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Guide to MS303 Roy Coalson papers

Owen Williamson

Guide to
MS303
Roy Coalson papers
1908-1986
5 inches (linear)

Processed by Owen Williamson
April 11, 2019

Donated by Mrs. Roy Coalson, 1987.

Citation: Roy Coalson papers, 1908-1986, MS303, 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

Roy E. Coalson was an actor and military officer. Coalson was born in Los Angeles, California on 19 May 1896. He was a child actor and appeared in silent films, such as *Lone Star* and *7th Heaven*. In 1918 - 1919, Coalson served with the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia during WWI. As a member of the 31st Infantry, he helped guard the Trans-Siberian Railway. After WWI, Coalson returned to show business. During WWII, he re-enlisted in the U.S. military as a Staff Sergeant with the U.S. Army Air Corps, later the U.S. Air Force. Coalson participated in the Berlin Airlift of 1948 – 1949 and was later stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. He was released from active service on 30 September 1962 and died in El Paso, Texas on 13 October 1986 at the age of 90. He is buried in Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

Series Description or Arrangement

The arrangement of the collection is primarily by format (photos, clippings, etc.) and roughly chronological.

Scope and Content Note

The Roy Coalson papers date 1908 – 1986. The papers contain scrapbooks, photo albums, photographs, personal memorabilia, and clippings collected by Coalson during his lifetime. No World War II-era materials are included, and the collection seems to be concentrated on the periods of World War I and immediately after, and the period of the Cold War, particularly around 1960-1961.

The papers include one bilingual playbill from an American theater company that was performing for the troops in Vladivostok around 1919, printed in English and Russian. All other contents are in English.

Of particular significance are personal photographs and documents from Coalson's experience in Vladivostok, Russia during WWI when the United States militarily intervened against the nascent Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Mrs. Roy Coalson, 1987.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Roy Coalson papers, MS303, must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Roy Coalson papers, MS303, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

Researchers should be aware that one item in Folder 3, a typescript satirical doggerel poem titled "Always in the Way," includes an instance of offensive, racist language.

In Folder 4, the Postcard Album contains several b/w postcard-type images of semi-nude, evidently Polynesian women. The images are not explicitly erotic or pornographic.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Rolled panoramic-format 10" x 46" b/w photo prints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NCO's of 5040th Air Base Wing, 29 Jun 1962. b. A scene of an Alaskan lake. 	1962
1	2	Photo album, 1913-1915. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personal photos and adolescent memorabilia. 	1913-1915
1	3	Scrapbook/Photo Album <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Photographs from World War I and from the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia. b. Military-related memorabilia from Siberia. 	1918-1919
1	4	Postcard Album <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Large format photo of Siberia veterans on parade, 11 November 1939. b. Postcard-sized photos and memorabilia from Siberia, from Nagasaki, Japan, and from Hawaii. 	1908-1939
1	5	Newspaper Clippings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A small collection of newspaper and magazine clippings, mostly from military-related publications. 	1958-1986
1	6	Newspaper Clippings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A small collection of newspaper and magazine clippings, mostly from the <i>Anchorage Daily Times</i>, the <i>Sourdough Sentinel</i>, and other military and civilian sources. 	1960-1963