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**Descriptive Summary**

**Identifier**
ICU.SPCL.WACHS

**Title**
Wachs, Dr. Gerald N. Collection of Tom Stoppard

**Date**
1967-2013

**Size**
7 linear feet (11 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

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

**Abstract**
The Dr. Gerald N. Wachs Collection contains materials relating to the production of Tom Stoppard’s plays on stage and screen – including advertising, playbills, reviews, and ephemera – and cards, letters, and photographs signed by Stoppard. Of particular note are drafts and working copies of scripts and screenplays, and first run programs. Also included are materials which were used in the preparation of Gerald Wachs’ Tom Stoppard bibliography, published by Oak Knoll Press in 2010 as Tom Stoppard: A Bibliographical History.

**Information on Use**

**Access**
The collection is open for research.

**Citation**
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Wachs, Dr. Gerald N. Collection of Tom Stoppard, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

**Biographical Note**
Gerald N. Wachs, M.D. (1937-2013) was a doctor and dermatologist from Millburn, New Jersey. He worked for Schering Pharmaceuticals for twenty years, before founding and running a dermatology and cosmetic surgery practice in Summit, New Jersey.

His civic commitments and intellectual interests were both broad and deep: Wachs served on the Millburn Board of Education for seven years and was the president of the township’s Board of Health, he was a Life Master in bridge, and a member of the Society for American Baseball Research. Wachs had an intense interest in the humanities. In his retirement he collected books and manuscripts relating to 19th century English poetry.
In 2007, Wachs began a personal correspondence with Tom Stoppard and acquired the playwright’s signature on many editions of his books, screenplays, and ephemera from his plays. Many books and other materials in Wachs’ collection were rare enough that Stoppard said he did not own them himself. In 2012 he co-published a standard bibliography on Stoppard with William Baker. Wachs died on November 8, 2013, in New York, at age 76.

Tom Stoppard was born Tomás Straüssler on 3 July 1937 in Zlín, Czechoslovakia. He spent his early childhood in Singapore and India, before moving to England in 1946 with his mother and stepfather. Educated in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, he became a journalist for the Western Daily Press (1954-1958) and the Bristol Evening World (1958-1960). In 1962 he became a theatre critic for Scene magazine in London. He began writing plays for radio and television in the early 1960s.

His first big success came when Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1966. The play came to the attention of Kenneth Tynan, then working for the National Theatre, and it was produced at the National in 1967 and on Broadway in 1967, winning a Tony Award for Best Play (USA) in 1968.

He has written prolifically for television, radio, film and stage, finding prominence with plays such as Arcadia, The Coast of Utopia, Every Good Boy Deserves Favour, Professional Foul, and The Real Thing. He co-wrote the screenplays for Brazil, The Russia House, and Shakespeare in Love, and has received one Academy Award and four Tony Awards. Themes of human rights, censorship and political freedom pervade his work along with exploration of linguistics and philosophy. He spoke out on behalf of Czech dissidents, supporting the playwright Vaclav Havel when he was charged with subversion. Professional Foul (1978) was written for Amnesty International’s Prisoner of Conscience Year in 1977.

Scope Note

The Dr. Gerald N. Wachs Collection of Tom Stoppard is organized into six series:

Series I, Correspondence, contains a small collection of correspondence. This includes correspondence between Wachs and Stoppard, cards and letters signed by Stoppard, and correspondence between Wachs and the bookseller Charles Seluzicki. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Series III, Plays, Films, and Radio Productions, contains materials relating to the production of Stoppard plays. This includes playbills and programs, scripts, screenplays, reviews, press releases and ephemera from productions, such as pins and tickets. Most of the reviews are web printouts from productions after 2007, but many of the playbills and programs are from earlier productions. Researchers should refer to Series VI for production posters and some oversized newspaper reviews. Materials span 1967-2013 and are arranged alphabetically by play title.

Series IV, Other Writings, contains non theatrical writing by Stoppard, articles about Stoppard and his plays, interviews, and materials relating to Stoppard’s involvement in the production of two texts - an anthology of A.C.H. Smith’s poetry, and a Writers Guild Foundation publication on comedy. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Series V, Photographs, contains publicity photographs and headshots for productions of Stoppard’s plays, as well as photographs of Tom Stoppard. Some photographs in this series are signed by Stoppard or cast members. Materials are arranged alphabetically by play title, with photographs of Stoppard at the end of the series.

Series VI, Oversize contains theatrical and film posters, two LP covers, a signed sketch by Stoppard, and a selection of play reviews. Materials are arranged alphabetically by play title, where possible.

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

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

Playbill and Program Collection

Gerald N. Wachs Collection of Nineteenth Century English Poetry

Subject Headings
• Stoppard, Tom
• Stoppard, Tom--Bibliography
• Stoppard, Tom--Interviews
• Stoppard, Tom--Criticism and interpretation
• Wachs, Gerald N
• Playbills
• Theatre & performance play texts

INVENTORY

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  The Human Factor - Film production notes and players list, MGM, 1979
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Shakespeare in Love – Screenplay, red cover, Miramax Films, signed by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, 1998

Shakespeare In Love – "Written By" Review, March, 1999

Sleepy Hollow – Screenplay, signed by four principal actors, 1999

Stoppard Goes Electric - Playbills and Programs, 2007


Stoppard Goes Electric – Script Photocopies, 2007

Travesties – Playbills and Programs, 1974-2005

Travesties – Reviews, 2008

Undiscovered Country – Playbills and Programs, 1979-1981

Series IV: Other Writings

Articles about Tom Stoppard, 1979-2010

Paradise and Purgatory – Manuscript Draft, March 18, 1981

Laughter is the Best Medicine – Correspondence and Drafts, Writers Guild Foundation, 2003

Interviews with Tom Stoppard, 2007-2009, undated
A.C.H. Smith Poetry Anthology - Correspondence - Stoppard to Anthony Astbury (Grenville Press), April-August 2009

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