

Tom Burnam papers, 1947-1975

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Brandt & Brandt.Burnam, Tom
Title	Tom Burnam papers
Dates	1947-1975 (inclusive) 1947 1975
Quantity	16.5 linear feet, (11 containers)
Collection Number	Ax 811
Summary	A professor of English at Portland State University, Tom Burnam is probably best known as the author of <i>The Dictionary of Misinformation</i> (1975) and its sequel, <i>More Misinformation</i> (1981). The collection contains Burnam's personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, and miscellaneous documents.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
Additional Reference Guides	Paper finding aid with additional information is available in Special Collections & University Archives.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for production of this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Historical Note

A professor of English at Portland State University, Tom Burnam is probably best known as the author of *The Dictionary of Misinformation*(1975).

Content Description

The collection contains Burnam's personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, and miscellaneous documents. Many of these materials are interfiled in eleven boxes of unarranged materials acquired subsequent to the initial accession.

Correspondence from the initial accession is divided into outgoing and incoming letters. There are outgoing letters from 1948-1975, and a separate section of outgoing letters to Burnam's agents, Brandt & Brandt, dated 1957-1970.

There is also a section of incoming correspondence from Brandt & Brandt, 1957-1970, as well as 234 "miscellaneous" incoming letters.

Major correspondents include Anne Elmo at the AFG Literary Agency, Paul Carter at *Colorado Quarterly*, Katherine Jackson at *Harper's Magazine*, Richard Welna at Scott, Foresman, and Compan.

There are also numerous folders of unsorted correspondence in the later accessions, including a file of correspondence with Andy Rooney, numerous files of correspondence with Robert Crowell of Thomas Y. Crowell Publishers, and many letters providing suggestions and corrections for Burnam's misinformation dictionaries.

Manuscripts include full-length books, short stories, poetry, articles, reviews, and lectures. Book length manuscripts include *The Dictionary of Misinformation*, *More Misinformation*, *The Coach*, *Just Call Me Horace*, *What is English*, *The Troublemaker*, *A Day in the Life of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Brumberger*, *The Party*, *Be Thou Me*, and *The Chinese Question*. There are also copies of Burnam's revision of *Hamlet* for a "twentieth century audience".

Miscellaneous documents include magazine rejection slips and notes, tearsheets, newspaper clippings, and research notes, primarily for the Dictionary of Misinformation and its sequel.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Tom Burnam papers, Ax 811, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Restrictions on Use

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Materials within this collection are arranged first by initial accession(s) that were processed together as a whole and then by subsequent accession(s). This organization reflects the fact that the collection had been processed at one point in time and then more materials were acquired in increments over time. This organization is also based on the decision not to merge the various accessions and organize them into a whole at this point in time, given the fact that future accruals are anticipated and/or that this organization is deemed sufficient for access.

Researchers should note that materials within a series or accession may overlap and/or relate to materials found in other accessions or initially processed materials. For example, correspondence may be found in all or only some groupings. In order to locate all relevant material within this collection, researchers may need to consult each accession.

Researchers should also note that similar materials can be arranged differently in each accession, depending on how the material is organized upon receipt or during initial processing. For instance, correspondence in one accession may be arranged alphabetically, while correspondence in another accession is arranged chronologically. Material within this collection may have little to no intellectual or physical arrangement. Any arrangement may have derived from the records' creators or custodians. It may be necessary to look in multiple places for the same types of materials.

Material from the initial accession is organized into the following series: Correspondence, Manuscripts, and Miscellaneous.

Material from the later accessions may have little to no intellectual or physical arrangement. Any arrangement may have derived from the records' creators or custodians. It may be necessary to look in multiple places for the same types of materials.

Processing Note

Collection processed by staff.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

American literature--Authorship
Authors, American--20th century
Authors, American--Oregon

Personal Names :

Burnam, Tom
Burnam, Tom--Correspondence

Corporate Names :

Brandt & Brandt--Records and correspondence.

Form or Genre Terms :

Tom Burnam papers, 1947-1975

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv12564>

Correspondence
Manuscripts for publication

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