Freedom, photocopy of corrected but incomplete draft, pp. 501-557, dates not examined  
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Perfect Freedom, as adapted from Demon of Noon (printed text with TMs insertions), dates not examined  
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Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #1, pp. 1-75, dates not examined  
Box: 12 Folder: 2

Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #1, pp. 76-150, dates not examined  
Box: 12 Folder: 3

Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #1, pp. 151-225, dates not examined  
Box: 12 Folder: 4

Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #1, pp. 226-279, dates not examined  
Box: 12 Folder: 5

Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #2, pp. 1-75, dates not examined  
Box: 12 Folder: 6

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Box: 12 Folder: 7

Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #2, pp. 151-225, dates not examined  
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Subseries 1B: Short Stories ... (Continued)

- Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #2, pp. 226-280, dates not examined
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- Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #3, pp. 1-100, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 1
- Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #3, pp. 101-200, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 2
- Pledge of Allegiance, variant draft #3, pp. 201-289, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 3
- The Quirk, first draft with corrections, pp. 1-50, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 4
- The Quirk, first draft with corrections, pp. 51-101, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 5
- The Quirk, working draft, pp. 1-100, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 6
- The Quirk, working draft, pp. 101-200, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 7
- The Quirk, working draft, pp. 201-275, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 8
- The Quirk, part of a working draft with corrections, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 9
- Reflections in the Mirror, pp. 1-100, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 10
- Reflections in the Mirror, pp. 101-200, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 11
- Reflections in the Mirror, pp. 201-300, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 12
- Reflections in the Mirror, pp. 301-338 (end), dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 13
- Reflections in the Mirror, revisions on carbon copy, dates not examined
  Box: 13 Folder: 14
- Who'll Go Down in History?, early working draft, dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 1-3
- Who'll Go Down in History?, later working draft, dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 4-12
- Unidentified Novel, chapter one., dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 13
- Unidentified Novel, chapter two., dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 14
- Unidentified Novel, chapter three, dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 15
- Unidentified Novel, chapter four, dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 16
- Unidentified Novel, chapter five, dates not examined
  Box: 14 Folder: 17
- Unidentified Novel Fragment, starting on p. 21, dates not examined
  Box: 15 Folder: 1
- Unidentified Novel Fragment, pp. 101-210, dates not examined
  Box: 15 Folder: 2
- Unidentified Novel Fragment, pp. 211-328, dates not examined
  Box: 15 Folder: 3
- Unidentified Fragments, dates not examined
  Box: 15 Folder: 4-5

Subseries 1B: Short Stories, dates not examined


Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.
Subseries 1C: Scripts ... (Continued)

"An American in Paris", dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 6

"The Leightons", dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 7

"Reunion", dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 8

"Money", dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 9

Subseries 1C: Scripts, dates not examined

Description: Consists of fragments of playscripts and a script for The Strumpet Wind, television adaptation (carbon copy).

Arrangement: Not arranged according to any arrangement scheme.

Fragment of a playscript (untitled), dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 10

Fragment of a playscript (untitled), dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 11

The Strumpet Wind, television adaptation (carbon copy), dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 12

Subseries 1D: Essays, dates not examined

Description: Consists of an Introduction to The Strumpet Wind and "Reflections on British Actor Ian McKellen."

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Introduction to The Strumpet Wind, dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 13

Reflections on British Actor Ian McKellen, dates not examined
Box: 15 Folder: 14

Series 2: Correspondence, 1948-1990

Description: The business and financial correspondence (1967-1990) includes contracts, royalty statements, and check stubs for royalty payments, as well as incoming letters from agents and editors. Although Merrick came from a wealthy family, he seems to have lived to a large extent on royalties, as his correspondence demonstrates. There is an interesting turn in the correspondence when one of his agents Bernard Geis goes bankrupt and Merrick has to sue for back payment of royalties. There are some letters by Merrick, attached to the replies they received, because they are mostly undated. The last dated folder in the series (1989-1990) contains correspondence relating to Merrick's estate.

The personal correspondence is minimal but includes nine items from E. M. Forster, the British novelist, one of which deals at length with Merrick's earliest work, The Strumpet Wind. A Christmas card, undated, includes a picture of Forster in his study. There is also a note from composer Leonard Cohen who knew Merrick from having spent much time in the Greek islands.

The fan mail was left in chronological order so that readers could see what type of responses Merrick's work was attracting between the years 1977 and his death in 1988.

Arrangement: This series is arranged into three subseries: Business and Financial Correspondence, Personal Correspondence, and Fan Mail.
Subseries 2A: Business and Financial Correspondence, 1967-1990

Description: The business and financial correspondence (1967-1990) includes contracts, royalty statements, and check stubs for royalty payments, as well as incoming letters from agents and editors. Although Merrick came from a wealthy family, he seems to have lived to a large extent on royalties, as his correspondence demonstrates. There is an interesting turn in the correspondence when one of his agents Bernard Geis goes bankrupt and Merrick has to sue for back payment of royalties. There are some letters by Merrick, attached to the replies they received, because they are mostly undated. The last dated folder in the series (1989-1990) contains correspondence relating to Merrick’s estate.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

