

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

ARCHIVES DIVISION

Bowmer Family Papers, 1880-2002

Collection Number M0005

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**Collection Number:** M0005

**Title:** Bowmer Family Papers

**Dates:** 1880-2002

**Creator:** Gertrude and Angus Bowmer

**Summary/Abstract:** Personal papers of Oregon Shakespeare Festival founder Angus Bowmer (1904-1979) and Gertrude Bowmer, nee Butler (1903-1994). Contains limited information on Lois Bowmer, nee Muzzall (1905-?). Includes photographs, film, audio, and manuscript materials.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 13.5 c.f. (26 boxes, 22 volumes, 22 films, 1 reel-to-reel audiotape, 2 U-matic videotapes, artifacts)

**Repository:** Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Ashland, OR

**Restrictions on Access:** Artifacts and books are stored in the Vault, and require 24 hour notice for access. There are no user copies of the AUDIO or FILM series reels at this time.

**Restrictions on Use:** Copyright restrictions apply. Unpublished documents are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:** [Box Number, Folder Number], M0005, Bowmer Family Papers, Oregon Shakespeare Festival Archives, Ashland, OR 97520.

**Acquisition:** Two donations from Margaret Rubin; the first upon Gertrude's move to a nursing home, and the second upon Gertrude's death.

**Related Material:** Angus Bowmer professional papers, as part of the Artistic Director Papers (unprocessed as of 10/24/2011.)

**Additional Sources:** Bowmer, Angus L. *As I remember, Adam: An Autobiography of a Festival*. Ashland, OR: Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association, 1975.

**Note:** The contents of Box 19 has water, rust and mold damage.

**Processing Information:** The collection has not been physically reordered, but the container list has been intellectually arranged.

**Processed by:** Debra Griffith, 2011

**Arrangement:** Alphabetical by subject, and then chronological within.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Angus Livingston Bowmer (September 25, 1904 –May 26, 1979) was one of the founding members, and first Artistic Director, of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF; then known as the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association). He was also an educator, actor, director, and writer. Angus was born in Bellingham, WA to Charles and Florence Bowmer. He began acting as a child with the family, and continued to act in student productions throughout his school years. After graduating from the Oak Harbor (WA) High School, he attended Bellingham Normal School, and received his teaching certificate (1926), returning to Oak Harbor to teach. Angus and his first wife Lois Muzzall (1905-?) taught at many small schools in the southern Washington area before he attended the University of Washington, where he received his Bachelors (1930) and Masters (1932) degrees. While at the University, he continued to act in student productions.

Angus became an English instructor at what was then known as the Southern Oregon State Normal School (now Southern Oregon University) in October 1931. He began staging plays at the school, but had larger aspirations. In 1935, he and Robert Stedman, enchanted by the resemblance of the old Chautauqua meeting hall foundation to their ideal of an Elizabethan theatre, began to plan for a Shakespeare play festival to be held in conjunction with the Ashland, OR 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. From this grew the present-day Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Angus' first wife Lois served as the costume designer (1935-1940) and art director (1937-1940) for OSF. She was born in Snohomish, WA to Edna M. and Courtland H. Muzzall. Angus and Lois, high school sweethearts, were married on September 11, 1926. They divorced on May 21, 1940. Lois moved to San Francisco, then Hawaii. She is believed to have remarried.

Gertrude Butler (November 29, 1903 – October 12, 1994) married Angus on December 30, 1940. Born to Harry N. Butler and Edith Nicholson, she was a life-long resident of the Rogue Valley. "After all these years, she is still my memory, my detail man, my secretary, my other self," Bowmer wrote of his wife, who became known as the "First Lady of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival." An inveterate diarist, Gertrude documented her travels and life with Angus in detail.

**Scope and Content:** This collection includes materials from Angus Bowmer, Gertrude Bowmer, the Bowmer and Butler families, and a small amount of material related to Lois Bowmer. Series include ANGUS BOWMER, GERTRUDE BOWMER, ARTIFACTS, AUDIO, BOOKS, and FILM. Within each series, the files are sorted alphabetically by subject, and then chronologically within. The collection has not been physically reordered, but the container list has been intellectually arranged.

