

MS-124

SUZANNE CLAUSER PAPERS

Special Collections and Archives

Wright State University Libraries

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INTRODUCTION

Writer Suzanne Clauser donated her papers to the Wright State University Special Collections and Archives in May of 1981 and made two later additions. The collection dates from 1961 through 1993. It is arranged into 6 series as follows:

Series 1: Early Work

Series 2: BONANZA Material

Series 3: A GIRL NAMED SOONER, Novel and Screenplay

Series 4: Television Screenplays

Subseries 1: PIONEER WOMAN

Subseries 2: THE FAMILY NOBODY WANTED

Subseries 3: GRANDPA & FRANK

Subseries 4: LITTLE WOMEN

Subseries 5: THE PRIDE OF JESSE HALLAM

Subseries 6: TOPAZ

Subseries 7: EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subseries 8: 24 McFALL

Subseries 9: HARPER'S FERRY

Subseries 10: SUZANNAH AND EM

Subseries 11: FIRST DO NO HARM

Subseries 12: "RI"

Subseries 13: CHILDREN OF AN LAC

Subseries 14: AN UNMARRIED MAN

Subseries 15: COUNTRY ROADS, "LUCILLE"

Subseries 16: CALAMITY JANE: HER OWN STORY

Subseries 17: THE SOONG SISTERS

Subseries 18: HAPPY ENDING

Subseries 19: CHRISTMAS SNOW

Subseries 20: FROM VIETNAM WITH LOVE

Subseries 21: HEAVEN AND HELL

Subseries 22: DANIELLE STEEL'S MESSAGE FROM 'NAM

Series 5: General Correspondence

Series 6: Miscellaneous Material

Written permission from Mrs. Clauser is required for any publication or quotation from the material in this collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Suzanne Phillips Clauser was born in 1929 and grew up in a suburb near New York City. She attended Indiana University and was graduated in 1951 with a degree in American and British literature. In the same year, she married Charles Clauser, a graduate student finishing a Ph.D. in physical anthropology. In 1954 her husband was awarded a Fulbright Grant and the Clausers spent ten months in Burma and Rangoon. Eventually, the Clausers settled in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and in the early 1960's, Mrs. Clauser drew on her Asian experiences for her first successful writing effort, a travel reminiscence of India published in Blackwood's, a British literary journal.

After being published in Blackwood's, Mrs. Clauser began to write scripts for the BONANZA television series. Rod Serling, who came to Yellow Springs to teach a writing course at his Alma Mater, Antioch College, helped her sell her first script to BONANZA in 1964. During the next eight years, she supplied BONANZA with material regularly. By the time the series ceased production in 1972, BONANZA had accepted 13 Clauser scripts and produced 11.

Her first novel, A GIRL NAMED SOONER, was published by Doubleday and Company in 1972. It was well received and Mrs. Clauser was soon at work on its adaptation to a full-length television movie. SOONER was shot on location in a small Southern Indiana town and aired in June of 1975. It received very high ratings as well as endorsements from the National Educational Association and the National Council of Churches.

Mrs. Clauser has written several highly regarded, full-length plays including PIONEER WOMAN (1974), THE FAMILY NOBODY WANTED (1974), GRANDPA AND FRANK (1977), a four-hour adaptation of Alcott's LITTLE WOMEN (1978), and THE PRIDE OF JESSE HALLAM (1981), a story about adult functional illiterates which won an award for the best original television play for 1981. Clausen's CHRISTMAS SNOW aired in December of 1986 and was named best children's program at the 1987 Golden Gate Awards.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers within the Suzanne Clauser collection fall into six series or record groupings. The arrangement within the files is chronological.

Series I contains handwritten and typed drafts, correspondence and final published copies of two of Mrs. Clauser's early pieces, "The Green Key," a short story, and "Indian Ghosts," a travel reminiscence. Also included, are several drafts of an unpublished short story, "The Gift." Dates for this series are 1961-1962.

The BONANZA material in **Series II** covers the years 1962-1972 and contains correspondence and drafts for 9 of the 13 scripts Mrs. Clauser sold to the BONANZA television series. The correspondence is mainly with the BONANZA production staff and covers business matters, script revisions and various story ideas. The scripts in this series show an evolution through drafts and revisions to the "shooting final" copy.

