Guide to the Ervin Hanwit Tax Papers 1910-1950
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVENTORY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.EHTAX

Title Tax, Ervin Hanwit. Papers

Date 1910-1950

Size 6 linear feet (12 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Ervin Hanwit Tax (1910-1950) writer. The collection includes articles on political and sociological topics; correspondence, notably with his brother, Sol Tax, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, and Louis Wirth; and drafts of Tax's epic poem, The Wraith of Gawain.

Information on Use

Access The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Tax, Ervin Hanwit. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Ervin Hanwit Tax was born on June 14, 1910 in Milwaukee, the youngest of four children of Morris and Kate Hanwit Tax. After high school, he chose to attend only one year of college, but was a voracious reader and prolific writer of both fiction and non-fiction. Tax's writings ranged from economics to aesthetics to sociology. He authored several plays, movie scripts, and a novella as well.

Erwin Tax lived at home in Milwaukee, and with his brother, Sol Tax, in Chicago. When the United States entered World War II, Ervin Tax enlisted and served with the Army in North Africa and Italy. While abroad he composed an epic poem, The Wraith of Gawain, fragments of which he sent home in letters to his brother. Upon returning to the United States after the war, Ervin secured a publisher, the Decker Press, for his epic. The Decker Press delayed publication of Tax's poem for so long that he eventually visited the business, finding it in disarray. Tax took an interest in the press and offered his assistance; by 1948, he had invested heavily in the company,
eventually owning it. Although indebted, the Decker Press began to turn a profit. The Wraith of Gawain was published and considered a success. Ervin Hanwit Tax was killed on May 10, 1950.

**Scope Note**

The Ervin Hanwit Tax Papers comprise 6 linear feet of manuscript material. The collection includes articles on political and sociological topics; correspondence, notably with his brother, Sol Tax, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, and Louis Wirth; and drafts of Tax's epic poem, The Wraith of Gawain.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**

- Tax, Ervin H., 1910-
- Tax, Sol, 1907-
- Wirth, Louis, 1897-1952
- Authors

**INVENTORY**

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**

Correspondence, Ashcraft-Humphries
- Ashcraft, Garland
- Baldwin, Roger
- Bixler, Roy W.
- Brandt, Joseph A.
- Carner, Lucy Perkins
- Coleman, William
- Counts, George S.
- Cowley, Malcolm
- Cuningham, Charles E.
- Danielson, William G.
- Davidson, Gustav
- Decker, James A.
- DeGrazia, Alfred J., Jr.
- Edwards Brothers, Inc.
- Eggan, Fred and Dorothy
- Finnie, Andrew Gladstone
- Fitzpatrick, Edward A.
- Follows, John W.
- Geddes, Donald Porter
- Geiger, Don
- Giroux, Robert
- Hensley, Helen
- Hicks, Granville
- Hobson Book Press
- Howe, Quincy
- Humphries, Bruce, Inc.

Box 1
Folder 2
  Correspondence, Kirk-Stoll
  - Kirk, Samuel
  - A.Knopf, Alfred A.
  - Kohler, Herbert V.
  - Lamont, Corliss
  - Lerner, Max
  - Loheide-Caswell Co.
  - Loomis, Roger S.
  - Macdonald, Dwight
  - Maclean, Norman F.
  - Manning, E.
  - Marx, Harpo
  - Mantagu, M. F. Ashley
  - Newberry, C. L.
  - Nunn, C. L.
  - Oliver, George W.
  - Richter, Irma A.
  - Rugoff, Milton
  - Sharp, Malcolm P.
  - Sheppard, R. Burton
  - Stoll, E. E.

Box 1
Folder 3
  Correspondence, Tax-Thomas
  - Tax, Kate
  - Tax, Sol
  - Thomas, Norman

Box 1
Folder 4
  Correspondence, Wells-Yamin
  - Wells, Henry W.
  - Wirth, Louis
  - Yamin, Samuel
  - Unidentified