The ANGUS BOWMER series contains subseries Correspondence, Education/Military materials, Honors/Awards/Speeches, Memorial Materials, Non-OSF Production Materials, Photographs/Images, Publications, and Scrapbooks.

The GERTRUDE BOWMER series contains personal and travel diaries, Butler family genealogical materials, clippings, correspondence, calendars, contact information, and photographs. The diaries will be of particular interest for three reasons: as a counterpoint to official OSF documentation; as a record of the courtship and marriage of Angus and Gertrude; and as a record of their travels and how Angus interacted with other theatre professionals. Of some interest to historians may be the memoirs of Gertrude's father, Harry N. Butler. In this slim

document, he details his expedition to the goldfields of Alaska in 1896 as part of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Both the ANGUS BOWMER and GERTRUDE BOWMER series contain material that overlaps. For example, the Photographs subseries within ANGUS BOWMER contains images of Gertrude and Lois. Both series contain genealogical materials for their respective families.

The ARTIFACTS and BOOKS series contain personal items belonging to Angus Bowmer. Some of the books contain marginalia from Angus Bowmer.

The AUDIO series consists of one reel. This reel is possibly intended to go with the vacation film footage shot in 1936.

The FILM series is personal footage shot by Angus Bowmer in the mid 1930s. The subjects are mainly Lois and Angus Bowmers' vacations, and Bowmer family events, with a small amount of Southern Oregon State Normal School footage.

There are no user copies of the AUDIO or FILM series reels at this time.

**Subject Terms:**

Bowmer, Angus L.  
Bowmer, Gertude (Butler)  
Bowmer, Lois (Muzzall)  
Bowmer Family  
Butler Family  
Kirchner, Richard Graham  
Sandoe, James  
Oregon Shakespeare Festival  
Southern Oregon State Normal School  
Southern Oregon College of Education  
Stanford University  
University of Washington  
Ashland (Or.)  
Theater  
Artifacts  
Audiotapes  
Books  
Diaries  
Film  
Manuscript  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Actor  
Teacher  
Director

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: ANGUS BOWMER

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
		Correspondence
18	3	Bowmer, Gertrude, 1980-1981, 1985
17	1-2	General, 1935, 1964-67, 1969-1975
		General (OSFA)
18	4	1929-1939 (primarily Golden Gate Exposition)
18	5-9	1940, 1947-1979
17	3	Graham, Richard, 1957-1962
17	4-6	Sandoe, James, 1948-1979
17	7	Scholars, 1939, 1951-1974
18	1	Southern Oregon Normal School (Southern Oregon College), 1935-1975, scattered
18	2	Stanford, OSFA Tour, 1963-1964
		Education/Military
16	1	1910-1947
		Southern Oregon College
7	14	Acting Scenes from Shakespeare, undated
7	12-13	English Composition correspondence course, Sandoe, 1954
7	15	Southern Oregon Normal School, Seminar in Dramatic Structure, undated
		Stanford University
7	1	Correspondence, 1953-1955
7	7	History of Costume, circa 1954
7	3	Modern American Drama (Civil War to Present), Heffner, 1948
7	4	Pattern drafting, undated
7	8	Playwriting, 1947
7	2	Seminar in Comedy, M. Bailey, 1948
7	5	Seminar "The Rise of Realism," Heffner, 1948
7	10	Stage Design, undated
7	6	Theatres and Staging, 1954
7	9	Theatres and Staging, undated
7	11	Unsorted class materials, 1948-1949
16	6	U. S. Army, 1921, 1941-1946, 1952
		Honors, Awards, Speeches
19	5	Articles about Angus Bowmer, 1927-1977, scattered
19	6	Articles by Angus Bowmer, 1956-1976, undated
19	2	Events, 1961, 1966, 1975-1979
		Honorary degrees and awards
16	2-4	1961-1980
OS2 D14		1967-1977

