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Guide to MS238, Elliot Chess papers,

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Guide to
MS 238
Elliot Chess papers

Circa 1910s – 1959 Span Dates

3 feet, 4 inches (linear)

Inventory by Armand J. Avila
Front matter by Abbie Weiser
September 19, 2019

Donated by William Wood in 1982.

Citation: Elliot Chess papers, MS238, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department.
The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography

Born in El Paso, Elliot Chess (d. 1962) was a decorated military pilot. He left El Paso High School and joined the Royal Flying Corps in Canada; he went overseas to fight in WWI at age 18. During the Polish-Soviet War (1919 – 1921), he flew for the Polish air force as part of the Kościuszko squadron. His cousin, Earl Evans, also was a WWI pilot and volunteer in the Kościuszko squadron. For his bravery, Chess received Poland's highest military honor, the *Virtuti Militari*. He later worked for the *El Paso Times* as an ad manager and was also a miner, reporter, editor, professional wrestler, playwright, and author.

Series Description or Arrangement

The papers were left in the order found by the archivist.

Scope and Content Notes

The Elliot Chess papers, MS238, date circa 1910s – 1959. Types of records include correspondence, military orders and service documentation, literary manuscripts and notes, photos, clippings, medals, and artwork. These materials help document Chess's family life, military career, and writing activities.

Provenance Statement

Donated by William Wood in 1982.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Elliot Chess papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Elliot Chess papers, MS238, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

See also:

K.S. Brown aviation collection

Earl Evans collection

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Description	Date
1	1	Photographs of a man, a woman, children, a village of some sort, and a WWI-era airplane.	Early 20 th century
1	2	Three foldable portraits of a woman. Three total.	Early 20 th century
1	3	Family photographs, including various vacations, with some on postcards. 48 total.	Early 20 th century
1	4	Family and scenery photographs, including personal portraits of women and children. 31 total.	Early 20 th century
1	5	A photograph of soldiers in uniform together; personal portraits of men and women; an autographed photo of a man; photographs of three children. 11 total.	Early 20 th century
1	6	Portrait photographs of a family, men and women, with some taken by Feldman Photography studio. 10 total.	Early 20 th century
1	7	Portrait photographs of individuals, photograph of WWII Memorial Plaque in Cottesmore, England, some photographs of men in military uniform. 10 total.	Early 20 th century
1	8	Portrait photographs of men and women, some photographs of what appear to be soldiers in a field. 14 total.	Early 20 th century
1	9	Photographs of men, women, and a young girl, as well as group photos of a formal party. 7 total.	Early 20 th century
1	10	Photograph of outdoor scenery, a baby, and a group of men. Portrait photographs of a family, many baby pictures. 12 total.	Early 20 th century
1	11	Portrait photographs of men and women. 11 photographs.	Early 20 th century
1	12	Portrait photos of numerous women and one man. 5 total.	Early 20 th century
1	13	Photos of a family, mostly outside, as well as outdoor scenery like a river. Also includes portrait photos of men, women and children. 39 total.	Early 20 th century

2	1	Manuscript Notes: The Phone, The Cockroach	Undated
2	2	Manuscript Notes: The Moose	Undated
2	3	Manuscript Notes: A letter written by Dale McCarthy, two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, to his only son, A Break at the Plaza, The Word on the Street	Undated
2	4	Manuscript Notes: Writings about the characters Luna, Johnnie and Grimstead	Undated
2	5	Manuscript Notes: Around the characters Gladys, Prieto and Mildred	Undated
2	6	Manuscript Notes: The Explosion (War), The Return of the Coat, The Bullfight, The Plant and the desperate phone call to Luna, Clair – Truth Scene	Undated
2	7	Manuscript Notes: After Clair and the Monsters, The Smoke Stack, The Return of the Gun, The Death of Clair, The Coyote	Undated
2	8	Manuscript Notes: The Encounter of Lee's Sister, Possible (Clair, first night), many untitled notes	Undated
2	9	Manuscript Notes: Monday, Man from Gila, The Dream, The Clippings, Possible Introduction of Gladys, other untitled/unorganized drafts.	Undated
2	10	Manuscript Notes: The Place, Part Two: The End, About the Dead Bullfighter, The Writings of the Novel--(The Luna Period), Grimstead and Farrow, other untitled/unorganized drafts.	Undated
2	11	Manuscript Notes: The last shot at the Plane, Cutting Down the Speed, Chapter One, This Luna by the Wall, Spain, Chapter 11, The Approach to Luna.	Undated
2	12	Manuscript Notes: The Old Man and the Old Woman after the Green Dress, Person to Person, Personal Correspondence from Pablo R. Heuer, Pages from an old edition of Newsweek and the April 26 1941 edition of Liberty Magazine, These are the Facts, The Girl in the Green Dress	Undated

