

Guide to the Walter A. Fairservis Papers, 1931-1994

Biographical Note

Walter Ashlin Fairservis (1921-1994) was an archaeologist, professor and playwright. He worked for the American Museum of Natural History as well as Vassar College. His mother, Edith Yeager, was an actress. His wife, Jan, was an artist and illustrator.

[Top](#)

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, manuscripts, teaching materials, and other papers related to Fairservis's work as a professor, archaeologist and playwright. Of particular note is his correspondence with his family describing his trips overseas. Also of note is the material relating to his training in Japanese language and culture for the military; as well as the correspondence from Hoyt Van Buren to Jan Fairservis while he was training for the U.S. Army Air Force.

[Top](#)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Walter A. Fairservis Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Processed by Laura Strett, December 2009.

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the collection was a gift of Jan Fairservis to Vassar College in 2005 (M2006-019). Other materials were transferred from the Peabody Museum in 2007 (M2007-006) after being separated from their collection, which was a 2004 gift of Jan Fairservis. The videotapes were of gift of Teviot Fairservis (M2011-016).

[Top](#)

SERIES I. Biography

f. 1.1 Genealogy f. 1.2 W.A.F. — General f. 1.3 W.A.F. — Clippings f. 1.4 W.A.F. — Track in U.S. Army, 1945-1946 f. 1.5 W.A.F. — Michigan Track Team, 1944-1945 f.

1.6 - 1.7 W.A.F. — Athletics f. 1.8 W.A.F. — Trip on the Mauretania, 1931 f. 1.9 W.A.F. — Mt. Vernon High School Hall of Fame, 1982 Box 8 W.A.F. — Columbia diploma f. 1.10 W.A.F. — Miscellaneous f. 1.11 - 1.12 Jan f. 1.13 - 1.14 Fairservis Family — House Plans f. 1.15 Fairservis Family — Christmas Cards f. 1.16 - 1.20 Fairservis Family — Miscellaneous f. 1.21 Ephemera f. 8.18 Photographs Box 8 Undeveloped film

SERIES II. Correspondence

f. 1.22 - 1.26 W.A.F. to Jan, 1947-1976, n.d. f. 1.27 - 1.28 Jan to W.A.F., 1947-1948 f. 2.1 Jan to W.A.F., 1949-1964, n.d. f. 2.2 - 2.5 W.A.F. to Edith Yeager, ca. 1939 - 1946, n.d. f. 2.6 - 2.7 Edith Yeager to W.A.F., 1941-1955, n.d. f. 2.8 Afghanistan / Pakistan Trip — W.A.F. to Jan, 1949 f. 2.9 Afghanistan / Pakistan Trip — Jan to W.A.F., 1949 f. 2.10 Afghanistan / Pakistan Trip — Jan to Family, 1950 - 1951 f. 2.11 Afghanistan / Pakistan Trip — Family to Jan and W.A.F., 1950 - 1951 f. 2.12 Afghanistan / Pakistan Trip — Edith Yeager W.A.F., 1949 - 1951 f. 2.13 Afghanistan / Pakistan Trip — Miscellaneous correspondence and other items, 1949 - 1951 f. 2.14 - 2.16 Miscellaneous friends and family to W.A.F., 1936 - 1982 f. 2.17 Miscellaneous friends and family to Jan f. 2.18 Miscellaneous friends and family to Jan and W.A.F. f. 2.19 Jan to family f. 2.20 The Sutherland Family f. 2.21 Fairservis children — to and from f. 2.22 - 2.23 Hoyt Van Buren to Jan, 1943-1946 f. 2.24 W.A.F. to Miscellaneous f. 2.25 U.S. Army f. 2.21 Miscellaneous Professional — W.A.F. f. 3.1 Miscellaneous Professional — Jan f. 3.2 Benton, William, 1963-1964 f. 3.3 O'Donnell, C. Donald, f. 3.4 Lewin, Albert, 1959-1966 f. 3.5 Edith Yeager - Miscellaneous f. 3.6 "Aunt Norma" to Edith Yeager f. 3.7 Poultny Bigelow to Edith Yeager, 1945-1952 f. 3.8 Miscellaneous f. 3.9 Transcripts of WWII letters of Brent Winn, sent to W.A.F. by Janette Winn, 1992

SERIES III. Teaching Material

f. 3.10 - 3.11 Vassar College — Correspondence f. 3.12 - 3.15 Vassar College — Course Material f. 8.17 Vassar College — Course Material f. 3.16 Vassar College — "Projects for Beginning Classes" f. 3.17 Vassar College — Chinese Program Annual Reports, 1968-1989 f. 3.18 - 3.19 Vassar College — Miscellaneous f. 3.20 New York University f. 3.21 University of Washington f. 3.22 Correspondence from Students

