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## Finding Aid for the Rob Wagner Papers, 1925-1942

Processed by Yvonne Schroeder; machine-readable finding aid created by Alight Tsai

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections

Manuscripts Division

Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library

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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575

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URL: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/scweb/>

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## Finding Aid for the Rob Wagner Papers, 1925-1942

**Collection number: 690**

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

### Contact Information

Manuscripts Division  
UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
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Box 951575  
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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Rob Wagner Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1925-1942

**Collection number:** 690

**Creator:** Wagner, Rob, 1872-1942

**Extent:** 33 boxes (16.5 linear ft.) 2 oversize boxes

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

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Abstract:** Robert Leicester Wagner (1872-1942) was an illustrator for newspapers and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He also wrote for the *Saturday evening post*, *Collier's*, and other magazines before moving to Southern California, where he directed films for Paramount and the Hal Roach studios, and made six films with Will Rogers. In 1929, he published Rob Wagner's *Script*. The collection consists of Wagner's correspondence, manuscripts, clippings, drawings, phonograph records, a file of *Script* magazine from 1929-41, ephemera, and miscellanea.

**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.

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### Restrictions on Access

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

Box 27 is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive.

#### **Additional Physical Form Available**

A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

Public Services Division  
UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library  
Box 951575  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575  
Telephone: 310/825-4988 (10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pacific Time)  
Email: spec-coll@library.ucla.edu  
Gift of Les Wagner, 1960.  
Gift of Florence Wagner Breese, 1963.

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Rob Wagner Papers (Collection 690). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

#### **Biography**

Robert Leicester Wagner was born on August 2, 1872 in Detroit, Michigan; attended University of Michigan and studied art at the Académie Julian (1903) in Paris; became an illustrator for the *Detroit free press*, *Criterion* (New York), and the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (London); also painted portraits; wrote for the *Saturday evening post*, *Collier's*, and other magazines; moved to Southern California, where he directed films for Paramount and the Hal Roach studios, and made six films with Will Rogers; published Rob Wagner's *Script* beginning in 1929; published books include *Film folk* (1918) and *Tessie moves along* (c. 1928); he died on July 20, 1942.

#### **Scope and Content**

Collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, clippings, drawings, phonograph records, a file of *Script* magazine from 1929-41, ephemera, and miscellanea of Rob Wagner. The manuscripts are primarily stories intended for film adaptation and are from Wagner and other writers including one manuscript each by William Saroyan and Peter Bernard Kyne. Many of the covers of Wagner's *Script* are illustrated by Leo Politi. Correspondents include William Saroyan, Theodore Dreiser, Upton Sinclair, Charles Chaplin, Bette Davis, Douglas Fairbanks, Tom Mix, Randolph Scott, Gloria Swanson, Joan Crawford, Cecil B. DeMille, Walt Disney, Jean Harlow, Daryl Zanuck, Edward Everett Horton, Mary Pickford, and Spencer Tracy.

#### **Organization and Arrangement**

Arranged in the following series:

1. *Script* magazine (Boxes 1-13).
2. Correspondence (Boxes 14-18).
3. Manuscripts by Wagner (Boxes 19-22).
4. Manuscripts by others (Box 23).
5. Ephemera, miscellaneous (Box 24).
6. Articles clipped from *Script* (Box 25).
7. Original drawings by Wagner (Box 26).
8. Records of Wagner's radio program of *Script's* birthday party (Box 27).
9. Clippings and correspondence (Boxes 28-35).

#### **Indexing Terms**

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

Wagner, Rob, 1872-1942--Archives.

*Script* (Beverly Hills, Calif.).

Publishers and publishing--California, Southern--Archival resources.

Manuscripts for publication.

