

Ollington E. Smith Papers, 1935-1991

By Special Collections

Collection Overview

Title: Ollington E. Smith Papers, 1935-1991

Predominant Dates: 1948-1970

Creator: Ollington E. Smith (1908-1991)

Extent: 7.0 Cubic Feet

Arrangement: The collection consists of three series: Personal Series, University Series, and Photographs Series. Folders are arranged chronologically and then alphabetically.

Date Acquired: 00/00/2000

Abstract

Ollington E. Smith (1918-1991) was born to Nina Erwin Smith and E.O. Smith and raised in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Fisk University with a BA in English and later an MA in English. Smith also attended the Yale School of Drama, New York University and studied at the University of Texas at Austin.

Smith headed the English Department at Morgan State University in Baltimore before he entered the military in World War II. Smith joined the faculty at Houston College for Negroes (later known as Texas Southern University) in 1949. Smith served as Chairman of the English Department and later served as the first Chairman of the Department of Speech and Drama. Smith was best known as the founder of the Texas Southern University Players and the Little Theater was also the first theater director at Texas Southern University and founded the Little Theater.

Under Smith's guidance the TSU Players mounted productions that included classic Greek and Shakespeare plays, drawing room comedies, light operas and he directed such plays as *The King and I*, *Death Takes A Holiday*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *the Little Foxes*. Smith retired from Texas Southern in 1972.

Smith remained active during his retirement as a Sunday School teacher and church trustee at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ. During his later years, Smith was also a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award by President Gerald Ford. In 1991, Texas Southern paid tribute to Ollington E. Smith by renaming the Little Theater and dedicating the 1991-92 theater season to production of plays done by Smith. Dr. Smith remained active during his retirement. He was a Sunday School teacher and church

trustee at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ. During his later years, he also became a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award by President Gerald Ford in Washington, D.C. In 1991, Texas Southern paid tribute to Ollington E. Smith by renaming the Little Theater and dedicating the 1991-92 theater season to production of plays done by Smith.

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The Ollington E. Smith Papers consists of reports, syllabi, lecture notes, and departmental recommendations relating to the evolution of the Departments of English, Speech and Drama; the Texas Southern University Players repertory group; information on play production, play programs, costume and set designs (including some original drawings and sketches); the Fine Arts Festival; photographs of various play productions directed by Smith; programs from Morgan State Players productions; and an extensive collection of Playbills from 1934 to 1959.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: Contact Gary Chaffee, Archivist. (713)-313-7298

Use Restrictions:

All rights reserved by Robert J. Terry Library and Texas Southern University.

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Ollington E. Smith Papers, 1935-1991, 2000RJT001, Special Collections, Texas Southern University.

Physical Access Note: Robert J. Terry Library, Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne Avenue, Houston, TX 77004. First floor.

Technical Access Note: Contact Cataloging Department - (713) 313-1074

Acquisition Source: Sheila Anderson and Dianne Jemison Pollard

Acquisition Method: Physical transfer.

Appraisal Information: Appraised by Special Collections staff.

Processing Information: The collection was received from Sheila Anderson and Dianne Jemison Pollard (Director of the Ollington Smith Theatre at Texas Southern University) in 2000. The papers were originally arranged in 2001.

Finding Aid Revision History: The collection was arranged again in 2013 by Gary Chaffee due to misfiled materials and preservation work that needed to be addressed (particularly for the photographs). The original finding aid has been preserved and kept on file as a record of the original arrangement.

Box and Folder Listing

Series I: Personal Files

Box 1

- Folder 1: Thesis, 1934
- Folder 2: Miscellaneous Programs, 1934-1968
- Folder 3: Morgan Players, Programs, 1935-1938
- Folder 4: Personal Photographs, 1935-1960
- Folder 5: Program - "As You Were", 1944
- Folder 6: Correspondence, ca 1945-1968
- Folder 7: Military - Correspondence, 1945
- Folder 8: Funeral Program, 1991
- Folder 9: Newspaper Article, 1991

Box 2

- Folder 1: Playbill, 1934-1935
- Folder 2: Playbill, 1936-1939
- Folder 3: Playbill, 1940-1941
- Folder 4: Playbill, 1942-1946

Box 3

- Folder 1: Playbill, 1950
- Folder 2: Playbill, 1951-1952
- Folder 3: Playbill, 1953-1959

Series II: University Files

Sub-Series i: Division of Humanities

Box 4

- Folder 1: Reports, 1948
- Folder 2: Proposed Major in Drama Education, 1949
- Folder 3: Honors Day Convocation, 1951
- Folder 4: Summer Study, 1968
- Folder 5: Resumes - Graduates from Dept. of Speech and Drama, 1968

Box 5

- Folder 1: Lecture Notes - Speech 243, Play Production, 1940
- Folder 2: Miscellaneous, 1940-1946
- Folder 3: Writing Case Histories, 1947

Folder 4: Courses of Instruction - Speech and Drama, ca 1950
Folder 5: Course Outline - Drama 333-334, ca 1950
Folder 6: Course Outline - Speech 215, ca 1950
Folder 7: Course Outline - Survey of Drama, ca 1950
Folder 8: Course Outline - Survey of English Literature, ca 1950
Folder 9: Course Outline - World Literature, ca 1950
Folder 10: Article Materials, 1968
Folder 11: Speech, 1968

