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Guide to the Ervin Hanwit Tax Papers 1910-1950



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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.

Ervin 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
- Cuninghame, 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

Box 4

Folder 3

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript one

Box 4

Folder 4

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript one

Box 4

Folder 5

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript one

Box 5

Folder 1

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript one

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The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript one

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The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two

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Folder 4

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two

Box 6

Folder 1

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two

Box 6

Folder 2

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two

Box 6

Folder 3

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two

Box 6

Folder 4

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon

Box 6

Folder 5

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon

Box 6

Folder 6

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon

Box 6

Folder 7

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon

Box 6

Folder 8

The Esthetic Spectrum, typescript two, carbon

Box 6

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

"The Baggage: A Comedy in Two Acts," 1945

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