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Boxes 1-13

**Rob Wagner's *Script*. A file of the magazine, 1929-1941.**

Boxes 14-18

**Correspondence, 1925-1942.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Much of this correspondence is in reference to the magazine *Script* and includes letters from famous movie personalities, some of which are here listed:

Charles Chaplin

Bette Davis

Jimmy Durante

Edward Arnold

Douglas Fairbanks

Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

Tom Mix

Randolph Scott

Gloria Swanson

Herbert Marshall

Adolphe Menjou

Noah Beery

Norman Bel Geddes

Eddie Cantor

Joan Crawford

Bebe Daniels

Cecil B. DeMille

Walt Disney

Hedda Hopper

Jean Harlow

Jean Hersholt

Walter

Huston

Darryl Zanuck

Edward Everett Horton

Frederick Marsh

Kenneth Macgowan

Mary Pickford

Louella Parson

Edward G. Robinson

Sigmund Romburg

Spencer Tracy

Lawrence Tibbett

Jack Warner (tracings).

**Note**

Correspondence of movie people has added entries in catalog.

- Box 16                      **Literary figures.**  
                                    **Scope and Content Note**  
                                    Included with the correspondence is 1 folder of letters from prominent literary figures:  
                                    William Saroyan, 15 items.  
                                    Ogden Nash, 2 items.  
                                    Edgar Guest, 1 item.  
                                    Irvin S. Cobb, 4 items.  
                                    Thomas B. Costain, 7 items.  
                                    Theodore Dreiser, 2 items.  
  
                                    **Note**  
                                    All correspondence is filed alphabetically by separate items, except this folder which is in one group under  
                                    Literary figures.
- Boxes 19-22                **Manuscripts by Rob Wagner. v.p., v.d.**  
                                    **Physical Description:** Holograph and typescript (some carbon). 135 items.  
                                    **Scope and Content Note**  
                                    These manuscripts are mostly either stories intended for film adaptation or titles written for silent films.
- Box 23                      **Manuscripts by various authors. v.p., v.d.**  
                                    **Physical Description:** Holograph and typescript (some carbon).  
                                    **Scope and Content Note**  
                                    Some of the manuscripts are unidentified but most include both title and author.  
                                    With this: 1 manuscript each by William Saroyan and Peter B. Kyne.
- Box 24                      **Ephemera, miscellaneous. 1919.**  
                                    **Physical Description:** 45 items.  
                                    **Scope and Content Note**  
                                    Mostly literature referring to Robert Wagner and his magazine *Script*.  
                                    With this: 1 envelope of articles, clippings, pamphlets, correspondence etc. regarding the campaign  
                                    against censorship in movies.
- Box 17                      **Letters from, to and regarding Upton Sinclair, 1926-1939.**  
                                    **Scope and Content Note**  
                                    30 letters from Sinclair to Wagner.  
                                    6 letters from Wagner to Sinclair and 17 letters from various persons regarding Sinclair.  
                                    Also, 5 pieces of related ephemera.
- Box 27                      **Records of Rob Wagner's radio program of *Script's* birthday party.**  
                                    **Physical Description:** 11 pieces. (9 x 16 and 2 x 12 records).  
                                    **Note**  
                                    Box 27 is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive in Hollywood.
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- Box 26                    **Original drawings, sketches, layouts, illustrations, posters etc. by Rob Wagner, ca. 1892-1925.**  
                                 **Physical Description:** 61 pieces.  
                                 **Scope and Content Note**  
                                 Mostly intended for reproduction in magazines such as *Script*, *The Royal*, *Criterion*, and *Madame*.
- Box 23                    **Original drawing for Rob Wagner's *Script*, by Walt Disney. n.p., n.d.**  
                                 **Physical Description:** Ink on mat board, covered by cellophane.
- Box 25                    **Articles and editorials clipped from *Script*, and arranged chronologically. Also articles by Florence Wagner clipped from *Script*.**
- Box 28                    **Clippings - 1930s.**
- Clippings and Correspondence, v.d.**
- Box 29                    **1925, 1936-1939.**
- Box 30                    **1922, 1935-1939.**
- Box 31                    **1928, 1933.**
- Box 32                    **1923, 1918.**
- Box 33                    **1938, 1926-1928.**
- Box 34                    **1933-1934, 1915.**
- Box 35                    **1924, 1919.**