19	3	Itineraries, 1960-1973, scattered
19	4	Phi Beta Presentation, Tacoma, WA, 1965-1966
19	1	"A Roast and Toast of Governor Tom McCall," 1975 January 9
19	7-8	Speeches, 1959-1978
19	9	Theta Sigma Phi, 1963
16	5	University of Washington, 1976
		Memorial Materials
13	3-4	Angus Bowmer biographical information and obituaries, 1922-1990
14		Angus Bowmer condolence cards, 1979
13	7	Angus Bowmer estate and memorial, 1979-1980
13	2	Angus Bowmer Scholarship, 1995-2002, scattered
13	5	Bowmer family genealogical information, 1904-1989, scattered
13	6	Materials for Bowmer tribute, 1957, 1970, 1979
		Non-OSF Production Materials
8	1	<i>Ah, Wilderness</i> , Southern Oregon Normal School, 1947
8	2-4	<i>Andrew Jackson</i> , SONS, undated
8	5	<i>Around the World with the Three Kings</i> , undated
8	6	<i>As You Like It</i> , SONS, 1931-1932, 1934
8	7	<i>Blithe Spirit</i> , undated
8	8	<i>Box and Cox</i> , undated
8	9	<i>Caine Mutiny Court Martial</i> , 1958
8	10	<i>Candida</i> , SONS, 1936
8	11-12	<i>Charley's Aunt</i> , Southern Oregon College of Education, 1967
8	13	<i>Cheers from the Camps</i> , CBS Radio variety show, 1942
8	14	<i>Dangerous Corner</i> , SOCE, undated
8	15	<i>The Diamond Lense</i> (sic), undated
9	1-2	<i>A Doll's House</i> , Southern Oregon College of Education, 1942
9	3	<i>Emperor Jones</i> , SONS, 1936
9	4	<i>Farewell Supper</i> , First Night Play Series, 1940 February
9	5	<i>Ghosts</i> , SONS, 1938 March
9	6	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> , undated
9	7	<i>The Grub Street Opera</i> , script, undated
9	8	<i>Grumpy</i> , SONS, 1933 August 5
9	9	<i>Hamlet</i> , Oregon State University, 1964 December 1-5
9	10	<i>Hay Fever</i> , SONS, 1935 February 22-23
9	11	<i>High Tor</i> , SOCE, undated
9	12	<i>Idiot's Delight</i> , undated
9	13	<i>I Remember Mama</i> , 1949
OS2 D14		<i>King Lear</i> , cast list on <i>Merchant of Venice</i> poster, Portland State College, 1962
9	14	<i>Little Women</i> , SONS, undated
9	15	<i>The Living Corpse</i> , SONS, 1932 November 23-24
9	16	<i>Merchant of Venice</i> , SONS, 1935 May 10-11
21		<i>Merchant of Venice</i> Poster, SONS, 1935 May 10-11
9	17	<i>Miraculous Organ</i> , chapter 1, undated
9	18	<i>On the Harmfulness of Tobacco</i> , monologue, undated
9	19	<i>On the Night of January 16</i> , SOCE, undated
9	20-21	<i>Oregon Centennial</i> , Salem, 1959 February 14
10	1-2	<i>Our Town</i> , SOC, undated
10	3	<i>Oyer-Un-Gon</i> , Oregon Diamond Jubilee, Medford, 1934

June 6-8

10	4-6	<i>Peer Gynt</i> , undated
10	7	<i>The Perfect Alibi</i> , SONS, 1934
10	8	<i>Red Peppers</i> , undated
11	1-2	<i>Rhinoceros</i> , SOC, 1966
11	3	<i>The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd</i> , 1965
11	4	<i>Rogue Rest</i> , First Night play series, 1940 February
11	5	<i>Seven Keys to Baldpate</i> , SONS, 1935
11	6	<i>Shakespeare's Little People</i> , one-man show, undated
11	7	<i>The Show-Off</i> , University of Washington, late 1920s
11	8	<i>Street Scene</i> , undated
11	9	<i>Three Men on a Horse</i> , SONS, undated
11	10	<i>Thunder at my Door</i> , one-act play by Angus Bowmer, undated
11	11	<i>Treasure Island</i> , dramatization by Angus Bowmer, undated
11	12	University of Washington productions, 1929-1936
11	13	<i>Winterset</i> , undated
11	14	<i>Without Romance</i> , First Night play series, 1940 February
12	1	Unidentified production photographs, 1930s-1960s
12	2	SONS play production attendance records, 1935 December 5 – 1939 April 1
12	3	Playbills including Angus, 1930-1966, scattered

