

September 8, 1961

Mr. Dalton Trumbo  
c/o Writers Guild of America, West, Inc.  
8782 Sunset Blvd.  
Hollywood 46, California

Dear Mr. Trumbo:

I am writing in behalf of the Wisconsin Center for Theatre Research to suggest the establishment of a Dalton Trumbo Collection as one of the constituent collections of the Center. The Center is engaged in preserving for the use of future scholars and historians of the American Theatre significant materials serving to illustrate the history of contemporary theatre and cinema and to record the contributions to them of distinguished individuals. It is my feeling that a Dalton Trumbo Collection would serve as a permanent and fitting memorial to your outstanding career.

I enclose a folder describing the Center and the sorts of materials that we are interested in preserving. The collections of the Center are in the care of our staff of trained manuscript librarians, who are, I believe, particularly well equipped to treat materials entrusted to their care with the highest degree of professional librarianship. In this regard I should like to point out to you several important aspects of our collecting policy. We do not accept donations unless we are prepared to give them immediate attention so far as arrangement is concerned. It is the usual custom to preserve the methods of arrangement employed by donors in their own files so that they can readily consult any portion of their records that they may have occasion to refer to in the future. It is our regular policy to restrict confidential papers and documents in such manner as the donor may prescribe. For example, certain collections are closed until the death of the donor. Naturally, we hope that as large a part of our collections as possible will be open to researchers.

I should like to call your attention particularly to the fact that your records can be evaluated by a professional expert in the field of appraising and that this evaluation can then serve you as a deduction on income tax. I would be pleased to advise you about this matter and to place you in touch with the professional appraiser with whom I have been working. I feel sure it would be to your interest to consult your attorney and tax consultant about the advisability of your taking such a deduction.

I understand, of course, that certain of your records may well be in current use. It is my hope that we could reach an understanding that would provide for the deposit in the near future of such records and papers as may be at

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that time non-current and for the gradual deposit over future years of other records as they become non-current.

I enclose a list of individuals and organizations who have made donations to the Center or who have agreed to do so. It has been their feeling that the establishment of collections in their names here at Wisconsin would enable them to preserve systematically those papers and records of their careers that have accumulated and to prevent the loss through circumstance of irreplaceable materials of great interest to future biographers and historians.

I shall be in Los Angeles during the entire week of September 25th on one of my regular visits there, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you at that time. In the meantime, if you have questions about the process of establishing a collection in our Center, please, let me know. May I have your permission to telephone for an appointment on my arrival in Los Angeles?

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal to form a Dalton Trumbo Collection.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Hethmon  
Director, Wisconsin Center  
for Theatre Research

RHH: fh  
Enclosure