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Albert Bensoussan is a writer and a translator of Spanish language works.

He was born on August 4, 1935 in Algiers, Algeria, to Sephardic Jewish parents. He received a doctorate in Spanish studies in 1966 and a doctorate in humanities in 1978. He has taught at the Lycée Bugeaud d'Alger, the Sorbonne, and the University of Haute-Bretagne in Rennes, France, where he was professor emeritus of Spanish literature. He has also taught at the European College of Literary Translators.

Bensoussan has translated hundreds of Spanish language titles including Alfredo Bryce Echeniche's Un Mundo para Julius and Tantas veces Pedro, Guillermo Cabrera Infante's Tres Tristes Tigres, José Donoso's Este domingo, Mario Goloboff's Criador de palomas, and Néstor Sánchez's Nosotros dos and Cómpico de la lengua. He has translated multiple titles for Manuel Puig, including El Beso de la mujer araña, Pubis angelical, Maldición eterna a quien lea estas páginas, Sangre de amor correspondido, Il bacio della donna ragno, and Misterio del ramo de rosas.

He maintains a close relationship with Mario Vargas Llosa and has translated numerous works of his, including Los Cachorros, Pantaleón y las visitadoras, La orgía perpetua, La tía Julia y el escribidor, La señorita de Tacna, Historia de Mayta, and La guerra del fin del mundo.

He is the author of a number of original works which include Confessions d'un traître: essai sur la traduction (1995); Retour des caravelles: lettres latino-américaines d'aujourd'hui (1999); J'avoue que j'ai trahi: essai libre sur la traduction (2005); and Ce que je sais de Vargas Llosa (2011), among others.

He received the Cultura Latina Prize in 1985 and a médaille de vermeil from the Académie française in 2011 for his translation work, and is a founding member of l'Association des Traducteurs Littéraires de France. In 1964 he married Mathilde (Tubau) Bensoussan, a Catalanian translator who lived in France most of her life and also taught at the University of Rennes. They collaborated occasionally on translation and other writings. After her death, he remarried in 2013 to Françoise-Déborah Bensoussan-Meinnel, a former high school librarian and translator.

He currently lives in Rennes, France.

Description

Consists of translator and writer Albert Bensoussan's working files related to Latin American authors, including Alfredo Bryce Echenique, Guillermo Cabrera Infante, José Donoso, Jorge Edwards, Jorge Goldenberg, Mario Goloboff, Luis Mizón, Abel Posse, Manuel Puig, Néstor Sánchez, Severo Sarduy, Manuel Scorza, and Mario Vargas Llosa. Files consist of incoming professional and personal correspondence to Bensoussan from authors, theatre producers, critics, translators, and French publishing houses; writings by Bensoussan on Latin American authors, and translation; transcripts of interviews Bensoussan conducted; collected essays and articles related to the authors represented and Bensoussan; scripts and ephemera from theatrical productions of work translated by Bensoussan; and assorted clippings related to the authors.
Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically by writer's last name. Correspondence and subject files were kept in original order.

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff at rbsc@princeton.edu. 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

Purchase, 2017 (AM 2017-126) and 2018 (AM 2019-3).

This collection was purchased (in part) with funds provided by the Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS).

Appraisal

Non-unique, printed materials such as book and journal publications were removed from the collection during 2017 processing.

No materials were removed from the collection during 2018 processing beyond routine appraisal practices.

Processing and Other Information

Encoding

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2018-07-24T09:45:0400

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.
Subject Headings

· Abad Faciolince, Héctor Joaquín
· Bensoussan, Albert
· Bryce-Echenique, Alfredo
· Cabrera Infante, Guillermo
· Donoso, José
· Edwards, Jorge
· Goldenberg, Jorge
· Goloboff, Gerardo Mario
· Levine, Suzanne Jill
· Mizón, Luis
· Posse, Abel
· Puig, Manuel
· Sánchez, Néstor
· Sarduy, Severo
· Scorza, Manuel
· Vargas Llosa, Mario, 1936-
· Zuratas, Léon
· Latin American literature -- 20th century.
· Translating and interpreting -- 20th century
· Authors, Latin American
· Correspondence -- 20th century.
· Translations (documents) -- 20th century.
· Latin American literature
Abad Faciolince, Héctor, 2010-2017

Description: Correspondence from Abad Faciolince and copies of El verbo divino in Spanish and French.

Box: B-001204  Folder: 1

Bryce Echenique, Alfredo, 1971 May 27-1992

Bryce Echenique, Alfredo: Correspondence, 1971 May 27-1987 February 27

Description: Correspondence from Bryce Echenique to Bensoussan. 1978 February 14 letter includes a photo of Bryce Enchenique's son.

Box: B-000909  Folder: 1

Bryce Echenique, Alfredo, 1972-1992

Description: Interviews, essays, and articles related to Bryce Echenique.

Box: B-001204  Folder: 2

Cabrera Infante, Guillermo, 1963-2005

Cabrera Infante, Guillermo: Correspondence, 1968 July 22-2002 October 31

Description: Correspondence from Cabrera Infante to Bensoussan relating to translations of his work. Later correspondence includes letters on more personal topics.

Box: B-000909  Folder: 2

Cabrera Infante, Guillermo: Publication, 1968 April 10-1971 May 19

Description: Correspondence from Editions Gallimard to Bensoussan regarding his translation of Tres tristes tigres. Includes a printed copy of the original Spanish edition of Tres tristes tigres with annotations.

Box: B-000909  Folder: 3

Cabrera Infante, Guillermo: Translation Process, undated

Language(s) of Materials:

Description: Typescripts, printed works (including an interview by Bensoussan translated from Spanish to French), and records of Bensoussan's translation process for Cabrera Infante's works.