Box 6

Folder 1: Festival of Fine Arts, 1949-1952
Folder 2: TSU - 1st Annual Art, Dance, Drama and Music Education Conference, 1950

Sub-Series ii: Texas Southern University Players

Box 7

Folder 1: Annual Christmas Vespers - a Mystery for Christmas, 1948
Folder 2: Annual Christmas Vespers - a Mystery for Christmas, 1949
Folder 3: Annual Palm Sunday Vespers - Seven Last Words of Christ, 1949
Folder 4: Annual Christmas Vespers - Divermento on the Christmas Story, 1950
Folder 5: Annual Christmas Vespers - Christmas Oratorio, 1951
Folder 6: Annual Christmas Vespers, 1953
Folder 7: Inauguration of Samuel Milton Nabrit, 1956
Folder 8: Newspaper Articles, 1948-1957
Folder 9: Play Programs, 1948-1949
Folder 10: Play Programs, 1950-1951
Folder 11: Play Programs, 1952-1959
Folder 12: Play Programs, 1961-1963
Folder 13: Play Programs, 1970

Box 8

Folder 1: Costume Design - Ancient Authors, ca 1940-1950
Folder 2: Costume Design - Catalogs for Theater Productions, ca 1940-1950
Folder 3: Costume Design - Charleston, South Carolina, ca 1940-1950
Folder 4: Costume Design - English 227, Elizabethan Literature - Illustrative Materials, ca 1940-1950
Folder 5: Costume Design - English 221-222, World Drama - Illustrative Materials, ca 1940-1950
Folder 6: Costume Design - English 207, World Literature - Illustrative Materials, Unit on the Epic, ca 1940-1950
Folder 7: Costume Design - Haiti and Haitian Leaders, ca 1940-1950
Folder 8: Costume Design - History of American Literature, ca 1940-1950

- Folder 9: Costume Design - Little Theatre Floor Plan, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 10: Costume Design - Make Up, Character, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 11: Costume Design - Modern Authors, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 13: Costume Design - World Literature - Illustrative Materials, The Romance, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 14: Costume Design - World Literature - Illustrative Materials, Unit on the Lyric, ca 1940-1950

Box 9

- Folder 1: Costume Design - 19th Century, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 2: Costume Design - Early American, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 3: Costume Design - Ballet, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 4: Costume Design - Clergy, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 5: Costume Design - European Peasant, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 6: Costume Design - Fantastic, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 7: Costume Design - King and Queen, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 8: Costume Design - Medieval and Barbaric, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 9: Costume Design - Miscellaneous, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 10: Costume Design - Oriental, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 11: Costume Design - Profile of Historic Design, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 12: Costume Design - Roman, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 13: Set Design - Settings, Exterior, ca 1940-1950
- Folder 14: Set Design - The Little Foxes (Technical Requirements), 1951
- Folder 15: Set Design - A View from the Bridge (Production Booklet, etc.), 1962

Series III: Photographs Series

Box 10

- Folder 1: Mystery for Christmas, 1948
- Folder 2: The Patsy, 1948
- Folder 3: Festival of Fine Arts, 1949
- Folder 4: Night Must Fall, 1949
- Folder 5: Night Over Taos, 1951
- Folder 6: Night Over Taos (Problems), 1951
- Folder 7: All For Love, 1952
- Folder 8: Simon the Cyrenian, 1955
- Folder 9: The Second Shepherd's Play/Everyman, 1957
- Folder 10: Curious Savage, 1957
- Folder 11: Her Husband's Wife, 1958
- Folder 12: Three Plays to Ponder, 1959
- Folder 13: Costume and Makeup Tests, ca 1950s
- Folder 14: Miscellaneous, ca 1950s

Folder 15: Rehearsals, ca 1950s

Box 11

Folder 1: Unknown Production #1, ca 1950s

Folder 2: Unknown Production #2, ca 1950s

Folder 3: Unknown Production #3, ca 1950s

Folder 4: Unknown Production #4, ca 1950s

Folder 5: Unknown Production #5, ca 1950s

Folder 6: Unknown Production #6, ca 1950s

Folder 7: Unknown Production #7, ca 1950s

Folder 8: Unknown Production #8, ca 1950s

Folder 9: Publicity Head Shots, ca 1950s-1960s

Folder 10: Set Design, ca 1950s-1960s

Folder 11: Angel Street, 1961

Folder 12: The Whole Town's Talking, 1961

Folder 13: A Hatful of Rain, 1963

Folder 14: Hedda Gabler, 1963

Folder 15: The King and I, 1963

Folder 16: Unknown Production #1, ca 1960s

Folder 17: Unknown Production #2, ca 1960s

Folder 18: Unknown Production #3, ca 1960s

Box 12

Sub-Series i: Oversize Photographs, ca 1930s-1950s

Approximately twenty oversized photographs of subjects ranging from TSU Players productions and stage/set design to vaudeville and Broadway performers.