Box 1
Folder 5
  Documents relating to military service, copyrights, and patents
Box 1
Folder 6
Documents relating to inventions
Box 1
Folder 7
"Defense Strikes, Closed Shop, Common Sense," undated
Box 1
Folder 8
"It's a Small World: A Comedy," 1939?
Box 1
Folder 9
"A Liberal Manifesto: Addressed to Liberals, Socialists, and Marxists," 1939
Box 1
Folder 10
"A Liberal Manifesto: Addressed to Liberals, Socialists, and Marxists," incomplete copy (pp. 54-136), undated
Box 1
Folder 11
"A Liberal Manifesto: Addressed to Liberals, Socialists, and Marxists," draft, February 1939
Box 1
Folder 12
Articles of Association, The League for American Ideals, and draft copies, 1940
Box 1
Folder 13
"Inaugural Declaration of the League for American Ideals," 1940
Box 1
Folder 14
"Advice to the Lovelorn," 1940
Box 1
Folder 15
"Dante and Beatrice in the Big City: A Lyric Novella In American Tempo," 1940
Box 2
Folder 1
"The Lady in the Portrait," 1940
Box 2
Folder 2
"The `Missing Link' in American Foreign Policy," 1940
Box 2
Folder 3
"The Rollcall on the Reef," 1940
Box 2
Folder 4
"The First World Peace," 1941
Box 2
Folder 5
"The Wraith of Gawain," manuscript, 1944
Box 2
Folder 6
"The Wraith of Gawain," typed draft, title to IV-11
Box 2
Folder 7
"The Wraith of Gawain," typed draft, title to IV-11
Box 2
Folder 8
The Esthetic Spectrum, manuscript notes and citation search
Box 3
Folder 1
The Esthetic Spectrum, manuscript notes and citation search
Box 3
Folder 2
The Esthetic Spectrum, manuscript notes and citation search
Box 3
Folder 3
The Esthetic Spectrum, manuscript notes and citation search
Box 3
Folder 4
The Esthetic Spectrum, manuscript notes and citation search
Box 3
Folder 5
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft one incomplete
Box 3
Folder 6
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Box 3
Folder 7
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Box 3
Folder 8
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Box 3
Folder 9
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Box 3
Folder 10
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Box 4
Folder 1
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Box 4
Folder 2
The Esthetic Spectrum, draft two
Folder 9  
The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon
Box 6
Folder 10  
The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon
Box 6
Folder 11  
The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon
Box 7
Folder 1  
The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon
Box 7
Folder 2  
The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon
Box 7
Folder 3  
Descriptive Prospectus, "Theory of Monadism and Universal Mechanics," undated
Box 7
Folder 4  
"A Platform for Progressives," 1945
Box 7
Folder 5  
"A Private’s Prescription for Permanent Peace," undated, 5 copies
Box 7
Folder 6  
"A Private’s Prescription for Permanent Peace," undated, 5 copies
Box 7
Folder 7  
"A Private’s Prescription for Permanent Peace," undated, 5 copies
Box 7
Folder 8  
"A Private’s Prescription for Permanent Peace," undated, 5 copies
Box 7
Folder 9  
"A Private’s Prescription for Permanent Peace," undated, 5 copies
Box 7
Folder 10  
Box 7
Folder 11  
"The Burning of Njal's House," 1946
Box 8
Folder 1  
"The Ten Errors of Marxism," 1946
Box 8
Folder 2
"Eleven Errors On The Left: A Liberal Manifesto," early corrected draft, 1946
Box 8
Folder 3
"Eleven Errors On The Left: A Liberal Manifesto," galleys
Box 8
Folder 4
"Mr. Columbia's Dream: The Vision of Joe Columbia," 1946
Box 8
Folder 5
Burton Page, "The Decker Press"
Box 8
Folder 6
The Wraith of Gawain, typescript
Box 8
Folder 7
The Wraith of Gawain, typescript
Box 8
Folder 8
The Wraith of Gawain, typescript
Box 9
Folder 1
The Esthetic Spectrum, notes on sources and footnotes, typed cards
Box 10
Folder 1
The Esthetic Spectrum, notes on sources and footnotes, manuscript cards
Box 11
Folder 1
The Esthetic Spectrum, microfilm of text, 3 reels
Box 11
Folder 2
The Wraith of Gawain, microfilm, 1 reel
Box 11
Folder 3
Scale models of inventions
Box 12
Folder 1
The Wraith of Gawain (Prairie City, Illinois: James Decker, 1948), inscribed by the author to Louis Wirth
Box 12
Folder 2
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, inscribed by Ervin Tax
Box 12
Folder 3
The English Poems of John Milton, inscribed by Archie Tax