

# Boston College Archives

**Rex Stout Archive.** Donated to Boston College in 1980 by the Stout family, the collection includes more than fifty book manuscripts plus another 65 manuscripts for various Stout publications, such as reviews, articles and introductions to books. There are also several boxes of correspondence, notebooks, legal papers, including publishing contracts, and archival material pertaining to various organizations in which Stout was active. The collection also includes more than 1,000 published volumes, featuring 20 first editions, 750 foreign editions of Stout's published works, and some 250 miscellaneous books from Stout's personal library. For Stout fans, these latter books are those that appear in Nero Wolfe's office. Artifacts, ephemera and photographs neatly round out this comprehensive archive. The Stout family has continued to add to the Stout Archive, providing, for example, tapes of television productions of Stout's works. Archival copies of all recent Stout reprints are also deposited at Burns by the publisher per instructions of the Stout family. The McAleer, Sapp and Wilcox donations have further strengthened the Stout collection.

## Detective Fiction Collection.

This collection seeks to document the history of American detective fiction. It is anchored by the Rex Stout archive, which represents the best collection in existence of the personal papers, literary manuscripts, and published works of Stout, creator of the Nero Wolfe mysteries. Other major gifts to this collection include ... the Judson C. Sapp Collection of Rex Stout, the Marion Wilcox Collection of Rex Stout and the John McAleer Collections, which include major holdings of Stout and various other detective fiction writers. McAleer, Stout's biographer and a mystery writer in his own right, not only donated his extensive personal collection of first editions and signed copies of Stout, but also gave the library his impressive crime fiction collection. McAleer wrote: "The literature of detection is about the protection of civilization by those courageous and competent enough to save it. It flourishes only in a society where readers' sympathies are on the side of law and order. Its intent is to show that society is at its most secure and people happiest when, in an increasingly relativistic world, they can find their identity in a stable moral order where the forms and manners governing their social obligations are fixed."

<b>Author</b>	Stout, Rex, 1886-1975
<b>Title</b>	Judson Council Sapp - Rex Stout Collection, 1946-83, (bulk 1975-1983).
<b>Descr.</b>	23 linear ft. (69 boxes).
<b>All Locations</b>	Availability
<b>Location</b>	Burns Archives Manuscripts
<b>Summary</b>	Contains correspondence of Sapp with Rex Stout and fans of Rex Stout. Also included are subject files and publications on book dealers, detective fiction and Rex Stout. There are also a number of audio tapes, audio cassettes and video cassettes of Stout recordings, as well as some artifacts, photographs and slides
<b>Biography/History</b>	Author and novelist. Stout was born in Noblesville, Indiana. He went to school in Kansas and later began to write detective stories. His characters Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodman became famous. From 1940-1970 Stout was active in a number of literary and political organizations.
<b>Finding Aid</b>	Finding aid available.
<b>Arrangement</b>	Organized into five series: Dated Correspondence; Subject Files; Miscellaneous; Audiovisual; and Artifacts.
<b>Per.Sub.</b>	Sapp, Judson Council – Correspondence Stout, Rex, 1886-1975 -- Correspondence

**Subject** Authors, American -- 20th century -- Correspondence  
Book collectors -- United States -- Correspondence.  
Book collecting -- United States -- History -- Sources  
Detective and mystery stories, American -- 20th century  
Detective and mystery television programs -- United States

**Other author** Sapp, Judson Council Collector

**Collection Name** MSS ARCHIVE

**Format** <Archive/Manuscript>

**Sys. no.** 000742713

## 1 Stout, Rex, 1886-1975

**Title:** Rex Stout Papers, 1930-1975

**Description:** 27.3 linear ft. (53 boxes)

**Arrangement:** Organized into two series: Correspondence; and Manuscripts.

**Finding aids:** Inventory available. Folder level control.

**Related Material:** Other manuscripts located at North Carolina Libraries, Chapel Hill.

**Summary:** Correspondence consists primarily of letters between Stout and publishers. There are also many files concerning the various literary and political organizations in which Stout participated. Also included are clippings and other material relating to Stout and some financial records. Manuscripts of many of Stout's literary works comprise a large portion of the collection.

**Biog/Hist Note:** Author and novelist. Stout was born in Noblesville, Indiana. He went to school in Kansas and later began to write detective stories. His characters, Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin, became famous. From 1940-1970 Stout was active in a number of literary and political organizations.

## 2 Stout, Rex, 1886-1975

**Title:** Judson Council Sapp - Rex Stout Collection, 1946-83, (bulk 1975-1983).

**Description:** 23 linear ft. (69 boxes).

**Arrangement:** Organized into five series: Dated Correspondence; Subject Files; Miscellaneous; Audiovisual; and Artifacts.

**Finding aids:** Finding aid available.

**Summary:** Contains correspondence of Sapp with Rex Stout and fans of Rex Stout. Also included are subject files and publications on book dealers, detective fiction and Rex Stout. There are also a number of audio tapes, audio cassettes and video cassettes of Stout recordings, as well as some artifacts, photographs and slides.

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