Wallace Markfield Papers, 1971-2002
Collection: Mss. 2002:2

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Wallace Markfield Papers, 1971-2002

Collection Number: Mss. 2002:2

Creator: Wallace Markfield

Extent: 8 boxes

Administrative Information

Processed by: Clyde H. Dornbusch

Access Restrictions: Open to research

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Chronology

1926 Born August 12 in Brooklyn, NY

1947 B.A., Brooklyn College

1948-1950 Graduate work at New York University

1948 Married Anna May Goodman

1952 In addition to the years teaching college (as noted below) and some time off for full-time writing (supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Institute of Arts and Letters grant), Markfield was at various times a publicity writer for the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Fund, the Council of Jewish Federations and American Jewish Committee, and the Anti-Defamation League. In
1954 and 1955 he also wrote film critiques for the New Leader.

1964  
*To An Early Grave*

1966-68  
Assistant Professor, San Francisco State College

1968-69  
Writer in residence, Kirkland College (NY)

1971-73  
Assistant Professor, Queens College (CUNY)

1971  
*Teitelbaum’s Window*

1974  
*You Could Live If They Let You*

1977  
*Multiple Orgasms*

1991  
*Radical Surgery*

2002  
Died May 24 in Roslyn, NY

**Scope and Contents Note**

In many of his short works and in his first three novels, (To An Early Grave (1964), Teitelbaum’s Window (1971), You Could Live If They Let You (1974)) Wallace Markfield wrote with satiric wit and Jewish humor about working-class New York characters he had observed during his growing-up years in Brooklyn from the 1930’s to 1950’s. Greatly interested in the movies, he often turned a camera eye on details of his milieu. Having suffered some disappointments in his own academic studies of history and in his academic appointments, he also turned a satiric eye on American academia. His fourth novel, Multiple Orgasms (1977), was published as a segment of a novel he never finished. There followed a long hiatus before he published his fifth novel, Radical Surgery (1991), a political thriller. He published little or no additional work. Wallace Markfield died May 24, 2002 at the age in 75 in Roslyn, New York.

The collection of Wallace Markfield’s papers in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections Department at the University of South Carolina spans the years of publication of the last four of his five novels. Included in the collection are various outlines, typescript drafts and proofs of critical essays, and two unpublished plays. Also included are letters to Matthew J. Bruccoli dating from 1975-
1983. In addition to the Markfield papers, Professor Bruccoli donated a collection of Markfield's published writings, accessible through the library's online catalogue.

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**Container List**

**Box 1**

*Teitelbaum’s Window* (1971), Advance Proofs, Uncorrected, Spiral Bound

*You Could Live If They Let You* (1974), Galley Proofs

**Box 2**

*Multiple Orgasms* (1977)

- Letters & documents re: printing
- Typescript copies, some marks for printer
- [Early] draft pp.1 & 2
- Typescript, 41 pp.
- Incomplete draft
Galley Proofs, 3 sets, 1 marked for printer; 1 WM’s corrected set

Mechanicals

Markfield, “Afterword” to Peter Martin’s *The Landsmen* (1977)

**Box 3**

Letters from Markfield to Matthew J. Bruccoli; Dec. 9 [1976], Feb. 19, 1977, Mar. 22, 1977 re:

“Afterword” to The Landsmen

“Afterword,” typescript draft

“Afterword,” typescript draft

“Afterword,” typescript draft [perhaps final draft copy]

Typescript for “Afterword” and for “Editor’s Note” (Matthew J. Bruccoli)

Printer’s copy for “Afterword” and for “Editor’s Note”

Galley proofs for “Afterword” and for “Editor’s Note”

Page proofs for “Afterword” and for “Editor’s Note”

**Box 4**

*Radical Surgery* (1991)

pp. 1-8

pp.11-26

pp.27-92

pp.93-137

**Box 5**

Typescript with corrections, 206 pp.
Author’s synopsis, 206 pp. Typescript with corrections

Incomplete typescript

**Box 6**

Typescript with corrections, 410 pp.

Typescript with corrections, 410 pp.

Incomplete typescript beginning with Ch. 11

**Box 7**

Mechanicals (registered by MJB, 10/23/97), Title page –Ch. 10 (p. 123)

Chs. 11-20 (pp. 124-249)

Chs. 21-24 (pp. 250-358)

Ch. 25—Epilogue (pp. 359-514)

**Box 8**

*Correspondence to Matthew J. Bruccoli*

1975-76 (15 letters)

1977 (15 letters)

1978-83 (16 letters), 2 sheets on Markfield’s appearance on University of South Carolina campus, Oct. 12, 1977, Wallace Markfield’s resume (no date)

Miscellaneous correspondence (re: Radical Surgery), 1991 [?])

*Shorter Works*

Typescript for Steeple Chase, an unpublished play, no date

“The Graves of Academe” (an essay, 1976) 2 typescript copies, galley proofs, an envelope addressed to Matthew J. Bruccoli, Jan. 6, 1976

Outline for “The Passionate Movie-Goer,” unpublished essay, no date

Xerox copy, The Offshore Pirate (an unpublished play, 1977)
Opening pages to?

*Biographical/Critical articles; Bibliography*

Biographical/Critical articles; Bibliography