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## Finding Aid for the Zoë Akins Papers, 1915-1958

### Collection number: 1088

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

#### Contact Information

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Zoë Akins Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1915-1958

**Collection number:** 1088

**Creator:** Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958

**Extent:** 4 boxes (2 linear ft.)

**Repository:** University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.  
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Abstract:** Zoë Akins (1886-1958) was born in Missouri and relocated to California in 1928. A playwright, Akins plays enjoyed great popularity in the 1920s and 1930s on Broadway and in screen adaptations. The collection consists of Zoë Akins's literary manuscripts of plays, screenplays, and stories. Also includes bibliographical material and a report of the Zoë Akins Collection at the Huntington Library.

**Physical location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

**Language:** English

#### Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

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#### Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

#### Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Dorothy Arzner, 1970.

#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Zoë Akins Papers (Collection 1088). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

#### Biography

Akins was born on October 30, 1886 in Humansville, Missouri; early poetry published in the St. Louis Mirror; her first play produced in New York was *The Magical City* (1919); Akins was made famous by her theatrical piece, *D?lass?*, starring Ethel Barrymore; her plays enjoyed great popularity in the 1920s and 1930s; she moved to California in 1928; her Broadway hit, *The Greeks Had a Word for It* (1930) was filmed by Samuel Goldwyn in 1932; won the Pulitzer Prize with her 1935 stage adaptation of Edith Wharton's novel, *The Old Maid*; collaborated with George Cukor on film, *Camille* (1936), which starred Greta Garbo and Robert Taylor; died on October 29, 1958 in Los Angeles.

#### Scope and Content

Collection consists of the literary manuscripts of Zoë Akins, including plays, screenplays, and stories. Also includes bibliographical material and a report of the Zoë Akins Collection at the Huntington Library (1951). Also contains one piece of correspondence.

#### Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Bibliographical material, 1 letter, report of Akins holding at the Huntington Library (Box 1).
2. Literary manuscripts arranged alphabetically by title (Boxes 1-4).

#### Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

#### Subjects

Akins, Zoë, 1886-1958--Archives.

Screenwriters--United States--Archival resources.

Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources.

Dramatists, American--20th century--Archival resources.

#### Related Material

[Zoë Akins Collection](#) . Available at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Box 1            **Biographical material.**

**Physical Description:** 1 folder.

Box 1            **Report of Zoë Akins Collection in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, 1951.**

- Box 1      **Correspondence.**  
**Physical Description:** 1 piece.
- Box 1      ***Another Darling.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 1      ***An Attic in Paris.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
( *First Love*) Adapted by Zoë Akins from the French play *Pile On Face*, by Louis Verneuil.
- Box 1      ***Babylonian Lullaby.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 1      ***The Bed.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Manuscript story.
- Box 1      **Blood and Ink. An interview of Zoë Akins for radio broadcast.**
- Box 1      ***A Bruised Reed.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Typescript story.
- Box 1      ***Cake Upon the Waters.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Synopsis of a novel.
- Box 1      ***Careers.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A play in three separate episodes.

- Box 1      ***Colonel Pat.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Typescript story.
- Box 1      ***A Country House Idyll.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
2 versions of the story.
- Box 1      ***Déclassé.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 1      ***Did It Really Happen.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Two copies of the play, and one copy of the adaptation by Hugo Rumbold.
- Box 1      ***The Evening Star.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Two copies of suggested treatment for screenplay.
- Box 2      ***The Florist's Shop.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Typescript story.
- Box 2      ***The Food of Love.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A Screenplay.
- Box 2      ***The Toy Wife.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A Screenplay.  
  
**Note**  
[out of alpha sequence]
- Box 2      ***The Furies.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
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- Box 2      ***The Glare.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Typescript story.
- Box 2      ***The Greeks Had a Word for It.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 2      ***Green Mansions.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A treatment.
- Box 2      ***Guide Posts for Screen Writers. An interview with Zoë. Akins by Russell Bledsoe.***
- Box 2      ***Hatter's Castle.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A screenplay.
- Box 2      **Akins, Zoë, and Rumbold, Hugo. *The Human Element.* (From the short story by W. Somerset Maugham.)**  
**Physical Description:** Two versions of the play.
- Box 2      ***I Am Different. A comedy adapted from the Hungarian of Lili Hatvany.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.
- Box 2      ***I Write Good Parts.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An article.
- Box 2      ***Instead of Advice.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An article.
- Box 2      ***The Little Miracle.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 2      ***Lost and Found.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A synopsis and a play.
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- Box 2      ***Lallah.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 3      ***The Love Duel.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A synopsis and a play.
- Box 3      ***The Love Potion.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A synopsis and a play.
- Box 3      ***The Magical City.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** 3 copies.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A one-act play in free verse.
- Box 3      ***The Magnificent Mistake.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 3      ***Major Barbara.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A screen treatment, based on the play by Bernard Shaw.
- Box 3      ***Miss Hargreaves.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A treatment.
- Box 3      ***Morning Glory.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.

Box 3      ***New York Nocturne***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Note**  
(From the *Magical City*, see above).  
**Physical Description:** A play.

Box 3      ***New Year's Day.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Outline for a screenplay, based on the novel by Edith Wharton.

Box 3      ***One Night In Turino.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An article.

Box 3      ***Orchids.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.

Box 3      ***Paris In May.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.

Box 3      ***Phaëthon.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A drama in a prologue and three acts.

Box 3      ***Plans For Tomorrow.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.

Box 3      ***The Playhouse and the Playwright.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An article.

- Box 3      ***The Portrait of Tiero.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 3      ***A Preliminary Honeymoon.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Two copies of a synopsis.
- Box 3      ***Pride and Prejudice.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A screenplay, based on the novel by Jane Austen.
- Box 4      ***The Promise To Caroline.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 4      ***The Recognition.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 4      ***The Romance of Robert and Clara Schumann.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A screenplay.
- Box 4      ***A Royal Fandango.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 4      ***Sea-Change.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An outline for a play.

- Box 4      ***The Shanghai Crowd.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A synopsis of a play.
- Box 4      ***A Secret of Sienna.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 4      ***The Singing Swans.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 4      ***A Slave Is Free.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A film treatment. Two copies.
- Box 4      ***The Starling.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play, holograph, unfinished.
- Box 4      ***Starvation On Red River.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 4      ***Such a Charming Young Man.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A one-act play.
- Box 4      ***The Swallow's Nest.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A play, based on the novel *Return Engagement*, by Gwen Davenport.
- Box 4      ***The Texas Nightingale.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A treatment and a play.
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- Box 4      ***The Trojan Pony.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An outline for a play and screenplay.
- Box 4      ***The Unforgettable Red Emma.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** An article.
- Box 4      ***The Varying Shore.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** A play.
- Box 4      ***The Wild Goose Chase.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 4      ***The Woman Who Killed Her Pearls.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A story.
- Box 4      ***Working Girls.***  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
A screenplay, adapted from the play *Blind Mice*, by Vera Caspary and Winifred Lenihan.
- Box 4      **One untitled article about Irving Thalberg.**  
**Creator/Collector:** Akins, Zoë.  
**Physical Description:** Also, three unidentified pages of typescript material.