Series III contains material pertaining to the novel, A GIRL NAMED SOONER and the television play of the same name. There is correspondence with publishers, Mrs. Clauser's literary agents, and television producers, as well as drafts and revisions of both the novel and screenplay. There is a copy of the published novel and a German language edition. Span dates for this series are 1968-1980.

Series IV contains drafts, revisions and "shooting finals" of full-length Clauser screenplays, most of which have been produced for television. Two of the plays, PIONEER WOMAN and LITTLE WOMEN, also contain a prospectus for their expansion into a weekly series. Some plays represented in this series have their accompanying correspondence covering revisions, logistics of shooting, and various business matters. The material in this series covers the years 1973-1993.

The general correspondence in **Series V** is mostly with Mrs. Clauser's literary agents in New York and Hollywood and pertains to whatever writing project she was at work on at the time. The correspondence dates from 1963-1979.

Series VI, Miscellaneous Material, has biographical and professional data, a file of newspaper and magazine clippings, and a copy of NIGHT SONG by the late Constance Sontag, for which Mrs. Clauser wrote the foreword.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Series I: Early Work

Box	File	Description	Dates
1	1	"The Gift," short story	1961
	2	"Indian Ghosts," travel reminiscence	1961-1962
	3	"The Green Key," short story	1961-1962

Series II: BONANZA Material

1	4	BONANZA Correspondence	1962-1972	
	5	"Woman of Fire"	1964	
	6	"Devil on Her Shoulder"	1965	
	7	"A Natural Wizard"	1966	
	8	"Same Pines, Different Wind"	1968	
	9	"What's Past is Prologue"	1968	
	10	"The Trouble with Amy"	1969	
	2	1	"The Stillness Within"	1970
		2	"The Stillness Within"	1970
		3	"A Single Pilgrim"	1970
4		"A Single Pilgrim"	1970	
5		"Second Sight"	1971	
6		"Tristy"	1969	
7		"A Girl from Boston"	1972	
8		"A Girl from Boston"	1972	

Series III: A GIRL NAMED SOONER- Novel and Screenplay

3	1	A GIRL NAMED SOONER	1972
	2	EIN MADCHEN NAMEN SOONER, German ed.	1976
	3	Correspondence- Novel	1968-1980
	4	Typed copy of novel as accepted after first major revision, pp. 1-133	1971
	5	Typed copy of novel as accepted after first major revision, pp. 134-end	1971
	6	Correspondence- Screenplay	1973-1979
	7	First draft of screenplay	Nov. 1973
	8	Shooting final of screenplay	May 1974

Series IV: Television Screenplays

Box	File	Description	Dates
Subseries 1: PIONEER WOMAN			
4	1	Correspondence	1973
	2	Draft	Aug. 1973
	3	Final draft and revision	Aug.-Oct. 1973
	4	Prospectus for a television series	1974
	5	Treatment for a television movie	1973
Subseries 2: THE FAMILY NOBODY WANTED			
4	6	Correspondence	1974-1975
	7	Final draft and revisions	Dec. 1979
Subseries 3: GRANDPA AND FRANK			
4	8	Correspondence	1976-1977
	9	Final draft and revisions	July 1977
Subseries 4: LITTLE WOMEN			
4	10	Correspondence	1977-1979
	11	5-hour treatment for television	1977
	12	Presentation for a 1-hour weekly series	1978
	13	Parts III, IV, and V	Sept. 1979
5	1	Parts I through V	Dec. 1977
	2	Parts I and II	Jan. 1978
	3	Part I	March 1978
	4	Part II	March 1978
	5	"A Little Box of Haunts"	Jan. 1979
	6	"If You Can't Forget, Forgive a Little"	Jan. 1979
6	1	"Death of a Dream," episode 8	ca. 1979
	2	"Escapade in Boston," labeled "#8"	ca. 1979
	3	"A Flight of Dreams," episode 9	ca. 1979
	4	Episode 10 (no title)	ca. 1979
	5	"A Week to Remember," draft	Jan. 1979
	6	"A Week to Remember," draft	Feb. 1979
Subseries 5: THE PRIDE OF JESSE HALLAM			
6	7	Correspondence	1979-1981
7	1	Notes and Character Sketches	n.d.
	2	Draft	Nov. 1979
	3	Draft	n.d.