2	13	Manuscript Notes: The Return of the Gun - before Luna's return, The First Night* and what happened, other untitled drafts.	Undated
2	14	Manuscript Notes: Insert – Idea, This is the bit about the bit in the sun, Chapter one, Mrs. Dale and Dialogue, Chapter ? Formula A, The Reason for Going – The Flashback, Dialogue about Gila – Late in Story, Chapter Three, Notes on the Last Dialogue, Johnnie's Apartment – Luna Gone, Mother of Gladas, Continuation of Chapter 11, Approach to Work, The Phone Call to Davis, Grimstear Again – Dialogue, This is the first encounter – Clair and Luna, The Climax – the plant – destruction of Clair, Dialogue at Tony's (First Time), The Bit about the City,	Undated
3	1	Manuscript Notes: This the Disolution, Clair – Truth Scene, other untitled drafts	Undated
3	2	Manuscript Notes: Chapter One, Retrospection – Perhaps at the Pool, To Have Been in a War,	Undated
3	3	Manuscript Notes: Multiple chapters of untitled manuscript drafts	Undated
3	4	Manuscript Notes: Bits Maybe?, Last Phone Call, The Long Drunk – At the Bar, The Man of God – This at the Jungle, Kitty and the Farie – the long drunk, Clair and who? The long drunk – early, Part of drunk scene at the Tivoli, Climax, The Killer – Clair, Chapter One	Undated
3	5	Manuscript Notes: Lead Up to Clair's Destruction, the monsters, The Hotel Room, Before the end, Book Three ... To Have Written a Novel, The First Call after the Siren – the death of Grimstead,	Undated
3	6	Newspaper Article: "February 3 – Once Again the World Ends". Manuscript Notes: many untitled manuscript drafts, Telephone Call with Davis – the end of Grimstead, Grimstead's death – the Ju-ju man, The phone call indicating the death of	Undated

		Grimstead, Clair and Luna, Notes – on the return of the Coat	
3	7	Manuscript Notes: Sequence: Wrking Mrs. Dale, Ruby, up to Luna, Possible Intro of Gladys, Introspection – The Party of the Memory of the Ten Years, The Beginning of Destruction, His Description of the City – leading up to the galaxy shop, Possible Hero at the First Fight, He gets to the place where the third girl lives, Conversation with Davis	Undated
3	8	Manuscript Notes: Various untitled notes and writings	Undated
3	9	Manuscript Notes: Part Three – The End – Transition, The Siren, The Bullfight, Bits of the Coyote, Chapter ?, The Coyote, Part Two: The End, Notes on the end of Part Two, various other untitled notes	Undated
3	10	Manuscript Notes: End of Part Two, Next Chapter, Notes – Incidents, The Holes in Grimstead, The Song, The Home Moment – telephone with Davis, Notes, The Man with the Golden Tooth, The Writing of the Novel, After the writing of the Novel/Pulp, The Reading of the Newspaper, The Luna Pregnancy, Destruction and Dissolution	Undated
3	11	Manuscript Notes: Note on Retrospection, many untitled handwritten notes, lists of locations	Undated
3	12	Manuscript Notes: Chapter Three: The First Night Home, End of Dereliction, The Bit About the City	Undated
3	13	Manuscript Notes: Chapter ?, Grimstead, The Boulder of the Smoke Stack, Man from Gila, The First Encounter – Clair and Luna, Before the Climax,	Undated
3	14	Manuscript Notes: Luna hospital, dialogue with Grimstead, The Plant of Clair's Destruction by the Alligator, The Black Moment, The Climax, The End	Undated

4	1	Manuscript Notes: The Butterfly Man,	Undated
4	2	Manuscript Notes: The Cat, Background of Luna, The Reason Behind the Novel, Chapter (?), Dialogue about Dreaming with Ruby and the Parallel – Claire and Ruby,	Undated
4	3	Military Papers: Orders, Flight-Time Schedule, Pay and Allowance Account, Secret – Headquarters NAF Troop Carrier Command, Personal Correspondence, Newspaper article: Death of an Army, Papers and Codes, U.S. Army 52 nd Troop Carrier Wing Memorandum.	May 1945, 1943,
4	4	Bullfight Manuscripts and Pamphlets on Bullfighting	1955, 1956, 1959
4	5	Manuscript: Passport to Heaven	Undated
4	6	Manuscript: Passport to Heaven	Undated
4	7	Manuscript: Call It Comic Strip	Undated
4	8	Manuscript: Call It Comic Strip	Undated
4	9	Manuscript: Walk Away From' Em	Undated
5	1	Article "Blackout" by Elliot Chess	1940
5	2	Manuscript- The Quest	Undated
5	3	Manuscript- Manilla Calling	Undated
5	4	Manuscript –The Place	Undated
5	5	Personal Correspondence	1924, 1925, 1950
5	6	Immigration visas, passport, Certificate of Service of Elliott Chess in the Royal Air Force, Air Force Battle Honors, Military Orders: Award of Air Medal, and Regulations for Second Aero Squadron	1921, 1944
6	1	Medals (14)	Circa 1916 – 1920s
6	2	Newspaper Clippings relating to Elliot Chess	1918, 1920, 1940, 1943
6	3	Polish Merry Christmas/Happy New Year Card	1920
6	3	Watercolor Paintings	Undated