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Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Ellis Parker Butler Papers
1899-1936
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**Jill Peterson
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Summary

- Main entry:** Butler, Ellis Parker, 1869-1937
- Title:** Ellis Parker Butler Papers, 1899-1936
- Size:** 1.4 linear feet (4 boxes)
- Source:** Donated by Ida Butler, December 1939 and Ellery Sedgwick, March 1940
- Abstract:** Ellis Parker Butler was an American author best known for his story "Pigs is Pigs" (1905). During his lifetime he wrote 30 books and more than 2,000 stories and essays. His papers consist of his correspondence, a typescript of his story "The Goldfish Mystery" (1935), and a few pieces of ephemera. The correspondence includes letters from authors, editors, artists, politicians and others, together with some of Butler's replies, concerning the publication of his stories; his activities in connection with the Authors' League of America, the Authors' Guild, various clubs, committees and charities; and personal matters. Correspondents include Ellery Sedgwick and staff of *The Atlantic Monthly*, H.L. Mencken, writer and filmmaker Rex Beach, authors Porter Emerson Browne, Ernest Poole, Richard Harding Davis, Hamlin Garland, and George Barr McCutcheon, artist Tony Sarg, and many others.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Preferred citation:** Ellis Parker Butler Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Related materials note

[Papers of Ellis Parker Butler](#). University of Iowa Libraries, Special Collections Department, Iowa City, Iowa.

Biographical note

Ellis Parker Butler was an American author best known for his story "Pigs is Pigs" (1905). During his lifetime he wrote 30 books and more than 2,000 stories and essays. Butler was born in Muscatine, Iowa in 1869 and remained there until he moved to New York City in 1897. He worked as editor of an interior-decorating magazine and also as an assistant editor for the *Tailor's Review*, a trade publication. In 1899, he returned to Muscatine and married Ida Zipser. They eventually moved back to New York City, settled in Flushing, Queens, and had five children. From 1908 to 1936, they lived in Flushing and Butler pursued his writing career and also worked as a banker. He became very active in the civic affairs of his local community and also helped to found The Authors' League of America. His writings were published alongside such contemporaries as Mark Twain, Sax Rohmer, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Don Marquis, Will Rogers and Edgar Rice Burroughs.

<http://www.ellisarkerbutler.info/epb/bio.asp>, March 18, 2008

Scope and content note

The collection consists of Butler's correspondence, a typescript of his story "The Goldfish Mystery" (1935), and a few pieces of ephemera. The correspondence includes letters from authors, editors, artists, politicians and others, together with some of Butler's replies, concerning the publication of his stories; his activities in connection with the Authors' League of America, the Authors' Guild, various clubs, committees and charities; and personal affairs. Subject matter also includes issues affecting writers, such as copyright, plagiarism, and censorship; topics pertaining to World War I and the international political climate of the time; and Butler's involvement with the community of Flushing, Queens. Arrangement is alphabetical by name of correspondent. When a file contains letters from Butler, it is indicated in a note. Also included are two files under Butler's name, one of which contains letters to individuals not on the correspondents list and one which includes ephemera. The last file of the series contains letters with illegible signatures.

Correspondents include Ellery Sedgwick and the staff of the *Atlantic Monthly*, mostly regarding Butler's contributions to magazine, 1926-1937; H.L. Mencken discussing Butler's refusal to sign the Dreiser Protest; author and filmmaker Rex Beach regarding use of Butler's work for motion pictures, copyright issues, and the Dallinger Bill; author Porter Emerson Browne's letters and manifesto to the American people discussing the economy and current political situation of the U.S; novelist Ernest Poole regarding the war crisis; and letters from Richard Harding Davis, Hamlin Garland, novelist and playwright George Barr McCutcheon, artist Tony Sarg, and others discussing matters related to the Authors' League.

There is also correspondence with prominent political figures. A letter to Governor Herbert Lehman contains Butler's praise of Lehman's support for stricter regulation of public utilities; letters from New York City mayors John Purroy Mitchel and John F. Hylan include invitations for Butler to sit on various committees; a letter from Congressman Sol Bloom discusses the Authors' League and the Committee on Patents; and letters from Queens Borough President Maurice E. Connolly request Butler's participation in various Queens County events and also thank Butler for contributions.