Series IV: Television Plays

Box	File	Description	Dates
Subseries 5: THE PRIDE OF JESSE HALLAM (continued)			
7	4	Second Draft: "Old Santiago and Me"	March 1980
	5	Second Draft: "The Testing of Jesse Hallam"	March 1980
	6	Draft: "Hard Words"	April 1980
	7	Revisions	April 1980
8	1	Draft – "Hard Words"	April 1980
	2	Draft	Aug. 1980
	3	Final shooting draft	Sept. 1980
Subseries 6: JOURNEY TO TOPAZ			
8	4	Sources	1962-75
	5	Correspondence	1974-75
	6	Second Draft	Aug. 1974
Subseries 7: EXECUTIVE ORDER			
8	7	Notes	1975
	8	Narrative outlines	1975
	9	Narratives	1975
	10	First draft – working copy	1975
9	1	Revised first draft with transcription of FDR speech	1975
	2	Second Draft	1975
Subseries 8: 24 McFALL			
9	3	Sources	1975
	4	Correspondence	1975
	5	619 McFALL, notes and sketches	1975
	6	24 McFall, first draft	Oct. 1975
	7	24 McFall, second draft	Nov. 1975
	8	24 McFall, pilot	Nov. 1975
Subseries 9: HARPER'S FERRY			
9	9	Sources and correspondence	1977
10	1	First draft and revisions	Nov. 1977
	2	Second draft	1978
	3	Second draft	1978
Subseries 10: SUZANNAH AND EM			
10	4	Correspondence	1978
	5	First draft	Feb. 1978

Series IV: Television Plays

Box	File	Description	Dates
		Subseries 11: FIRST DO NO HARM	
10	6	Sources	1968-1978
	7	Correspondence	1978
	8	Notes	1978
	9	Treatment / Step Outline	June 1978
	10	First draft	Aug. 1978
11	1	Second draft	Oct. 1978
	2	Third draft	Jan. 1979
	3	Final draft	Feb. 1979
		Subseries 12: "RI"	
11	4	Outline	1979
	5	Correspondence	1979
	6	Treatment	1979
	7	First draft	July 1979
	8	Second draft	1979
		Subseries 13: CHILDREN OF AN LAC	
11	9	Correspondence	1980
	10	Treatment	1980
	11	Revised draft	Jan. 1980
		Subseries 14: AN UNMARRIED MAN	
12	1	Correspondence	1980
	2	First draft	Nov. 1980
		Subseries 15: COUNTRY ROADS, "LUCILLE"	
12	3	Rough draft discards	1981
	4	First draft	May 1981
	5	Second draft	1981
		Subseries 16: CALAMITY JANE: HER OWN STORY	
12	6	Treatment and revisions	April 1982
	7	Early draft	1982
	8	Early draft	1982
	9	First draft	1982

Series IV: Television Plays

Box	File	Description	Dates
		Subseries 16: CALAMITY JANE: HER OWN STORY (continued)	
13	1	Second draft	Oct. 1982
	2	Draft polishes	1982
	3	Final draft	April 1983
	4	Final draft	April 1983
	5	Final draft	May 1983
	6	Final draft	May 1983
	7	Final draft	May 1983
		Subseries 17: THE SOONG SISTERS	
13	8	Second draft, pages 1-70	Oct. 1984
	9	Second draft, pages 71-	Oct. 1984
		Subseries 18: HAPPY ENDING	
14	1	Screenplay	1986
		Subseries 19: CHRISTMAS SNOW	
14	2	Second draft	July 1986
	3	Production draft	Oct. 1986
		Subseries 20: FROM VIETNAM WITH LOVE	
14	4	Part 1, second draft	Oct. 1988
	5	Part 2, second draft	Oct. 1988
		Subseries 21: HEAVEN AND HELL	
14	6	Part 1	June 1993
	7	Part 2	June 1993
	8	Part 3	June 1993
		Subseries 22: DANIELLE STEEL'S MESSAGE FROM 'NAM	
14	9	Part 1, third revision	June 11, 1993
	10	Part 2, third revision	June 15, 1993

Series V: General Correspondence

Box	File	Description	Dates
15	1	Correspondence	1963-1967
	2	Correspondence	1968-1979

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Box	File	Description	Dates
15	3	Biographical and Professional Data	n.d.
	4	Newspaper Clippings	1971-1993
	5	Other Publicity	1972-1981
	6	Book: <u>Night Song</u> by Constance Sontag	1976