

Guide to the Papers of Gerald Breckenridge



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Written By:

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Collection Summary

Creator: Gerald (Jerry) Breckenridge
 Title: Gerald Breckenridge Papers
 Dates: 1936-1940
 Quantity: 1 box; 0.35 Cubic feet
 Identification: 88/5
 Contact Information: AUM Library
 Archives & Special Collections
 P.O. Box 244023
 Montgomery, AL 36124-4023
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Gerald Breckenridge Papers, Auburn University at Montgomery Library, Archives & Special Collections.

Acquisition Information: The Gerald Breckenridge Papers were originally part of the Lella Warren collection, donated to the University and transferred to the Library on October 10, 1988. Date completed: Jan 26, 1990.

Processing Information: Paul Maier Student Assistant (1990) Jason Kneip, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian (2005); Jimmy Kanz, Student Assistant (2005).

Restrictions

- Restrictions on access: There are no restrictions on access to these papers.
- Restrictions on usage: Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.
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Index Terms

The material is indexed under the following headings in the Auburn University at Montgomery's Library catalogs – online and offline. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Persons

Breckenridge, Gerald, 1889-1964 Manuscripts
Matson, Harold Correspondence
Warren, Lella Correspondence

Biographical Information

Gerald Breckenridge (c. 1889-1964) was a writer of some minor success. He began his writing career as a reporter with the Kansas City Star. His work as a reporter took him to papers in New York City, Buffalo, New York, and New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1916, Breckenridge joined the New York Telegram, where he originated the "Inquiring Reporter" series, a man-on-the-street interview format for the paper. He later became City Editor for the Telegram.

In the early 1930's, according to his obituary in the New York Times, Breckenridge joined R.K.O. Studios as publicist; he remained there until the

end of World War II. Apparently Breckenridge's assignments did not require his presence full time in Hollywood.

Breckenridge married writer Lella Warren in January of 1936. It was during their marriage that Breckenridge worked in New Orleans. The marriage served as the basis for Warren's short story, "Pay Day." Following their marriage and before moving to New Orleans, the Breckenridges lived in Clayton, Alabama, while Warren worked on her novel *Foundation Stone*.

While Breckenridge was credited for his assistance in Warren's novel, the strain of two writers in the family was too great. The marriage ended in divorce in 1940. Following the divorce from Warren, Breckenridge married Helen Marshal of New Orleans. In 1945 Gerald and Helen Breckenridge established residency in Virginia. Gerald Breckenridge died in Richmond, Virginia August 5, 1964.

Scope and Contents

The materials available in this collection consists of correspondence, drafts of books and short stories, a compilation of short stories edited by Breckenridge, and publicity information about his books, *Brief Kingdom* and *Besieged*.

The collection lacks significant information pertaining to Breckenridge's career as a newspaper man, his relations with Lella Warren, or his other writing activities. Breckenridge authored nine stories of *The Radio Boy* series, written in the early 1920s. Also, no information is provided relating to Breckenridge's career with R.K.O. Studios.

Among the more interesting items within the collection are the book and short story drafts. Portions of the drafts appear to have been written in the fictional/biography style utilized by Lella Warren. There is insufficient information available to determine the influence of these two writers upon one another.

Arrangement

The material is arranged into the following series.

SERIES I. Correspondence, 1936-1940.

Folders: 1-22. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

The series contains correspondence between Gerald Breckenridge, his family, publishers, newspapers, magazines, and fans. The majority of the individual correspondence is dated 1936.

SERIES II. Breckenridge Publications.

Folders: 23-34.

Sub series A. Book drafts.

Folders: 23-26. Arranged alphabetically by book title.

The series contains a photocopy of the first (1st) edition of *The Besieged* (Doubleday, Doran, & Co., 1937.). Also included are two corrected carbon copies of *Brief Kingdom* and an earlier, typed version of the same book entitled *One More Onslaught*. Breckenridge Publicity, folder twenty-seven (27), contains photocopies of a newspaper clipping and notes. The Author's Workshop Proof is a compilation of short works edited by Breckenridge.

Sub series B. Short story drafts. Folders: 27-32.

Succeeding the folder, *Unfinished Stories - Breckenridge*, the completed short works are arranged alphabetically by story title.

The series contains two typed unfinished works, "Tour De Force" and "'Short Short Story;" both unfinished pieces contain corrections in pencil. The draft of "Short Short Story" contains two apparent titles, *I Wish I Didn't Write* and *The Cursed Word*, which have been over struck. Typed or carbon copy manuscripts comprise the majority of completed short stories. Also included is a September - October edition of Story, a paper back compilation of novella containing Breckenridge's "Young Mr. Cinderella."

Inventory

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Alabama Writers' Conclave (Correspondence)
	2	Becker, Charlotte (Correspondence)
	3	Bolwell, Robert (Correspondence)
	4	Breckenridge, Elizabeth and Pat (Correspondence)
	5	Buffalo Times (Correspondence)
	6	Doubleday, Doran and Co. (Correspondence)
	7	Gingrich, Arnold (Esquire Magazine)
	8	Jarrell, Sam (Chicago Daily Tribune)
	9	Matson, Harold
	10	New York Times Book Review
	11	New York World Telegram
	12	North Shore Daily Journal
	13	P--- , Polly
	14	Pittsburgh Press
	15	Ponsella, Carmela
	16	Rascoe, Burton
	17	Saturday Evening Post
	18	Sorrells, John (Scripps-Howard Newspaper)
	19	Warren, Lella (Western Union; outgoing)
	20	Washington Merry-Go-Round
	21	Williams, Martha Crawford
	22	Winn, Lucy
	23	<u>The Besieged</u> (Book drafts)
	24	<u>Brief Kingdom</u> ms with Agent's Correction---Not exactly as published
	25	<u>Brief Kingdom</u> ms with 2 (two] Corrections by Breckenridge
	26	One More Onslaught---Early Version of <u>Brief Kingdom</u>
	27	Author's Workshop Proof Book
	28	Breckenridge Publicity
	29	Consummation in Rhetoric (Short story drafts)
	30	Night and Day
	31	The Passionel
	32	Unfinished Stories – Breckenridge
	33	Young Mr. Cinderella
	34	The Young Rebel's Rebuttal