Arrangement note

The Ellis Parker Butler Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence, 1899-1936
- Series II. *The Goldfish Mystery*, 1935

Container list

Series I. Correspondence, 1899-1936

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Adel, Frank F., 1932
	2	Agar, John Giraud, 1918
	3	Alexander, Mrs. Charles B. (Gertrude), undated
	4	Allen, Lyman Whitney, 1920,1921
	5	Anderson, Robert Gordon, 1929
	6	Andrews, Mary R.S., 1923
	7	Atkey, Bertram, 1922
	8	Author's Club, 1921
	9	Bakeless, John, 1930-1931, 1934
	10	Baker, Edith Ellis, 1908
	11	Banning, Kendall, 1912, 1922, 1928
	12	Barbour, Ralph Henry, 1918, 1926, 1927
	13	Barclay, McClelland, 1933
	14	Barnabee, Henry Clay, undated
	15	Bartlett, Arthur C., 1936 (Includes letters from Butler)
	16	Barton, Bruce, 1917, 1918
	17	Batchelder, Frank Roe and Roger (son of Frank), 1913, 1922
	18	Beach, Rex, 1913,1924 Includes letters regarding the use of Butler's work for motion pictures, copyright issues, and the Dallinger Bill
	19	Beals, Walter B., undated
	20	Beard, Daniel Carter, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1930
	21	Becker, May Lamberton, 1931
	22	Bell, Pearl Doles, 1921, 1923, n.d.
	23	Bennett, Helen Christine, 1926
	24	Biddle, Anthony J. Drexel, 1919
	25	Bliven, Bruce, 1931
	26	Bloom, Sol, 1925, 1931 Includes letters regarding the Authors' League and Committee on Patents
	27	Blumenschein, Ernest L., 1899, 1934
	28	Bok, Edward, 1907, 1908
	29	Book Committee, 1921
	30	Booth, Christopher, 1923
	31	Bradley, Alice M., 1918
	32	Brady, Peter J., 1923
	33	Brandeis, Erich, 1918
	34	Bray, J.R., 1926 (Includes letters from Butler)
	35	Bridges, Robert (from Scribner's), 1927
	36	Briggs, William H., 1923
	37	Brown, Bernice, undated
	38	Brown, Royal, 1922
	39	Browne, Porter Emerson, 1934, n.d. Includes his obituary from the <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> and lengthy letters to Butler regarding the political situation in the world and the state of the U.S. economy. Also includes a manifesto to the American people about the economy and state of America.
	40	Bryan, George S., 1911 (Includes letters from Butler)
	41	Buchanan, Thompson, 1916
	42	Bull, Fannie E., 1927
	43	Bullis, F.H., 1924
	44	Burgess, Gelette, 1918, 1921, 1923, 1935
	45	Burgess, Thornton W., 1916, 1918

