



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

STRIBLING, THOMAS SIGISMUND (1881-1965)
PAPERS ADDITION 3, 1908-1984

Processed by:

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the T.S. (Thomas Sigismund) Stribling Papers—Addition 3, augments the two previously processed collections of T.S. Stribling and his wife, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, already in the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The accretion covers the years 1908-1984, containing predominantly typescripts of numerous short stories, novels, and novelettes written by Pulitzer Prize winning author T.S. Stribling. The Tennessee State Library and Archives has received this latest accretion from the Striblings' niece, Amelia Worken Hughes, on September 27, 1994. The papers include clippings, correspondence, negatives (removed to the Tennessee State Library and Archives Negative File), photographs, publications, and typescripts, all reflective of the literary career of T.S. Stribling (several of the items within the collection relate to Lou Ella Stribling, wife of T.S. Stribling). These materials as donated by Ms. Hughes were contained in two large cardboard boxes, and the items were arranged in no specific order.

The materials in this finding aid measured 2.2 cubic feet while in the original boxes, but was reduced to 2.1 cubic feet by the removal of correspondence which contained photocopied items presently available within the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Other portions of the T.S. Stribling Papers may be found on microfilm numbers 1029, 1213, and 1403. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the T.S. Stribling Papers and accretions may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Thomas Sigismund Stribling Papers-Accretion, containing approximately 200 items, span the period 1908-1984. The collection consists of original material either written by or pertaining to Thomas Sigismund Stribling and his wife, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling. Items within the collection are arranged alphabetically by subject and/or media and include a business card, a certificate, clippings, contracts/agreements, correspondence, a diary, an interview, a license, lists, photographs and drawings, poetry, printed materials, programs, publications, a radio play, reports, reviews, school records, sketches, a speech, typescripts, a volume, and writings.

A major portion of the collection consists of typescripts of several published and unpublished literary works by Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas Sigismund Stribling (1881-1965) of Clifton, Tennessee. These typescripts range in subject from political activism to the influence of African-Americans on Southern verse.

An author of the realist genre, Stribling garnered national attention with *The Store*, published in 1932. He was also the first American novelist chosen for membership by the London Book Society.

The majority of the correspondence consists of letters exchanged between T.S. Stribling and his wife, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, during their courtship and marriage. Also contained within the correspondence are Stribling's letters to his brother, Rex Stribling, and his two sisters, Patricia (Stribling) Springer and Monetta (Stribling) Wells. Also within the correspondence is a missive from Reverend H.G.C. Hallock, a Christian missionary in China, in which he describes an enclosed drawing of "Pan-Ku, The First Man" (See Box 1, folder 14). Another letter from T.S. Stribling includes a typescript of a short story entitled *The Rat Hole* (See Box 1, folder 17). An additional component of the correspondence is a series of color postcards which contain scenes of Nashville during the 1910s. The originals have been removed and placed within the Tennessee Postcard Collection.

Among the literary creations within the collection is an English version of *Fombombo* and five foreign language editions of Stribling's works which have been removed and placed in the library collection. These are entitled: *Ombre Et Soleil (Red Sand)*, *In De Oli (Strange Moon)*, *Men Kjodet Er Skropelig (These Bars of Flesh)*, *Der General Fombombo (Fombombo)*, and *Colonel Vaiden (The Store)*. Also removed to the library collection are two books on the subject of T.S. Stribling as a realist. These are entitled *Stribling: Pioneer Realist in Modern Southern Literature* by Edward J. Piacentino and *T.S. Stribling* by Wilton Eckley.

Several of the items within the collection, such as photographs, school records, programs, and a diary, pertain to Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, an accomplished instructor of violin and piano. Prior to her marriage to T.S. Stribling, Lou Ella had numerous suitors. One was named John Pagnucco, who presented her with a book of poetry (part of the collection).

Within the publications section of the collection is a Sunday school story by T.S. Stribling and a 1908 edition of *Taylor-Trotwood Magazine*, to which Stribling contributed an article. There is also a novel written and inscribed by T.S. Stribling's close friend, Rosamond Fletcher (Rosamond Langbridge, pseudo.) of England. Also included are reviews of Stribling's works.

Photographs in the collection feature scenes from the Striblings' 1943 trip to Mexico and from their vacations in Florida. Negatives have been removed to the negative file of the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Sigismund Stribling

1881	March 4 – Born in Clifton, Tennessee, the son of Christopher Columbus and Amelia (Waits) Stribling
1890	Completed primary education at Clifton Masonic Academy
1898	Enrolled in Southern Normal School in Huntingdon, Tennessee
1900	Employed as editor of <i>Clifton News</i>
1902-1903	Instructor of mathematics and gymnastics at Tuscaloosa High School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama
1904-1905	Attended the University of Alabama School of Law
1905-1907	Practiced law as partner in the law office of Emmett O’Neal in Florence, Alabama
1907-1908	Employed as clerk at <i>Taylor-Trotwood Magazine</i> in Nashville, Tennessee; contributes two stories to magazine during employment
1908	Departed <i>Taylor-Trotwood Magazine</i> for New Orleans; created Sunday school stories at rate of seven per day
1908-1916	Traveled to Cuba, Europe, and South America; writes adventure stories for several U.S. magazines
1917	Employed as journalist for <i>Chattanooga News</i>
1918	Stenographer for the Aviation Bureau in Washington, D.C.
1919	First novel completed – <i>The Cruise of the Dry Dock</i>
1921	Toured Venezuela and other countries of South America
1922	<i>Birthright</i> published
1923	<i>Fombombo</i> published
1924	<i>Red Sand</i> published; <i>Birthright</i> produced as silent film by Micheaux
1926	<i>Teeftallow</i> published

