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Roark Bradford papers

MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION 20

Papers, 1927-1949, large portion undated
2.5 linear feet
(5 manuscripts boxes)

Revised by Eira Tansey with processing assistance by Elizabeth Chambers
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This collection contains correspondence, photographs, manuscripts and other papers of writer and journalist Roark Bradford (1896-1948). Box 1 includes personal papers; boxes 2 through 5 contain Bradford's manuscripts of short stories and articles, and other papers. Several of the manuscripts include marginalia and extensive editing marks.

Roark Bradford was born in 1896 in Tennessee. He moved to New Orleans in 1923, and worked the night shift as city editor, and later as Sunday editor at the *Times-Picayune* from 1924 to 1926. During this period he befriended Lyle Saxon, who also worked at the *Times-Picayune*, and the two remained friends until Saxon's death in 1946. Saxon and Bradford are credited with inventing the tall tale of "Annie Christmas", a river giant woman reminiscent of Mike Fink and Paul Bunyan.

Bradford was a prolific writer of short stories, and widely published in many magazines. Many of the stories he wrote depicted African-Americans in the South, and he usually wrote in an exaggerated dialect popular at the time. Some of his works were dramatized for stage and film, including "Ol' Man Adam and His Chillun" which became the basis for the 1936 film *The Green Pastures*.

Bradford became a consultant to Tulane University's English department in 1947. He resigned in June 1948. Roark Bradford died in New Orleans on November 13, 1948.

ACQUISITION

Acquired from his wife, Mary Rose Bradford, in 1949.

CITATION

Please cite as follows:

Roark Bradford Papers, Manuscripts Collection 20, Manuscripts Department,
Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

ACCESS POINTS

Bradford, Roark, -- 1896-1948.
Papers, Roark Bradford.
American literature -- 20th century.
Authors, American -- 20th century.
Journalists -- Louisiana -- New Orleans.
African Americans -- Southern States -- History -- 20th century.
African Americans in literature and art.
New Orleans (La.) -- History -- 20th century.
Lankes, Julius J., -- 1884-1960.
Dent, Lucian.

RELATED RESOURCES

Preserving the papers of New Orleans writers is a special mission of the Tulane University Manuscripts Department. Among our holdings are:

George Washington Cable papers, 1871-1947, 64.5 linear feet, Manuscripts Collection 2.
Letters, letterbooks, diaries, manuscripts, notebooks, organizational records, business papers, photographs, clippings and other printed materials pertaining to Cable's career, public works, and personal life. Cable was the author of several novels including *the Grandissimes*.

Hermann Bacher Deutsch papers, 1827-1970, 22 linear feet, Manuscripts Collection 130.
New Orleans author and journalist. Includes articles written for New Orleans Item and New Orleans States, research materials for his books *The Incredible Yankee* and *the Huey Long Murder Case*, and biographical material.

John Kennedy Toole, 1930-1989, 10 linear feet, Manuscripts Collection 740.
Correspondence, literary manuscripts, photographs, scrapbooks, and family papers

pertaining to New Orleans author John Kennedy Toole. Toole was posthumously award the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1981 for *A Confederacy of Dunces*. His mother, Thelma Ducoing Toole, and Walker Percy were instrumental in having his book published by LSU Press twelve years after his death. Toole's other book, *The Neon Bible*, was published in 1989.

Lyle Saxon papers, 1879-1946, 12 linear feet, Manuscripts Collection 4.

Correspondence, manuscripts, articles, reviews, WPA reports, photographs and other papers of Lyle Saxon. Lyle Saxon was a writer and journalist who worked for several newspapers, including the *Chicago Daily News*, *New Orleans Item*, the *Daily Picayune* (New Orleans), the *Times-Picayune*, and the *New York Herald Tribune*. He was the director of the WPA Federal Writers Project in Louisiana. Saxon wrote the novel *Children of Strangers* and was one of the editors of *Gumbo Ya-Ya*.

Please also consult the Louisiana and Rare Books collections to view books written by these and other authors.

INVENTORY

Box 1:

1. Correspondence, 1933-1948
2. Clippings and Articles, 1937-1948, *River Region Monographs: Reports on People and Popular Culture*, published by The University of Tennessee at Martin and containing an article about Bradford, 1975
3. Photographs of Bradford
4. Photographs taken near Little Bee Bend Plantation, 1937
5. Photographs of Marc Connelly, Richard B. Harrison and Roark Bradford, and of setting and marionettes for Roark Bradford's "How Come Christmas," undated
6. Notes from Bradford's class on Writing at Tulane University
7. Drawings by J.J. Lankes, Lucian Dent, and artist signed 'B', and another unknown artist, 1927-1935 (Bulk undated)
8. "Roark Bradford: An Analysis of His Works and Technique" by Rupert N. Richardson, M.A. Thesis, University of Texas, 1941

Box 2:

1. "The Green Pastures" Act I by Marc Connelly (typescript), 1930
2. "The Green Pastures" Act II by Marc Connelly (typescript), 1930
3. "The Eagle Stirs the Nest," *Saturday Evening Post*, 14 April 1931
4. "The All and All Woman," *Collier's*, 21 May 1932
5. "Love and Laughter on Little Bee Bend," *Collier's*, 11 June 1932
6. "Old Average Lightning," *Collier's*, 1 October 1932
7. "Untitled," *N.Y. Herald Tribune*, 1933

