



Guide to the Walter B. Gibson Papers, 1943-1980

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Walter B. Gibson papers, 1943-1980

Creator:

Gibson, Walter B. (Walter Brown), 1897-1985

Abstract:

Walter B. Gibson (1897-1985) was a professional magician and author, who often wrote under the name Maxwell Grant, and is credited with defining and popularizing the pulp hero, The Shadow. The collection includes: Two Shadow story outlines, one from 1943 and another from 1980, which was Gibson's last Shadow story; 97 radio scripts from Strange, a seemingly lost 15-minute program that Gibson hosted in 1955; an unproduced television proposal, Mike Regan, Confidential Investigator, circa the mid 1950s; and two bookplates featuring a black and white image of The Shadow.

Extent:

0.6 Linear Feet
450 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00448

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/gibsonwalter/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Walter B. Gibson Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection includes: Two Shadow story outlines, one from 1943 and another from 1980, which was Gibson's last Shadow story; 97 radio scripts from Strange, a seemingly lost 15-minute program that Gibson hosted in 1955; an unproduced television proposal, Mike Regan, Confidential Investigator, circa the mid 1950s; and two bookplates featuring a black and white image of The Shadow.

Biographical/Historical

Walter B. Gibson (1897-1985) was a professional magician and author, who often wrote under the name Maxwell Grant, and is credited with defining and popularizing the pulp hero, The Shadow. The character started as the narrator for the radio show, Detective Story Hour, but became so popular that he inspired his own magazine. Gibson was hired to write the pulp which he did with staggering frequency, producing 282 of the 325 Shadow pulp novels, starting with the character's debut in 1931 and ending in the late 1940s. Years later Gibson published three final Shadow novels, including what would be his last story, The Blackmail Bay, in 1980. Gibson wrote for a wide variety of publications and other mediums including television and film, but often as a ghost writer. Today he is primarily know for The Shadow, which spawned numerous imitators, Batman being the most notable.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition Information

The Walter B. Gibson Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, February 2011

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, February 2011

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Names and Subjects

- Mass media -- History -- 20th century
- Radio scripts
- Television -- Proposals
- Radio broadcasting -- United States -- History
- Outlines (documents)
- Shadow (Fictitious character)

- Gibson, Walter B. (Walter Brown), 1897-1985
- Gibson, Walter B. (Walter Brown), 1897-1985
- Grant, Maxwell, 1897-1985

Collection Inventory

Scripts and Story Outlines, 1943-1980

Physical Description: 1 box

Outline for The Shadow Magazine: The Muggers Murders, November 1943	Box 1
Outline for The Shadow Magazine: Blackmail Bay, 1980	Box 1
Television proposal: Mike Regan, Confidential Investigator, undated	Box 1
Strange radio show scripts, 1955	
Episodes 1-15, 1955 May 31-1955 June 21	Box 1
Episodes 16-30, 1955 June 22-1955 July 12	Box 1
Episodes 31-45, 1955 July 18-1955 August 2	Box 1
Episodes 46-60, 1955 August 3-1955 August 23	Box 1
Episodes 61-75, 1955 August 24-1955 September 13	Box 1
Episodes 76-88, 1955 September 14-1955 October 6	Box 1
Episodes 89-97, 1955 October 7-1955 October 25	Box 1

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