1928	Collaborated with producer David Wallace on <i>Rope</i> , a stage dramatization of the novel, <i>Teeftallow</i> ; <i>Bright Metal</i> and <i>East is East</i> published
1929	<i>Strange Moon</i> and <i>Clues of the Caribees</i> published
1930	September 3 – Married Lou Ella (Kloss), instructor of piano and violin
1931	<i>The Forge</i> published (first novel in Stribling's trilogy of the South)
1932	<i>The Store</i> published (second novel in Stribling's trilogy of the South)
1933	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for <i>The Store</i>
1934	<i>Unfinished Cathedral</i> published (third novel in Stribling's trilogy of the South)
1935	<i>Sound Wagon</i> published; served as instructor in the Extension Division of Columbia University
1938	<i>These Bars of Flesh</i> published
1941	Commences work on autobiography
1943	Toured Mexico; contributed mystery stories to various magazines
1944-1959	Resided in Florida
1959	Returned to Clifton, Tennessee
1965	July 8 – Died in Florence, Alabama, and interred in the Clifton Cemetery in Clifton, Tennessee

Organizations

London Book Society

Source: T.S. (Thomas Sigismund) Stribling Papers

Negatives from the T.S. Stribling Papers—Addition

1. T.S. Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
2. T.S. Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
3. T.S. Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
4. T.S. Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
5. Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
6. Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
7. Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling in Florida (holding bird), n.d.
8. (Left to right): Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling; Thomas S. Stribling, and unidentified person, n.d.
9. (Left to right): Unidentified person, Thomas S. Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, Florida, 1948
- 10a. T.S. Stribling with unidentified persons, Florida, 1948
- 10b. Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling with unidentified persons, Florida, 1948
- 11a. (Left to right): T.S. Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, and unidentified persons, Florida, 1948
- 11b. (Left to right): T.S. Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, and unidentified persons, Florida, 1948
- 12a. (Left to right): T.S. Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, and unidentified persons, Florida, 1948
- 12b. T.S. Stribling (center), Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling (left), and unidentified persons, Florida, 1948
13. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
14. T.S. Stribling (left) and Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, n.d.
15. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
16. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
17. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
18. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
19. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
20. T.S. Stribling, n.d.
21. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
22. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
23. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
24. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
25. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
26. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
27. Scenes from Mexico, 1943
28. Scenes from Mexico, 1943

Note: Negatives have been removed to the Tennessee State Library and Archives Negative Collection

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Associations, institutions, etc – Bid for membership – Kappa Delta Sorority to Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, c. 1920
2. Cards – Business – Miss Luella Kloss, teacher of violin and piano, n.d.
3. Certificates – Postgraduate – State of Florida, Department of Education to Lou Ella Stribling, 1948
4. Clippings – “An Attic-Shaker,” 1933
5. Clippings – “Renewed Interest in T.S. Stribling Pleases His Widow,” October 3, 1976
6. Clippings – “Riverviews From Clifton,” 1983
7. Clippings – “Strolling With Eldon Roark,” January 13, 1959
8. Clippings – “S.T. [sic] Stribling, Noted Author Prefers Writing Potty Stories,” 1934
9. Clippings – “Students Adapt Stribling Story,” February 23, 1984
10. Clippings – “Tom Stribling Writing Last of Trilogy – *The Temple*,” 1934
11. Clippings – “T.S. Stribling: Clifton’s Pulitzer Prize Winner,” 1979
12. Clippings – “T.S. Stribling’s Dress Suit,” c. 1924
13. Contracts / Agreements, 1945-1946
14. Correspondence – Asser - Janés
15. Correspondence – Kinsland - Springer
16. Correspondence – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) - Stribling, Rex
17. Correspondence – Stribling, T.S.
18. Correspondence – Taylor, Mykia – Ziff-Davis Publishing Company
19. Diaries, memoirs, etc. – Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling, 1932, 1938-1941, 1942

Microfilm Roll #2

Box 2

1. Interviews – Transcript – Questions and answers prepared by T.S. Stribling for W.I.N.S., 1933
2. Licenses – Auto operator’s (Tourist) – Thomas Stribling and Lou Ella Stribling, 1943 (in Spanish)
3. Lists – Literature – Works produced by T.S. Stribling, n.d.
4. Lists – Questions of Wilton Eckley posed to T.S. Stribling by Lou Ella Stribling, c. 1960s
5. Lists – Speeches, papers, radio interview, etc., n.d.
6. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Burial site of T.S. Stribling, c. 1965-1966 (5)
7. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Drawing of T.S. Stribling by Henry W. Taylor, 1928
8. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Fletcher, Rosamund, c. 1920s
9. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Pagnucco, John, 1921
10. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Scenes from Mexico, 1943 (8)
11. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling burial plot (Lou Ella (Kloss) Stribling), c. 1965
12. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss), c. 1920s (2)
13. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) and Thomas S. Stribling,