Box: B-000909  Folder: 4


Description: Collected clippings related to Cabrera Infante.

Box: B-001204  Folder: 3

Cabrera Infante, Guillermo, 1970-2005

Description: Includes articles written by Bensoussan about Cabrera Infante; articles by Cabrera Infante; and news pieces about Cabrera Infante's death in 2005.

Box: B-001204  Folder: 4-6

Donoso, José, 1990-1992 June 20

Donoso, José: Ce dimanche-là, 1991 June 1-1992 June 20

Description: Correspondence from Roberto Solomon to Bensoussan regarding the translation of Este domingo into French as Ce dimanche-là, a
typescript for Ce dimanche-là, and ephemera and press reviews from its May 1992 production at Théâtre Saint-Gervais in Geneva, Switzerland.

Donoso, José: Este domingo, 1990

Language(s) of Materials:

Description: Photocopy of a published theatrical version of Este Domingo. Published by Editorial Andrés Bello.

Edwards, Jorge, 2011 March 11-July 18

Description: 2011 July 18 letter from Edwards to Bensoussan, and press about Edwards including reviews of Edward's work La muerte de Montaigne.

Goldenberg, Jorge, 1984-1985

Goldenberg, Jorge, 1984 May 3-1985 October

Description: Letter from Goldenberg to Bensoussan, and published French script for Goldenberg's play Knepp.

Goldenberg, Jorge: Knepp, 1984-1985

Description: Consists of materials related to Goldenberg's play Knepp, including ephemera from a French production, a transcript of the play in French, and correspondence related to an Argentine production.

Goloboff, Mario, 1977-1994 March 12

Levine, Suzanne Jill, 1994 February 22-1995 June 1

Description: Two letters from Levine to Bensoussan.

Mizón, Luis: Correspondence, 1985

Description: Two letters from Mizón to Bensoussan regarding his writings and exile.

Posse, Abel: Correspondence, 1981 April 21-May 25

Description: Two letters from Posse to Bensoussan.

Puig, Manuel, 1976-2001

Puig, Manuel: Correspondence, 1977 March 7-1990 May 26

Description: Correspondence from Puig to Bensoussan. Also, a 1984 typescript of an interview between Puig and Bensoussan with annotations.


Description: Letter from Graciela Goldchluk to Bensoussan, ephemera from various French productions of El beso de la mujer araña ( Le baiser de la femme araignée) and typescript for El beso de la mujer araña with annotations.
Puig, Manuel: Other Works, 1979-1987
Description: Copy of typescript with annotations for Il bacio della donna ragno, and for Misterio del ramo de rosas.

Puig, Manuel, 1978-2001
Description: Articles and essays about Puig’s work, including an email from professor Julia Romero and a copy of her essay Manuel Puig: del delito de la escritura al error gay. Also includes a script for Le baiser de la femme araignée.

Puig, Manuel, 1978-2001
Description: Consists of materials related to Le baiser de la femme araignée, including correspondence from the French publishing house, Éditions du Seuil; correspondence and ephemera related to theatre productions; critical essays; and invoices. Also includes an interview between Bensoussan and Puig, and materials related to a tribute to Puig in his hometown of General Villegas.

Sánchez, Néstor, 1973-1975
Sánchez, Néstor: Correspondence, 1973 January 16-1974 June 27
Description: Correspondence from Sánchez to Bensoussan, mainly concerning the translation of Cómico de la legua (Pitre de la langue).

Description: Includes correspondence to Bensoussan from the publishing house, Editions Gallimard, regarding the translation of Nous Deux and a transcript of an interview with Néstor Sánchez.

Sarduy, Severo: Correspondence, 1978 August 10-1987 December 29
Description: Correspondence from Sarduy, an editor at Éditions du Seuil, to Bensoussan mainly concerning publications for translation.

Description: Correspondence from Scorza to Bensoussan, and typescript of an interview between Scorza and Bensoussan with annotations.

Vargas Llosa, Mario, 1970-2011 October
Vargas Llosa, Mario: Correspondence and Ephemera, 1970 May 29-1992 May 27
Description: Correspondence from Vargas Llosa to Bensoussan and ephemera from La demoiselle de Tacna and La Chunga. Also, the program and a copy of Bensoussan’s speech from the occasion of Vargas Llosa receiving an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Rennes.

Vargas Llosa, Mario: Correspondence with Léon Zuratas, 1973 May 7-1974 September 16
Box: B-000910
Folder: 14
Description: Correspondence from Léon Zuratas (a representative of Paramount Pictures) to Bensoussan regarding the translation of La guerra particular.

Vargas Llosa, Mario: La guerra particular, circa 1974
Description: Spanish typescript for the planned film adaptation of La guerra del fin del mundo.

Vargas Llosa, Mario: La guerre particuliere, circa 1974
Description: French typescript for the planned film adaptation of La guerra del fin del mundo, translated from Spanish by Bensoussan.

Vargas Llosa, Mario: Other Works, 1970-1981
Description: Typescript for Botero, and for Alonso Alegría Amézquita's theatrical adaptation of Los Cachorros.

Vargas Llosa, Mario: Elogio de la lectura y la ficción, 2011 October 31
Description: Bound and numbered copy of Vargas Llosa's Nobel Prize speech, Elogio de la lectura y la ficción. Signed by Vargas Llosa and dedicated to Bensoussan.

Vargas Llosa, Mario, 1972-2010
Description: Consists of correspondence from publishers related to translations of Vargas Llosa's work by Bensoussan; essays and interviews related to Vargas Llosa and Bensoussan's work as a translator; programs and ephemera from a French production of La Chunga; an interview with Vargas Llosa's first wife, Julia Urquidi Illanes; and four photographs of Vargas Llosa (two with Bensoussan).