

Truman Capote Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81047043>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011026>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Truman Capote Papers

Span Dates: 1947-1965

ID No.: MSS47043

Creator: Capote, Truman, 1924-1984

Extent: 70 items

Extent: 8 containers

Extent: 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81047043>

Summary: Author and dramatist. Chiefly literary manuscripts, including notebooks, journals, drafts, and manuscripts of prose fiction, dramas and screenplays, and other writings.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Brando, Marlon.

Capote, Truman, 1924-1984.

Capote, Truman, 1924-1984. *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; a short novel and three stories. 1958.

Capote, Truman, 1924-1984. *In cold blood* : a true account of a multiple murder and its consequences. 1965.

Capote, Truman, 1924-1984. *Other voices, other rooms*. 1948.

Subjects

American fiction.

American literature.

Drama.

Fiction.

Literature.

Motion picture plays, American.

Musicals.

Short stories, American.

Occupations

Authors.

Dramatists.

Provenance

The papers of Truman Capote, author and dramatist, were given to the Library of Congress by Capote in 1967-1969.

Processing History

The papers of Truman Capote were arranged and described in 1968 and 1997. The collection was partially rearranged in 2011.

Additional Guides

The Capote Papers are described in *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, 26, no. 50 (14 December 1967).

Transfers

A photograph of Truman Capote has been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of the Truman Capote Papers.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Truman Capote can be found in the New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Truman Capote in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Truman Capote are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Truman Capote Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1924, Sept. 30	Born Truman Streckfus Persons, New Orleans, La.
1945	Short story, "Miriam," published in <i>Mademoiselle</i> magazine
1948	Published first novel, <i>Other Voices, Other Rooms</i> . New York, Random House
1958	Published <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's; A Short Novel and Three Stories</i> . New York, Random House
1965	Published <i>In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences</i> . New York, Random House
1980	Published last novel, <i>Music for Chameleons</i> . New York, Random House
1984, Aug. 25	Died, Los Angeles, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Truman Capote (1924-1984) span the years 1947-1965 and consist chiefly of literary manuscripts. The collection contains notebooks, journals, drafts, and manuscripts of prose fiction, dramas (including screenplays), and other writings, both published and unpublished. Included are drafts of his novels *Other Voices, Other Rooms, Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and *In Cold Blood*, the musical play *House of Flowers*, the short story "A Christmas Memory," and a profile of Marlon Brando. The largest group of material relates to his nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood*, an account of the murders of the Clutter family in Kansas. Items include notebooks containing the original holograph manuscript, interview notes, including of his interviews with convicted murderer Perry Smith, and observations and notes written while in Holcomb, Kansas in 1959. Another notebook, entitled "The Nonfiction Novel," contains Capote's account of the writing of *In Cold Blood* that was part of a January 1966 article in the *New York Times*.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of writing and material or title of work.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Miscellaneous writings
BOX 1	<i>Other Voices, Other Rooms</i> (10 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> (2 folders)
BOX 2	Notes for <i>Observations</i> , photographic book by Richard Avedon
BOX 2	"A House on the Heights," first draft
BOX 2	"Moscow," unfinished, unpublished article, 1959
BOX 2	<i>House of Flowers</i> , notes and original first act, 1953
BOX 2	"Another Day in Paradise," unfinished, unpublished short story
BOX 2	<i>The Muses are Heard</i> , clippings, 1957
BOX 3	Notebook, 1947
BOX 3	"A Christmas Memory"
BOX 3	"Monkeys and Old Stone," notes for a novella, never written, 1957
BOX 3	"A Curious Gift," unpublished short story
BOX 3	Notebook, 1956
BOX 3	Journal of a trip to Asia, 1957
BOX 3	"The Duke in His Domain," profile of Marlon Brando, 1957 (2 folders)
BOX 3	"Among the Paths to Eden," short story
BOX 3	"Miriam," screenplay based on short story "Miriam," (2 folders)
BOX 3	"A House in Sicily," unfinished, unpublished memoir
BOX 4	<i>In Cold Blood</i>
BOX 4	Interviews
BOX 4	Miscellaneous
BOX 4	Smith, Perry
BOX 4	Research and interviews
BOX 4	Book drafts
BOX 4	Original
BOX 4	Part 1 (7 folders)
BOX 5	Part 2 (8 folders)
BOX 5	Part 3 (6 folders)
BOX 6	(10 folders)
BOX 6	Part 4 (6 Folders)
BOX 7	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Revised (5 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 8	First retyped copy (4 folders)
BOX 8	Acknowledgements
BOX 8	Galley proofs (3 folders)
BOX 8	"The Nonfiction Novel"