

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Appel was born September 13, 1907 in New York City. After attending the University of Pennsylvania, New York University he graduated in 1929 from Lafayette College with a Bachelor of Science degree. Though supporting himself and his family primarily as a writer, Appel also worked during the depression years as a bank clerk, farmer, lumberjack and tenement house inspector. During World War II he worked as an aviation mechanic at Republic Aviation. He also served with the U.S. Office of Civilian Defense, the War and Manpower Commission, and as a special assistant to the U.S. Commissioner for the Philippines.

Benjamin Appel married Sophie Marshak on October 31, 1936 and had three children. After the war he resided in New Jersey, and lived there until his death on April 3, 1977.

Appel was the author of over forty books and hundreds of short stories. His childhood experiences in the Hell's Kitchen area of Manhattan was inspiration for much of his work. Later he developed novels around politics, race relations and the Philippines. Appel also wrote a number of non-fiction books on contemporary subjects such as Hitler and Israel. He contributed four books to the "We Were There" series of historical fiction books as well as a number of other historical books for children.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Benjamin Appel Papers consist of one cubic foot of the galley proofs of four of his books and a number of typed and revised copies of some of his other works. Copies of Appel's galleys in this collection are "Plunder," published in 1952, "Why the Japanese are the way they are," "Why the Chinese are the way they are," and "Life and Death of a Tough Guy" all published in 1973.

The bulk of the papers are comprised of revisions of the books "Life and Death of a Tough Guy" and "The Devil and W. Kaspar." They are typescript versions of the books with heavy revisions made in Appel's hand. There are two typescript copies of "The Devil and W. Kaspar" with no distinction made as to which revision became the final product.

Included in these papers are a number of Appel's short stories. The stories are all typed and include handwritten revisions. These short stories were subsequently published in various magazines such as The Literary Review and The Midland. In addition to his writings, the papers contain a speech Appel gave at Bard College's 1975 commencement called "Young in the Time of Fire," which urges the youth of the 1970's to fulfill their destiny and remember the past.

The various states of Appel's works are indicated by TMs/AMs (typescript with emendations) and TMs (typescript). Whenever possible, various states of the same story are kept together in the folder.

An additional four cubic feet of Appel's manuscripts can be found in the Special Collections Archives of the University of Oregon at Eugene.

**APPEL, BENJAMIN
PAPERS, 1932-1976**

**SKILLMAN LIBRARY
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder	1	"Plunder" -Galley 1952
	2	"Why the Japanese are the way they are" -Galley 1973
	3	"Why the Chinese are the way they are" -Galley 1973
	4	"Life and Death of a Tough Guy" -Galley 1955
	5-7	"Life and Death of a Tough Guy" -TMs/AMs

Box 2

Folder	1-5	"The Devil and W. Kaspar" -TMs/AMs
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Box 3

Folder	1-3	"The Devil and W. Kaspar" -TMs/AMs
	4	"Brook Boundary" 1932 -TMs
	5	"On Kreativ Righting" -TMs/AMs
	6	"The Truth, What is it...Ben Shahn in the McCarthy Years" 1972 -TMs
	7	"Odets University" -1976 TMs/AMs (5 versions)
	8	"Young in the Time of Fire"-Speech given at Bard College, Spring of 1975
	9	Reviews of Benjamin Appel's writings
	10	"Cry of Battle" -Promotional information
	11	Obituary: Benjamin Appel, 1907-1977