

UA2011.50

R.A. Scotti Papers

Dates: 1984-2009

Creator: Scotti, Rita Angelica (1943-2010)

Extent: 1.25 linear feet

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: Meredith L. Gozo, June 2012

Administration Information

Restrictions: None

Copyright: Copyright retained by the family of R.A. Scotti.

Citation: Loyola University Chicago Archives and Special Collections. R.A. Scotti Papers, 1984-2009, Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: The collection was donated to Loyola by R. A. Scotti's sister, Maria Scotti Chapin, and daughter, Francesca Chigounis in 2011.

Separations: .25 linear feet extraneous materials and duplicates were discarded

See Also: Alumni Publication Collection.

Biographical Sketch

Rita Angelica Scotti was born December 25, 1943 in Providence, Rhode Island to Dr. Ciro Ottorino Scotti and Ursula Rita Dwyer, a journalist. Rita was the third-born of ten children. She attended Catholic schools from the start of her education in 1948 until her graduation from college in 1965. She completed two years of college at Newton College in Newton, Massachusetts from 1961-1962; she then spent a year at Loyola University's Rome program at CIVIS, from 1963-64, and completed her education at Loyola Chicago from 1964-1965. She got experience working as a gopher, or "copy-kid," for The Providence Journal in the interim period between her attendance at Newton College and Loyola. She returned to The Providence Journal after her graduation, working as a features editor, as well as at the Newark Star Ledger. In 1966 she met Evans Chigounis, a poet and journalist, whom she married. From 1967-1979 Scotti worked as a copywriter at the New York Public Library, American Management Co., Holt Rinehart and Winston, and the Book of the Month Club.

When her daughter was born in 1979, Scotti began working on a free-lance basis in order to have time for both child-rearing and fiction writing. Scotti's first fiction novel, *The Kiss of Judas*, was published in 1984, followed by *The Devil's Own* in 1985, *The Hammer's Eye*, 1988, and *For Love of Sarah* in 1995. All Scotti's early works have elements of the sensational and are largely about crime, espionage, cover-ups, and courtroom drama. Her first work of non-fiction, however, was personal in nature: entitled *Cradle Song*, Scotti published an account of the birth and death of her son Ciro, who suffered from a serious illness and lived only to sixteen months of age.

Scotti continued her writing in the non-fiction vein, publishing *Sudden Sea* in 2004, which is an account of the hurricane that struck the Northeastern coast of the

United States in 1938. Following *Sudden Sea*, Scotti published *Basilica* in 2007, which is a history of the building of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Scotti's interest in St. Peter's led her circuitously to research interests concerning the theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911; her account of it was then published as *Vanished Smile*, in 2009.

Scotti was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008; she was in the process of undergoing treatment when she died in 2010 at 66 years old.

Scope and Content

The Scotti Papers consist of 1.25 linear feet spanning the years of 1989-2005. There is a small amount of material pertaining to Scotti's fiction work, but the papers largely consist of materials related to her nonfiction writing. The papers contain photocopies of book chapters and articles that Scotti used as source materials, notes, correspondence, and a large array of images she considered for use in publications; these images may be found both in print form and on disk in the AV materials series. Also included in the AV materials are letters, drafts, photos, and personal correspondence pertaining both to Scotti and to her husband, Evans Chigounis.

Series 1: Fiction Novels, 1984-2009, Box 1

This series consists of Scotti's fiction writing including reviews, book jackets, and a draft copy of *The Devil's Own*. The novels referenced in this series are *The Kiss of Judas*, *The Devil's Own*, and *The Hammer's Eye*.

Series 2: *Sudden Sea*, 2003-2005, Box 1

This series contains Scotti's nonfiction work, *Sudden Sea*. It includes book jackets, speeches, online and print reviews, and information on scheduled appearances.

Series 3: *Basilica*, 2003-2005, Box 1

This series consists of Scotti's nonfiction work, *Basilica*. It contains photocopies, maps, a notebook, speech, syllabus, reviews, book jacket images, correspondence, articles by Scotti, a Viking Press portfolio, and speech invites.

Series 4: *Vanished Smile* 2008-2009, Box 2

This series contains Scotti's nonfiction work, *Vanished Smile*. It includes photocopies of book chapters, a manuscript draft and proposal, book jackets, marketing materials, a photo, a postcard, speeches, printed images under consideration for use in the book, permissions, press cuttings, reviews, a tour schedule, and information on scheduled appearances.