SERIES IV. Writings and Research

f. 3.23 "America vs. the United States" f. 3.24 "The American Museum of Natural History and I" f. 3.25 - 3.29 "Barre, A Community in Photographs" f. 3.30 Black Glaze Analysis f. 4.1 "Education in the United States," 1994 f. 4.2 - 4.3 Education, Reading and Writing project f. 4.4 - 4.5 "Collections of children's drawings and early writing examples..." f. 4.6 "Fever" f. 4.7 "Josiah" (poem) f. 8.1 "The Lamp of Ghazni - Ala Al-Din" f. 4.8 Letters to newspapers f. 4.9 "The Lion" f. 4.10 "Netsuke" f. 4.11 "New Ways in the New World," with Jan Fairservis f. 4.12 "Once We Laughed Together" f. 4.13 Review of Possehl book f. 8.2 "The Savior of Kyoto" f. 4.14 "Tales out of Hell and Heaven" f. 4.15 The theatre and archaeology f. 4.16 "Voices of Veterans" f. 4.17 "Wage Peace" f. 4.18 Notes on ritual and drama f. 4.19 Unidentified manuscript f. 8.3 Unidentified manuscript f. 4.20 Class notes [?] f. 4.21 W.A.F.'s library f. 4.22 Childhood writings and school material f. 4.23 Miscellaneous

SERIES V. Drama and Theater

f. 4.24 Plays — "Baseball Noh" f. 4.25 Plays — "Drums at Yale" f. 4.26 - 4.29 Plays — "Edith" f. 4.30-4.31 Plays — "Forgotten Spirit" f. 5.1 - 5.7 Plays — "Forgotten Spirit" f. 8.4 Plays — "The Great Goddess and the Nine Wonders" f. 5.8 Plays — "The History of the United States..." f. 8.5 Plays — "The History of the United States..." f. 8.6 Plays — "The House of [?]" f. 5.9 Plays — Ikari notes f. 8.7 Plays — "Josiah" f. 5.10 Plays — "Kichibi" f. 5.11 - 5.14 Plays — "The Last Pipes of Arcady" f. 8.8 Plays — "The Last Pipes of Arcady" f. 5.15 - 5.16 Plays — "Manifest Destiny" f. 5.17 Plays — "Mikayo" f. 5.18 - 5.20 Plays — "Nathan Hale" f. 5.21 Plays — "Polo Grounds" f. 8.9 Plays — "Saul" f. 8.10 - 8.11 Plays — "Snake Story" f. 5.22 Plays — "The Sword of Tamerlane" f. 8.12 Plays — "Wagon Train West" f. 5.23 Plays — "Yamashita, Yamashita" f. 5.24 Plays — "Voices of Veterans" f. 5.25 Plays — "The Way of the World" f. 5.26 Plays — Miscellaneous f. 5.35 Plays — Miscellaneous notes f. 5.27 - 5.28 Plays — Unidentified f. 8.13 Plays — Unidentified f. 5.29 Plays — Miscellaneous playbills f. 6.4 Plays — Miscellaneous notes f. 8.14 - 8.15 Plays — Miscellaneous notes f. 6.5 Plays — Copyright certificates f. 5.30 BBC TV — "Buried Treasure" f. 5.31 Miscellaneous CBS productions f. 5.32 CBS TV — "Man in the Mist" f. 5.33-5.34 CBS TV — "Adventure" f. 5.36 Radio — "The Second Hand" f. 6.1 Radio — Audition pieces f. 6.2 Radio? — "The Big Story" f. 6.3 Radio? — "The Last of the Samuels" f. 6.6 A.C.T. f. 6.7 Actors studio f. 6.8 Arnold, Benedict f. 6.9 Asian Theatre Journal f. 6.10 Breese, Gerald f. 6.11 Calabro, Tony f. 6.12 Center Spot Players f. 6.13 Dramatic Publishing Co. f. 6.14 Drama — Critic's Notices f. 6.15 East-West Fusion Theatre f. 6.16 Freyberg, J. f. 6.17 Gam, Rita f. 6.18 Ideas — Plays f. 6.19 Ikaki f. 6.20 Janney, Ben f. 6.21 Lewis, Lester f. 6.22 Long Island University Theatre f. 6.23 Martin, Elliot f. 6.24 Miller, Arthur f. 6.25 Nakemura, Masami f. 6.26 Opera acting f. 6.27 Pan-Asian Rep. f. 6.28 Parlakian, Nishan f. 6.29 Philips, Jud f. 6.30 The Pyramid f. 6.31 Seattle Repertory Theatre f. 6.32 Sharon Playhouse f. 6.33 Stage Design — Jan Fairservis f. 8.16 Straight Wharf Theatre — 1951 season f. 6.34 Taylor, Clyde f. 6.35 Theatre — Religious f. 6.36 Theatre — Sides and scenes f. 6.37 Theatre Northwest f. 6.38 Theatre One f. 6.39 Vassar Theatre f. 6.40 The Wasp f. 6.41 Westchester County Civic Opera f. 6.42 Williams, Annie-Laurie f. 6.42 Copyrights f. 6.42 Correspondence — Miscellaneous theatre-related Boxes 9-10 Videotapes of various performances

SERIES VI. Edith Yeager Material

Box 6 2 notebooks of Yeager writings Box 6 Yeager writings, including documents from her YMCA service in France in WWI Box 6 Miscellaneous Yeager material

SERIES VII. Japanese Work

Box 7 Notebooks and other materials from Japanese language course, University of Michigan, 1944 Box 7 Materials from Military Intelligence School, Minneapolis, including modern conversational Japanese exercises and interrogation tests, 1944 Box 7 Propaganda for Japanese consumption Box 7 Political writings in Japanese Box 7 Official indictment against Japan and Japanese individuals, International Tribunal Against the Far East, 1945 Box 7 Ken Edge — Book, thoughts on Japan. 1947 Box 7 Captured Japanese diary Box 7 Russian interrogation of Japanese, 1946