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	46	Burnett, Whit, 1934
		Butler, Ellis Parker
	47	General, 1929, n.d. Includes questionnaire from Select Features Co., (filled out by Butler) , <i>Who's Who</i> entry, and Butler's signature with his sketch of a pig.
	48	Letters sent, 1911, 1936
	49	Bynner, Witter, undated
	50	Calder, William, 1922
	51	Caldwell, Charles Pope, 1916
	52	Canby, Henry Seidel, 1923
	53	Carlisle, Helen Grace, 1934
	54	Chambrun, Jacques, 1936
	55	Chapple, Joe Mitchell, 1920, 1923
	56	Chatfield-Taylor, H.C. , 1916
	57	Child, Edwin Burrage, 1914
	58	Childs, William Hamlin, 1918
	59	Clark, Kate Upson, 1917, 1919 Includes postcard and a pamphlet about her lectures and informal talks
	60	Clausen, Carl, Undated
	61	Clemens, Cyril, 1935, 1936
	62	Cobb, Irvin S., Undated
	63	Colden, Charles S., 1932, 1935
	64	Collier, Nate, 1934
	65	Collins, Frederick L., 1919
	66	Connolly, James B., 1916
	67	Connolly, Maurice E., 1921-1925
	68	Cooke, Edmund Vance, Undated
	69	Coolbrith, Ina, 1914
	70	Cooper, Fred G., 1913, 1926, 1930, 1931
	71	Cosgrave, John O'Hara, 1924
	72	Cosseboom, John C., Undated Includes autographed copy of Cosseboom's work "Beginner's Luck"
	73	Coulter, Ernest K., 1916
2	1	Creel, George, 1916, 1926, 1932
	2	Crowell, Chester T., Undated
	3	Crowell, Merle, 1928, 1929
	4	Croy, Homer, Undated
	5	Cutting, Mary Stewart Jr., 1921, 1923 (Includes letters from Butler)
	6	Davis, Richard Harding , 1910, 1916, 1918 Includes letter which refers to his approval of the affiliation of the Authors' League with the American Federation of Labor
	7	Derieux, James Clarkson, 1930
	8	Detzer, Karl W., 1925
	9	Dondore, Dorothy A., 1937 (Includes letters from Butler)
	10	Drew, Helen, 1923
	11	Dyer, Walter A., 1912
	12	Eaton, Walter Prichard, 1911, 1912
	13	Egan, Martin, 1926
	14	Empey, Arthur Guy, 1919
	15	Euwer, Anthony H., Undated
	16	Farrar, John, 1926
	17	Faulkner, Herbert W., 1908
	18	Felix, Frederic, 1923
	19	Flagg, James Montgomery, 1916 (Includes letters from Butler)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	20	Forbes, James, 1922
	21	Ford, Sewell, 1907, 1908, n.d.
	22	Frederick, J. George, 1928, 1936
	23	Frost, Arthur Burdett, 1919, 1928
	24	Gallo, Fortune, 1923
	25	Garland, Hamlin, 1913, 1917, 1925 (Includes letters re: the Authors' League)
	26	Gates, Eleanor, 1921
	27	Gatlin, Dana Elizabeth, Undated
	28	Gilder, Richard Watson, 1899
	29	Girardot, Etienne, Undated
	30	Goodman, Jules Eckert, 1921
	31	Griffith, William, 1932-1936 (Includes letters from Butler)
	32	Guiterman, Arthur, 1915, 1923-1930 Includes letter from Butler. Correspondence re: Authors' League
	33	Guyol, Louise H., 1925-1928
	34	Hackett, Frank S., 1903
	35	Hagedorn, Hermann, 1919, 1923, 1924
	36	Hamilton, Gertrude Brooks, 1917
	37	Harben, Will N., 1915
	38	Hardy, Lamar, 1917
	39	Harris, Adah Roper, 1914
	40	Harrison, Henry, 1925
	41	Henderson, Daniel, 1934
	42	Holliday, Robert Cortes, 1918, 1928
	43	Holloway, Emory, 1934
	44	Howard, Lucile, 1928
	45	Huftalen, Sarah, 1926
	46	Humphrey, Burt Jay, 1918, 1922, 1932
	47	Hylan, John F., 1925
	48	Iles, George, Undated
	49	Irwin, Inez Haynes, 1927, 1931
	50	Isaacson, Charles D., 1925, 1926
	51	Jackson, Gabrielle E., 1917
	52	John Burroughs Association, 1934
	53	Johnson, Burges, 1910, 1916, 1923, 1931, n.d Includes newspaper article on Butler advising young writers in an interview at Vassar
	54	Johnson, Burt W., 1923
	55	Johnson, Robert Underwood, undated
	56	Johnston, William, 1917, 1926
	57	Jordan, Elizabeth Garver, 1910
	58	Kegley, Howard C., undated
	59	Kelland, Clarence B., 1914
	60	Kelly, Louise, 1923
	61	Kendall, Carleton W., 1922
	62	Kerr, Alvah Milton, 1897
	63	Kilmer, Joyce, 1916, 1917, 1931
	64	Kirtland, Lucian S., 1934, 1935
	65	Kleiser, Grenville, 1916
	66	Lampland, Ruth, 1935
	67	Lee, Leslie W., undated
	68	Leeming, Benjamin Christopher, 1926
	69	Lehman, Herbert H., 1933 Includes letters from Butler congratulating Lehman for his support of stricter regulation of public utilities. Also includes letter from Lehman.
	70	Lewitan, Mina, 1936

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	71	Lincoln, Joseph C., 1914, 1917
3	1	Lofting, Hugh, 1917
	2	Loomis, Alfred, 1922, 1926
	3	Lowell, Orson, 1909, 1912, 1925
	4	Lynch, Mildred Harrington, 1931
	5	McCardell, Roy L., 1920, 1923
	6	McCutcheon, George Barr, 1917, 1922, 1925, 1927
	7	McElroy, Robert C., 1912, 1914, 1918
	8	Mack, Pete, 1926, 1927 (Includes letters from Butler)
	9	MacLeish, Archibald, 1934
	10	Malloch, Douglas, 1918, 1922
	11	Mandelstamm, Valentin, 1923
	12	Mantle, Burns, 1934
	13	Marcosson, Isaac Frederick, 1906
	14	Markey, Corrine Harris, 1925
	15	Marquis, Don, 1916
	16	Marsh, Fred Dana, 1901
	17	Marvin, Benjamin, 1922
	18	Masson, Thomas L. 1916, 1922-1925 (Includes letters from Butler)
	19	Mayer, Hy (Henry), 1908, 1909
	20	Meeker, Chris Marie, 1922-1925, n.d. (Includes her biography, written by Butler)
	21	Meloney, Marie Mettingly, 1934, 1935
	22	Mencken, H.L., 1916 Includes letters regarding Butler's refusal to sign the Dreiser Protest . Letters from Mencken refer to the Comstock laws and censorship.
	23	Merwin, Banister, 1906
	24	Merwin, Samuel, 1910
	25	Mielziner, Leo, 1913, n.d.
	26	Millar, Fred, 1907-1911
	27	Miller, Edward W., 1918
	28	Miller, Nathan Lewis, 1922
	29	Mitchel, John Purroy, 1915, 1917, 1921
	30	Moffett, Cleveland, 1918
	31	Moorepark, Carton, 1927
	32	Moulton, Roy, 1920
	33	Mower, Jeanne, 1937 (Includes letters from Butler)
	34	Mulholland, John, 1935
	35	Muller, Charles G., 1925, 1927, 1934, 1935 (Includes letters from Butler)
	36	Nason, Arthur H., 1924
	37	Neighbor, Maurice, 1917
	38	Nesbit, Wilbur, 1923
	39	Newcombe, Richard S., 1928
	40	Newton, Byron R., 1926
	41	O'Higgins, Harvey, 1918
	42	Ogen, O.H., 1904
	43	Orcutt, William Dana, 1914
	44	Osborne, William Hamilton, 1909, 1916, 1918, 1927, n.d.
	45	Ousler, Fulton, 1932
	46	Outcault, Richard Felton, 1913
	47	Page, Walter H., 1912
	48	Palmer, Frederick, 1921
	49	Pelley, William Dudley, 1925
	50	Peters, Lulu Hunt, 1922
	51	Phillips, Bert, 1901, 1902
	52	Poindexter, Miles, 1920