Photographs/Images

Angus Bowmer

1	x	1925-1960
1	4	1965-1978
4	1	Family, 1880-1990s
13	1	Family, 1900s-1960s
1	6	Family slides, 1950s-1970s
2	1	In costume, 1937-1966
2	3	In rehearsal, 1938-1960s, scattered
2	4-5	In groups, 1940s-1970s
1	1-3	Individual, 1970s
1	5	Single sitting, circa 1975
1	7	Slides and contact sheets, 1950s-1970s
2	2	Williamsburg vacation, 1974
2	8	Angus and Gertrude, 1955-1980, scattered
2	7	Angus and Lois, circa 1930s
1	x	Bowmer Family candid, 1910s-1920s
2	6	Contact sheets, 1965-1979
2	11	Drawing of Angus, undated
		Gertrude,
2	9	1915-1992, scattered
2	10	Slides, 1985
21		Oversized Bowmer-Butler family photographs, 1908, 1917, undated
		Vacations and OSF trips
3	5	Brochure and itinerary, 1984
3	4	Notes, 1965-1966
3	1-3	Slides, 1960-1976

Publications

*As I Remember, Adam*, Angus Bowmer



13	12	First proof, circa 1974
15	1	Correspondence, 1974-1978
15	2	Promotion materials, 1975-1978
15	4-6	Draft 1975
15	7-8	Draft, 1975
13	10	Bowmer family materials used, 1898-1975, scattered
15	9	<i>Chapbook #1, The Ashland Elizabethan Stage: Its genesis, development, and use</i> , 1978
15	10	<i>Chapbook #2, "Acting and Directing on the Ashland Elizabethan Stage"</i> , 1979
Scrapbooks		
Angus Bowmer		
5	2	Jubilee clippings, 1934
5	1	Normal School clippings, 1933-1936
5	3-7	OSF clippings, 1935-1939
6		Gertrude Butler European Vacation, 1930
5	8	Minnie Bowmer, undated

## **Series II: GERTRUDE (BUTLER) BOWMER**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
20		Address and Note Book, undated
20		'Angus Bowmer Theatre Tours to Britain,' 1963-1976
26		Birthday Calendar, undated
26		Business Card Cases (2), undated
20		Butler Family Genealogical Information, 1929, 1961, 1970, undated
20		Clippings, 1975
13	9	Correspondence, 1940-1994, scattered
		Diaries
24-26		Personal, 1930, 1940-1980
25-26		Travel, 1960-1982, scattered
20		Family Photographs, 1895-1994, scattered
20		Grand Tour of Europe Travel Diary, 1930
20		'Honorary Short Shakespearean' Plaque, 1990
20		<i>My Trip to Alaska in the Gold Rush</i> , Harry N. Butler memoir, unpublished, 1948
13	8	Obituaries and Memorial, 1994
26		Recipes (in wooden 'Globe' box), undated
20		Vital Records, 1909-1966, scattered

## **Series III: ARTIFACTS**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Briefcases (2)
2	Graduation Hood, Angus Bowmer
3	Photographic Equipment
4	Tools

5 Typewriter (belonged to Gertrude)

#### **Series IV: AUDIO**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Reel</u>	<u>Description</u>
23	1	"Audio of Europe Travel," 1936, 3-3/4" reel

