

Struckman Family Papers, 1925-1978

Overview of the Collection

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Creator | Struckman family |
| Title | Struckman Family Papers |
| Dates | 1925-1978 (inclusive) 1925 1978 |
| Quantity | 1.5 linear feet, (3 boxes and 1 oversize box) |
| Collection Number | Mss 119 |
| Summary | Robert Struckman was a writer and University of Montana journalism professor. This collection contains the personal and professional papers of Robert Struckman, materials his wife collected after his death, and a biography that his son, Daniel Struckman, wrote about him. |
| Repository | University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections Archives and Special Collections Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library University of Montana 32 Campus Dr. #9936 59812-9936 Missoula, MT Telephone: 406-243-2053 Fax: 406-243-4067 library.archives@umontana.edu |
| Access Restrictions | Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of Archives and Special Collections, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and The University of Montana--Missoula. |
| Languages | English |
| Sponsor | Funding for creating this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. |

Biographical Note

Robert Powers Struckman was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 28, 1906. In 1911, he moved with his family to Billings, Montana. In 1913, his family move to a ranch near Big Timber where he completed high school. He received a B.A. in Journalism in 1933 and an M.A. in 1947 from the University of Montana (then known as Montana State University). After completing his B.A., he traveled extensively throughout the United States, working at a variety of jobs and establishing his reputation as a freelance writer. He married Helen Bonde in 1935 and they had four children: Carol Ellen (born 1939), Thomas Tod (1943-1997), Daniel Robert (born 1949), Steven Carl (born 1951, died shortly after birth). Helen was born October 22, 1912. After his marriage, he taught English and journalism at Great Falls High School and taught English at White Sulphur Springs, Montana. He continued to

write, but at a decreased pace. He wrote for the *Great Falls Leader*. In 1941, he became editor of the *Montana Farmer*. In 1946, he began teaching journalism at the University of Montana, where he taught courses in magazine writing, trade and technical publications, public relations, law, and the high school newspaper. He was director of the Montana Interscholastic Education Association, which served high school newspapers, his entire time at the University. He also helped the university address its post-World War II housing shortage when he spearheaded the Fort Missoula Faculty Housing Association, and sang in the Mendelssohn Club.

He wrote over eighty short stories and two novels; not all were published. He also wrote reviews and articles for many newspapers and popular magazines, including *Esquire* and *Fiction Parade*. For a time, he was editor of the *Montana Farmer*. He died September 6, 1953. Mrs. Struckman died in August 1976.

In 1978, while a student at the University of Montana, Struckman's son Daniel Robert Struckman wrote a biography of his father for his Journalism senior seminar.

Content Description

This collection contains the personal and professional papers of Robert Struckman, materials his wife collected after his death, and a biography that his son, Daniel Struckman, wrote about him. It includes personal materials, correspondence, writings, clippings, and materials gathered by his wife and son. Included in the correspondence are numerous exchanges with a New York artist, George S. Snyder, who collected Struckman's letters and returned them after Robert's death. Snyder was a student at MSU with Struckman. The writings include manuscripts of his short stories and a detailed record of where they were sent, editorial comments received, and whether they were published. The biography of Struckman includes a complete bibliography of his works.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. and any other applicable statutes. Copyright not transferred to The University of Montana.

Preferred Citation

[Name of document or photograph number], Struckman Family Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series:

Series I: Personal, 0.25 linear feet, 1925-1953

Series II: Correspondence, 0.25 linear feet, 1931-1953

Series III: Writings, 0.75 linear feet, 1930-1933

Series IV: Clippings, 0.25 linear feet, 1931-1937

Series V: Helen Struckman, 2 folders and oversize, 1934-1957

Series VI: Daniel R. Struckman, 3 folders, 1978

Custodial History

The papers remained in the possession of the Struckman family until donation to the Archives. Struckman's son, Daniel, used the papers to write a biography of his father, and is largely responsible for the arrangement of the papers.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Daniel Struckman, 1984.

Processing Note

The original processor arranged the collection, separated photographs to the Archives photograph collection, and produced a finding aid that named the collection the Robert Tod Struckman Manuscripts. In 2004, the collection was arranged to accurately reflect the presence of Helen's and Daniel's materials, and a new finding aid was produced and encoded.

Separated Materials

During original processing, one book, *Our Fort Benton: the Birthplace of Montana*, was transferred to the Library's general book collection. During original processing, twenty-six personal, family, and vacation photographs were transferred to the photograph collection. They could not be located during 2004 reprocessing.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Personal, 1925-1953

0.25 linear feet

This series contains personal and biographical materials. These include a diary from Struckman's college days with some brief entries, his college diplomas, membership cards, metal signature stamps, and artwork and humor that he collected or was given (some of this may have originally been attached to correspondence).

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 1/1 | Diary | 1928-1930 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| 1/2 | Montana State University (University of Montana) student handbook | 1925 |
| 1/3 | Sigma Phi Epsilon | 1926-1929 |
| 1/4 | B.A. diploma | 1933 |
| 1/5 | M.A. diploma | 1947 |
| 1/6 | Sigma Delta Chi certificate | undated |
| 1/7 | Musical programs | 1928-1953 |
| 1/8 | Membership cards | 1926 and undated |
| 1/9 | Artwork and humor | undated |
| 1/10 | Signataure stamps | undated |

Series II: Correspondence, 1931-1953

0.25 linear feet

This series contains personal and professional correspondence. Professional correspondence is largely with editors as Struckman worked to publish his short stories. Other professional correspondence is with colleagues at the University of Montana. Personal correspondence is largely with his longtime friend George S. Snyder, and includes Struckman's letters to and from Snyder. Other letters are from Harry W. Fritz during Fritz's years at Dartmouth College.