- n.d.
14. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) and Thomas S. Stribling in Florida, n.d. (5)
 15. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) and Thomas S. Stribling with unidentified persons, n.d., (2)
 16. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, T.S., n.d. (5)
 17. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, T.S., n.d.
 18. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, T.S. and family members in Miami, Florida, n.d.
 19. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Stribling, T.S. and others in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1933 (3)
 20. Poetry – Browning, Elizabeth – *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, 1923
 21. Printed materials – University Preparatory School – Fine Arts Faculty, n.d.
 22. Programs – Recital – Frank Hughes College, 1924
 23. Programs – Recital of Miss Luella [sic] Kloss – The Savannah Institute, n.d.
 24. Programs – University Preparatory School – Fine Art Department, 1923
 25. Programs – University Preparatory School – “Good Gracias Annabelle,” 1924
 26. Publications – Book – *The Single Eye* by Rosamond Langbridge (Rosamond Fletcher), 1924
 27. Publications – Booklet – *America’s Town Meeting of the Air*, 1935
 28. Publications – Booklet – *The Short Stories in Celebration of U.S. Centennial* by T.S. Stribling, 1976
 29. Publications, Booklets – *Wing*. – features works by T.S. Stribling – 1932, 1934

Microfilm Roll #3

Box 3

1. Publications – Magazine – *Adventure*, 1922 (copy)
2. Publications – Magazine – *Adventure*, (includes novelette by T.S. Stribling), 1923
3. Publications – Magazine – *The Taylor-Trotwood Magazine*, 1908
4. Publications – Series – *The Booby* by T.S. Stribling, as published in *Young Folks*, 1913
5. Radio plays – Columbia Dramatic Guild – *The Piece of String*, 1933
6. Reports – Book royalties, 1956, 1978
7. Reviews – “*Backwater*, A Story of the Mississippi,” 1930
8. Reviews – Chapman, Maristan – “A Realist Grows Up,” October 13, 1928
9. Review – Enander, Hilma – “Mr. Stribling Sees It Through,” July 11, 1934
10. Reviews – Hollingsworth, D.W. – *The Store*, October 12, 1932
11. Reviews – Phillips, E. Harrell – *Laughing Stock* by T.S. Stribling, 1982
12. Reviews – “*Red Sand*, by T.S. Stribling, Epic Story of Bullfighter, Gay With Sunshine and Dashing Activity,” April 26, 1924
13. Reviews – Salpeter, Harry – “Stribling the Novelist of the South: The Progressive Career of an Author from his *Birthright* to *The Store*,” 1932
14. Reviews – Winner, Percy – “Irony Of South Portrayed By Stribling,” 1934
15. School records – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) – School of Speech of Northwestern University, 1923
16. School records – Stribling, Lou Ella (Kloss) – The University of Minnesota, 1920-

1921

17. Sketches – Autobiographical – Stribling, T.S., c. 1926
18. Sketches – Biographical – Fletcher, Joseph S. by Rosamond G. Fletcher, n.d.
19. Speeches, addresses, etc. – Stribling, T.S. – Speech delivered before the Southern Woman's Democratic Club, c. 1935
20. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Autobiography of an Ingenious Author*, n.d.
21. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Book*, n.d.
22. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Bride*, 1926
23. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Burning Bush* or *The Tabernacle*, n.d.
24. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Case of the Button*, n.d.
25. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Christ in Chicago*, 1925
26. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *A Christmas Venture*, n.d.

Microfilm Roll #2

Box 4

1. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Design on Darkness*, n.d.
2. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Diary of Two Hoboes*, n.d.
3. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Dumb Land*, n.d.
4. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Flame and the Ice*, n.d.
5. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Floating Rock*, n.d.
6. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Gas Range*, n.d.
7. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Guileford*, n.d.
8. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Lady Luck*, n.d.
9. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Limping Wolf Mine*, 1909
10. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Luck*, 1929

Microfilm Roll #2

Box 5

1. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Man Who Man Himself Old*, n.d.
2. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Mating of Pompalone*, n.d.
3. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Negro Influence on Southern Verse*, n.d.
4. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *One of the Hurricanes*, n.d.
5. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Policy*, n.d.
6. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Return of Sledger*, n.d.
7. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *The Road Lies Fair*, n.d.
8. Typescripts – Stribling, T.S. – *Willie Willie*, n.d.
9. Volumes – Scrapbooks – Reviews of T.S. Stribling's *Fombombo*, 1923
10. Writings – Miscellaneous – Items copied from Scrapbooks of Pauline Hassell Nicholson, 1966