#### **Series V: BOOKS**

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	<i>The American Conservatory Theatre Teacher's Manual for Dramatic Literature on Stage: Hamlet, and The Crucible</i> , 1968
2	John Masefield, <i>An Elizabethan Theatre in London</i> , 1955, includes personal note to Angus from Masefield
3	Henry Irving, <i>Complete works of William Shakespeare</i> , 1927
4	<i>Cornelia Otis Skinner, Paris '90</i> , souvenir program
5	Mary Cowden Clarke, <i>Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines</i> , Everyman Library, undated
6	<i>Life of Shakespeare</i> , late 18th century
7	Gerard Fay, <i>The Mermaid Theatre</i> , 1953
8	<i>The New York Times Shakespeare Tercentenary Announcement</i> , 1916, possibly a reproduction
9	David Monico, <i>Of Cabbages and King: a play in three acts</i> , undated, includes notes
10	Edwin Duerr, <i>Radio and Television Acting: criticism, theory, and practice</i> , 1950
11	<i>Roget's Thesaurus</i>
23	Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare, Ten Cent Pocket Series No. 250, edited by E. Halderman-Julius, circa 1921
12	<i>Shakespeare in North America, 400th Anniversary booklet</i> , 1964
13	Shakespeare Memorial Theatre programs, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1951-1953
14	"The Shakespeare Newsletter," Vol. XIV: 2-3 (No. 76), April-May 1964
15	Richard Graham, <i>Stage Make-up Applied</i> , 1956, published by the Institute for Renaissance Studies
16	"Summer Drama Festival 1937 Lectures and Concerts," Stanford University
17	<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> program, The Mermaid Theatre, Gerard Fay, 1954
18	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , Penguin edition, 1947. Includes marginalia from Angus
19	Untitled play script, undated
20-22	<i>Windsor edition of Shakespeare's works, Vols. 3, 5, 7</i>
24	Shakespeare, William, and John Dover Wilson. 1958. <i>The first part of the history of Henry IV</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
25	Unmarked set of Shakespeare-related plates, in suede binder, undated

## Series IV: FILM

<u>Box</u>	<u>Reel</u>	<u>Description</u>
22	1	"A Lorena Farm," undated, 8mm, 3" reel
23	23	"Angus Bowmer Hamlet," 1938, 16mm
22	3	"Angus Trip to Europe," 1936, 8mm
23	4	"Angus, Lois and friends," undated, U-matic transfers from 16mm
22	2	"Angus," undated, 8mm, 3" reel
23	19	"Bowmer/Lois etc.," 1935, 8mm, 7" reel
23	18	"Bowmer/Lois etc.," 1935, 8mm, 7" reel in same box as item #19
23	20	"Bowmer/Lois etc-also on VHS," 1935, 8mm, 7" reel
23	22	"Britt Ballroom and Flowers," undated, 8mm[?]
23	25	"Campus Day, Seeley for President, Black Charlie Patterson," 1935-1936, 8mm reel
22	6	"Capitol Bldg. Whidby Bridge," undated, 8mm, 5" reel in metal case
22	7	"Christmas at Bowmers- Our Yard-Flo," undated, 8mm, 5" reel in metal case
22	8	Content unidentified, [?] May 18, 8mm, in film developing envelope labeled, "Chas C Bowmer... Vancouver, WA"
22	9	Content unidentified, undated, Double 8mm, 3" reel in original "Bigelow films Du-All" box
22	10	"European Trip reel 1" also labeled reel 5, undated, 8mm, 5" reel
22	13	"European Trip reel 3," also labeled, reel 6, undated, 8mm, 5" reel
23	11	"Footage of the Bowmer's European Trip, also New York and Ashland footage," 1936, U-Matic, transfers from 16mm.
23	24	"Football, SONS," 1935-1936, 8 mm reel
22	12	"Jack," undated, 8mm, 5" reel in metal case
22	5	"Oswego Lake Angus' Birthplace" Insert labeled: "Angus and Lois and Grandma, Flo, Vinnie McDonald... Angus' School," undated, 8mm, 5"
22	14	"Reel 1, Bowmers Abroad", undated, 8mm, 5" reel
22	15	"Reel 2, Campus Day", 1934, 8mm, 5" reel
22	16	"Reel 3," also labeled reel 1 in pencil, undated, 8mm, 5" reel
22	17	"Reel 4," also labeled "European Trip reel 2," undated, 8mm, 5" reel
23	21	"Touvelle Park, Picnic on the river, Wunderbus," 1960, 8mm