8. "Cotton Needs Pickin'," *Collier's*, 15 July 1933
9. "The Big Light on Little Bee," 11 December (year unclear)
10. "Low Down the Chariot," *Collier's*, 21 September 1935
11. "The Bible Talking Mule," *Collier's*, 19 June 1937
12. "The Hoodoo Bonus," *Collier's*, 31 October 1936
13. "Prosperity Blues," *Collier's*, 20 February 1937
14. "Too Much Texas," *Collier's*, 25 February 1937
15. "The Green Pastures" movie script (typescript), 21 October 1935
16. "Lousy With Charm" a comedy by Roark Bradford (typescript), 1937
17. "Lousy With Charm" working copy, incomplete, 1937
18. "The Three-Headed Angel," a novel by Roark Bradford, 1937
19. "The Three-Headed Angel," (carbon copy), 1937

Box 3:

1. "The Projeckin' Son," *Collier's*, 4 June 1938
2. "The Step Baby," *Collier's*, 9 June 1938
3. "Promised Land," *Collier's*, 20 August 1938
4. "The Cows in the Corn," *Collier's*, 15 October 1938
5. "The East Wind Blows in the Valley," *Collier's*, 19 November 1938
6. "Four-Eyed Luck," *Collier's*, 19 November 1938
7. "Seven Pins in a Candle," *Collier's*, 29 April 1939
8. "The Sheriff Decides," *Collier's*, 13 May 1939
9. "The Guv'mer's Green Shirt," *Collier's*, 10 June 1939
10. "Hot Shot from Texas," *Collier's*, 5 August 1939
11. "John Henry" new version (typescript), 14 August 1939
12. "John Henry" fragments
13. "Tomorrow's Parable," also called "Guv'ner Blues," *Collier's*, 30 September 1939
14. "Two-Tongue Truth," *Collier's*, 6 January 1940
15. "The Manner of Heaven," *Collier's*, 29 January 1940
16. "One-Legged Backsliding," *Collier's*, 20 April 1940
17. "Call Your Sheep," also "The Dying-Bed Maker," *Collier's*, 18 May 1940
18. "The Mule Angel," *Collier's*, 6 July 1940
19. "Preacher Wes," *Reader's Digest*, July 1940
20. "Bible Boy's Cotton," another version, *Collier's*, 2 November 1940
21. "Bible Boy's Cotton," *Collier's*, 2 November 1940
22. "Manuscript Dice," *Collier's*, 9 November 1940
23. "Money in the Sack," *Collier's*, 6 January 1941
24. "The Sweet-Talk Toby," *Collier's*, 1 February 1941
25. "City Sin," *Collier's*, 22 February 1941

26. "Po' Child No More," *Collier's*, 5 July 1941
27. "The Lonesome Gigolo," *Collier's*, 13 September 1941
28. "Satan's Blacksmith Shop," *Collier's*, 25 October 1941
29. "One of We's Own," *Collier's*, 29 November 1941
30. "How Come Christmas," *NBC* radio broadcast script, 22 December 1941

Box 4:

1. "Boils and Bildads of Job," *Esquire*, January 1942
2. "Hypocrite Bait," *Collier's*, 3 January 1942
3. "Cooter Blues," *Collier's*, 8 August 1942
4. "Conversion Job," also entitled, "Ordeal of Big Mag Purdy," *Collier's*, 31 October 1942
5. "The Sternwheel Spy Case," *Collier's*, 5 December 1942
6. "Black Bullets for Hitler," *Collier's*, 12 December 1942
7. "Pirate-in-Law," *Collier's*, 9 December 1942
8. "Old Sergeant Somebody," 26 December 1942
9. "Miracle Come to Pass," *Collier's*, 9 January 1943
10. "Some Changes Made," *Collier's*, 8 May 1943
11. "The Sin-Splitter's Split," *Collier's*, 3 August 1943
12. "Oh, Eagles They Flew Low," *American Legion Magazine*, 6 January 1946
13. "William Faulkner's Next Novel," *Magazine '47*, 1947
14. "Cupid up the Bayou," *Collier's*, 28 February 1948
15. "The Pearl Handled Hum Bug," *Collier's*, 1 May 1948
16. "Sugar My Timbers," also entitled "Smuggler's Girl," *Saturday Evening Post*, 5 June 1948
17. "The High Hip Rider," *Collier's*, 21 June 1948
18. "Rich Man, Rich Man," *Collier's*, 13 November 1948
19. "Low Down Cotton," *Collier's*, 26 February 1949
20. "The Green Roller", a short story by Roark Bradford, 1938, Letter from Harper and Brothers Publishers to Fred Wolfe regarding copyright page of book entitled *The Green Roller*, 8 November 1948, Preliminary jacket copy of *The Green Roller*, a collection of stories and poems by Roark Bradford, copyright 1949
21. *The Green Roller*, another copy with author's corrections, April 1949
22. "Daniel's Three-Way Gig: A War Sermon" by Roark Bradford, part of *The Green Roller*, Harper Brothers Publishers, April 1949

Box 5:

1. "The Other Story," for *Magazine '48* (never published), 1948
2. "The Old Ship of Zion Reels Once," undated
3. "Girl, I'm Sorry for You," undated
4. "Feed Me Apples," undated

5. "Swing Low in Dixie," undated
6. "The Lyons Den," *New York Post*, 1941?
7. "Great Uncle Wash," also entitled "The Biggest Liar in West Tennessee," undated
8. "High Polish Region," undated
9. "The Mule Doctor," undated
10. "Strange Gravel," undated
11. "Literature and Less," *New Orleans Times Picayune*, 1946
12. "You Take a Mule," undated
13. "You Take a Mule," another version, undated
14. "Untitled" war story, undated
15. "Swing Low de Chariot," undated
16. "The Monkey Boat," undated