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 1/11 | | 1931 and earlier |
| 1/12 | | 1932 |
| 1/13 | | 1933 |
| 1/14 | | 1934 |
| 1/15 | | 1935 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1/16 | | 1936-1946 |
| 1/17 | | 1947-1949 |
| 2/1 | | 1950-1953 |
| 4OS/1 | | 1935-1947 |

Series II: Writings, 1930-1933

0.75 linear feet

This series contains manuscripts for Struckman's short stories and articles. The manuscript record at the beginning of the series provides a detailed record of their length, where they were sent, editorial reaction, and whether they were published. The manuscripts are undated.

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 2/2 | Manuscript record | 1930-1933 |
| 2/3 | "Angel Feather" | undated |
| 2/4 | "The Angry Girl" | undated |
| 2/5 | "The Battle-Axe" | undated |
| 2/6 | "Battle Weather" | undated |
| 2/7 | "The Cat" | undated |
| 2/8 | "The Children's Crusade" | undated |
| 2/9 | "Eye" | undated |
| 2/10 | "The Favorite Professor" | undated |
| 2/11 | "Good Hay" | undated |
| 2/12 | "The Hyena Laughed" | undated |
| 2/13 | The Island Dwellers" | undated |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 2/14 | "The Long Twilight" | undated |
| 2/15 | "The Man Who Rode Home Drunk" | undated |
| 2/16 | "Mo: Neuter" | undated |
| 2/17 | "Mountain Tunnel" | undated |
| 2/18 | "The Orchard" | undated |
| 2/19 | "A Place in the Sun" | undated |
| 2/20 | "Mrs. Plummer" | undated |
| 2/21 | "Nervous Hero" | undated |
| 2/22 | "The Picnic Tweeds" | undated |
| 2/23 | "The Quiet Man" | undated |
| 2/24 | "Reasonable Doubt" | undated |
| 2/25 | "Religion of a Schoolboy" | undated |
| 2/26 | "Return by Night" | undated |
| 2/27 | "Room Mate" | undated |
| 2/28 | "Scherzo" | undated |
| 2/29 | "Sixteen Pounds of Gold Dust" | undated |
| 2/30 | "Solitaire" | undated |
| 2/31 | "The Son who was Satan" | undated |
| 2/32 | "Spartan" | undated |
| 2/33 | "Spring Fever" | undated |
| 2/34 | "Stand-Up-Straight-Girl" | undated |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 2/35 | "Strength" | undated |
| 2/36 | "Strife" | undated |
| 2/37 | "Sunrise" | undated |
| 2/38 | "A Surplice for the Father" | undated |
| 3/1 | "Symphony" | undated |
| 3/2 | "The Train" | undated |
| 3/3 | "Triple Trouble" | undated |
| 3/4 | "The Unpleasant Young Man" | undated |
| 3/5 | "The Unspeakable Stenkins" | undated |
| 3/6 | "The Waltzing Mice" | undated |
| 3/7 | "When God Moved a Mountain" | undated |
| 3/8 | [untitled or incomplete works] | undated |
| 3/9 | "The Sources of Onson Chrt" [sic] | undated |

Series IV: Clippings, 1931-1937

0.25 linear feet

This series contains magazines in which Struckman's short stories appeared. Most are *The Household Magazine*.

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------|---|-------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 3/10 | "Act of Faith," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1934 |
| 3/11 | "The Black Man, the White Man, and the Orphan," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1940 |
| 3/12 | "Earthbound Rock," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1934 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 3/13 | "A Girl Would be Free," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1933 |
| 3/14 | "The Hunter, " <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1931 |
| 3/15 | "Night of the Pig," <i>Esquire</i> | 1935 |
| 3/16 | "Something Extra for Midnight," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1936 |
| 3/17 | "The Storm," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1932 |
| 3/18 | "Tantrum," <i>The Little Magazine</i> | 1933-1934 |
| 3/19 | "Things Do Happen," <i>The Household Magazine</i> | 1937 |
| 3/20 | [Reviews and miscellaneous clippings] | undated |

Series V: Helen B. Struckman, 1934-1957

2 folders and oversize

This series contains material collected by Helen B. Struckman during Mr. Struckman's life and after his death. It includes condolence and other correspondence, including some from George Snyder, and music programs, her 1953 Missoula County teaching certificate, and the Struckman's wedding announcement.

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 3/21 | Correspondence | 1953-1957 |
| 4OS/2 | Correspondence | 1954-1955 |
| 3/22 | Programs | 1934-1954 |

Series VI: Daniel Struckman, 1978

3 folders

This series contains materials related to Daniel Struckman's 1978 biography of Robert Struckman. He compiled not only the biography, but transcribed the 1928 diary and produced a complete bibliography of his father's work.

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|---|------------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 3/23 | Notecards | [ca. 1978] |
| 3/24 | Struckman bibliography | [ca. 1978] |
| 3/25 | "A Biography of Robert Powers Struckman, 1906-1953" | 1978 |

Names and Subjects

Personal Names :

Snyder, George S.--Correspondence
(creator)

Struckman, Robert Powers, 1906-1953
(creator)

Struckman, Robert Powers, 1906-1953--Bibliography
(creator)

Corporate Names :

University of Montana--Missoula--Alumni and alumnae

University of Montana--Missoula--Faculty

Form or Genre Terms :

Family papers--Montana--Missoula

Short stories

Occupations :

Authors, American--Montana--Missoula

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Struckman, Daniel Robert, 1949-
(creator)

Struckman, Helen Bonde, 1912-1976
(creator)

Struckman, Robert Powers, 1906-1953
(creator)

Finding aid prepared by Jodi Allison-Bunnell
2004



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License:
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Creative Commons Licenses in Archives West:
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-attr.shtml>

Struckman Family Papers, 1925-1978
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv38307>