1967-1969 Box: 16 Folder: 1
1970 Box: 16 Folder: 2
1971 Box: 16 Folder: 3
1972 Box: 16 Folder: 4
1973 Box: 16 Folder: 5
1974 Box: 16 Folder: 6
1975 Box: 17 Folder: 1
1976 Box: 17 Folder: 2
1977 Box: 17 Folder: 3
1978 Box: 17 Folder: 4
1979 Box: 17 Folder: 5
1980 Box: 17 Folder: 6
1981 Box: 17 Folder: 7
1982 Box: 17 Folder: 8
1983 Box: 18 Folder: 1
1984 Box: 18 Folder: 2
1985 Box: 18 Folder: 3
1986 (folder 1 of 2), 1986 Box: 18 Folder: 4
1986 (folder 2 of 2), 1986 Box: 18 Folder: 5
1987-1988 Box: 18 Folder: 6
undated, dates not examined Box: 18 Folder: 8

Subseries 2B: Personal Correspondence, 1948-1954
Subseries 2C: Fan Mail ... (Continued)

Description: The personal correspondence is minimal but includes nine items from E. M. Forster, the British novelist, one of which deals at length with Merrick's earliest work, The Strumpet Wind. A Christmas card, undated, includes a picture of Forster in his study. There is also a note from composer Leonard Cohen who knew Merrick from having spent much time in the Greek islands.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Cohen, Leonard, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 1
Daskalikis (Professor), letter & petition to, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 2
Forster, E. M. (, ), 1948-1954 Box: 19 Folder: 3
James, Clive, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 4
McKellen, Ian, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 5


Description: The fan mail was left in chronological order so that readers could see what type of responses Merrick's work was attracting between the years 1977 and his death in 1988.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

1970-1979 Box: 19 Folder: 6
1980-1989 Box: 19 Folder: 7
undated, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 8

Series 3: Documents, 1959-1987

Description: This series includes medical and financial records, awards, passports and photographs. Merrick's novel An Idol for Others was awarded a Porgie Award for Best Contemporary Novel in 1977 by the West Coast Review of Books. The medical records date from the early 1980s and include receipts for prescriptions. Merrick lived abroad for most of his adult life but retained his American passport, many issues of which are preserved here. The photographs include several publicity shots for his novel The Hot Season (1958), as well as a collection of snapshots from his home in Greece which were used for publicity in the mid-1960s. The personal collection of photographs dates from 1959 to 1987 and shows Merrick at his homes in France, Greece, and Ceylon.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by genre of material.

Awards, 1977 Box: 19 Folder: 9
Banking receipts found in wallet, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 10
Documents pertaining to medical history, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 11
Passports and identity card (found in wallet), dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 12
Photographs used for publicity, dates not examined Box: 19 Folder: 13

Description: Although there is an almost complete run of diaries and calendars from the 1960s until Merrick's death, they contain only brief entries.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Box: Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967-1977</td>
<td>19 Folder: 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-1988</td>
<td>20 Folder: 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 5: Memorabilia, dates not examined

Description: This series contains Gordon Merrick's wallet.

Arrangement: Not arranged according to any arrangement scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Box: Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Merrick's wallet, dates not examined</td>
<td>20 Folder: 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Description: Among the printed materials are included copies of *The New Republic* from the years 1958, 1959 and 1960 in which Merrick published articles, as well as three copies of the playbill of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," the Broadway play in which Merrick starred when he began his short-lived stage career in New York in the late 1930s. Merrick also left quite an extensive clipping file, including photocopies of reviews dating back to the 1930s.

Arrangement: Not arranged according to any arrangement scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Box: Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The New Republic (February 23 [2 copies], July 13, September 7, 1959), dates not examined</td>
<td>20 Folder: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playbill for &quot;The Man Who Came to Dinner&quot; (3 copies), dates not examined</td>
<td>20 Folder: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clippings, etc., dates not examined</td>
<td>20 Folder: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbook - newspapers and clippings, dates not examined</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clippings (including photocopies), etc., dates not examined</td>
<td>22 Folder: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, dates not examined</td>
<td>22 Folder: 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Description: This series consists of Charles G. Hulse's papers, including correspondence with American agents and editors pertaining to an unpublished novel manuscript left by Merrick entitled *The Good Life*, but also to Hulse's own work. Like Merrick Hulse was also a writer. There is also a photograph, possibly a publicity shot, of Hulse, who, like Merrick, may have
started his career on the stage. A lengthy newspaper article describes Hulse's acquaintance with Merrick and their life together.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by genre of material.


Description: This series consists of Charles G. Hulse's papers, including correspondence with American agents and editors pertaining to an unpublished novel manuscript left by Merrick entitled The Good Life, but also to Hulse's own work. Like Merrick Hulse was also a writer. There is also a photograph, possibly a publicity shot, of Hulse, who, like Merrick, may have started his career on the stage. A lengthy newspaper article describes Hulse's acquaintance with Merrick and their life together.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by genre of material.

- Business and Financial Correspondence, 1987
- Correspondence with Mitch Douglas, 1988-1990
- Correspondence with Bernard Geis and others (, ), 1989-1991
- Portrait Photograph, dates not examined
- Printed Material: newspaper article, dates not examined
- "Summary of Gordon Merrick's Novels.", dates not examined

Series 8: Additional Papers, dates not examined


Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by genre of material.

- The Good Life novel by Gordon Merrick & Charles G. Hulse, TMs (copy), 576 pp., dates not examined