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
3	53	Pollock, Channing, 1917
	54	Poole, Ernest, 1910, 1917, 1918, 1921 Includes letters discussing the crisis of the war and Butler's weekly newsletter about how the war is affecting those around him
	55	Post, Charles Johnson, 1923
	56	Post, Melville D., 1924
	57	Pottle, Juliet W. Tompkins, undated
	58	Powel, Harford, 1920
	59	Powell, Charles U., 1924
	60	Preston, May Wilson, 1905, n.d.
	61	Rascoe, Burton, 1927
	62	Reeve, Arthur B., 1915
	63	Reeve, Winifred, 1925 Includes letters from Butler. Discussion of making the Butler story "In Pawn" into a motion picture. It also discusses Butler writing a story for "Advice to the Lovelorn" to be made into a movie.
	64	Reevs, George M., 1909
	65	Rhodes, Eugene, 1914, n.d.
	66	Rhodes, Harrison, 1924
	67	Richards, F.T., 1915
	68	Riggs, Kate Douglas Smith Wiggin, 1916 Includes letter from Butler regarding the affiliation between the Authors' League and American Federation of Labor. She is against it.
	69	Rinehart, Mary Roberts, 1927
	70	Rockwell, A.D., 1921
	71	Roderick, Virginia, undated
	72	Rolt-Wheeler, Francis, 1918
	73	Romberg, Sigmund, 1934
	74	Rosser, John E., 1923
	4	1
2		Salzman, Maurice, 1922 Includes letters requesting Butler's contribution to a book he is writing on the subject of plagiarism and literary larceny. Salzman lists others he has interviewed on the subject
3		Sarg, Tony, 1922, 1926
4		Scott, Leroy, 1918
5		Sedgwick, Ellery, 1926, 1930-1933, 1940, n.d.
6		Sheffer, Eugene, 1927
7		Shute, Henry A., 1906, 1921, 1934
8		Spaeth, Sigmund, 1934
9		Spafford, Justin, 1927
10		Sperry, Elmer A., 1922
11		Stapp, Emilie B., 1919
12		Stefansson, Vilhjamur, 1927
13		Stone, Elinor Cowan, 1927, n.d.
14		Stoner, Winifred Sackville, 1922, 1923, n.d.
15		Street, Julian, 1913
16		Strothmann, F., 1935
17		Thorne, Diana, undated
18		Town Hall Club, 1934
19		Towne, Charles Hanson, 1910, 1918
20		Train, Arthur, 1912, 1923
21	Vance, Louis Joseph, 1920	
22	Vanderslip, F. A., 1918	
23	Vincent, Allen, undated	
24	Voluntary Parenthood League, 1922	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	25	Wald, Albert, 1934
	26	Watkins, Susan, 1908
	27	Watson, John B., 1926
	28	Whicher, George Meason, 1900-1902, 1909-1913, 1934, n.d.
	29	Wildhack, Robert, 1916
	30	Williams, Blanche Colton, 1924
	31	Williams, Jesse Lynch, 1921, 1922
	32	Wilson, John Fleming, 1915
	33	Wister, Owen, 1921
	34	Woodruff, Helen S., 1918?
	35	Young, Art , undated (Signed election broadside only)
	36	Unidentified, 1913-1934, n.d.
37		Series II. <i>The Goldfish Mystery</i>, 1935
		Typescript