Series 5: AV Materials, 2005-2009, Box 3

This series contains AV materials pertaining to Scotti's nonfiction and unpublished work and also houses some materials that are personal in nature. There are photos, drafts of letters, poems, and works of fiction belonging either to Scotti or to her husband Evans Chigounis, as well as disks of images Scotti considered for usage in both *Basilica* and *Vanished Smile*

Subjects:

Basilica

Courtroom drama

Crime

Espionage

Evans Chigounis

For Love of Sarah

Mona Lisa

Rita Angelica (R.A.) Scotti

Rome

Sudden Sea

St. Peter's Basilica

The Devil's Own

The Hammer's Eye

The Hurricane of 1938

The Kiss of Judas

Vanished Smile

Accession No.: UA2011.50

Creator: Scotti, R.A. (1943-2010)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<u>Series 1: Fiction Novels, 1984-2009, n.d.</u>			
1	1	<i>The Kiss of Judas</i>	1984, n.d.
1	2	<i>The Hammer's Eye</i>	1988, n.d.
1	3	<i>For Love of Sarah</i>	1995, n.d.
1	4	Program for Author's Night, Convent of the Sacred Heart	2000
1	5	<i>The Devil's Own</i>	n.d.
<u>Series 2: Sudden Sea, 2003-2005, n.d.</u>			
1	6	Print interview on <i>Sudden Sea</i> , Florida International Magazine	2003
1	7	Appearance materials, <i>Sudden Sea</i>	2003-2004
1	8	Online reviews, <i>Sudden Sea</i>	2003-2005, n.d.
1	9	Paper reviews, <i>Sudden Sea</i>	2003-2005, n.d.
1	10	Article by R.A. Scotti, "Napatree 1938: Unexpected Heroes"	2005
1	11	Book jacket sample, <i>Sudden Sea</i>	n.d.
1	12	Speeches, <i>Sudden Sea</i>	n.d.
<u>Series 3: Basilica, 2006-2009, n.d.</u>			
1	13	Visiting scholar papers, American Academy in Rome	2004
1	14	Concession of Rights of Reproduction	2006
1	15	Mailer, <i>Basilica</i>	2006
1	16	Reviews, <i>Basilica</i>	2006, n.d.
1	17	Viking Press Portfolio, <i>Basilica</i>	2006
1	18	Bookjacket images, <i>Basilica</i>	2007-2009, n.d.
1	19	Invitation: Cosmos Club	2007
1	20	Article: "The Splendor and the Scandal," R.A. Scotti, The Wall Street Journal	2009
1	21	Articles on Rome	n.d.
1	22	Maps	n.d.
1	23	Notebook	n.d.
1	24	Photocopied list of popes	n.d.
1	25	Printouts, architectural features	n.d.
1	26	Speech	n.d.
1	27	Syllabus: "St. Peter's and the Vatican"	n.d.
1	28	"Tips for Tourists," From R.A.Scotti	n.d.
<u>Series 4: Vanished Smile, 2008-2009, n.d.</u>			
2	1	Checkout record, Art Resource Consignment	2008
2	2	Image print-outs	2008, n.d.
2	3	Permission to use materials from <i>The Art</i>	2008

		<i>Stealers</i>	
2	4	Source materials, <i>Vanished Smile</i> , 1 of 2	2008, n.d.
2	5	Source materials, <i>Vanished Smile</i> , 2 of 2	2008, n.d.
2	6	Reviews, <i>Vanished Smile</i>	2009
2	7	Press Cuttings on <i>Vanished Smile</i>	2009
2	8	Alfred A. Knopf purchasing catalog	2009
2	9	Appearance materials, <i>Vanished Smile</i>	2009
2	10	Tour schedule, <i>Vanished Smile</i>	2009
2	11	Book jacket samples	n.d.
2	12	Draft: <i>Vanished Smile</i>	n.d.
2	13	Marketing materials, <i>Vanished Smile</i>	n.d.
2	14	Photo reproduction, Marie Laurencin's "Group of Artists"	n.d.
2	15	Postcard reproduction, Picasso's "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon"	n.d.
2	16	Proposal for <i>Vanished Smile</i>	n.d.
2	17	Speeches	n.d.

Series 5: A.V. Materials, 2005-2009

3	<i>Basilica</i> Artwork: architectural features, popes	2005
3	<i>Basilica</i> Art 2	2005
3	<i>Basilica</i> Images: "Veduta interna della Basilica S. Pietro," "Veduta dell insigne Basilica Vaticana"	2005
3	<i>Basilica</i> Art, captions, credits, author photo, permissions	2005
3	<i>Basilica</i> Image of ruins	2005
3	<i>Basilica</i> Image: "Templi Divi Petri in Vaticano"	2006
3	Sangallo <i>Basilica</i> image and credit	2006
3	<i>Basilica</i> Posters	2006
3	<i>Basilica</i> Poster and card	2006
3	<i>Vanished Smile</i> Image: "Petit Parisien"	2008
3	<i>Vanished Smile</i> Image: map, Musees du Louvre	2008
3	<i>Vanished Smile</i> Images: concerning the stolen Mona Lisa	2008
3	<i>Vanished Smile</i> Author photos	2008
3	<i>Vanished Smile</i> Peruggia and the Mona Lisa	2008
3	Rita Scotti and Evans Chigounis' personal papers and drafts	2009
3	Rita Scotti personal photos	2009
3	"VS Speech"	2009
3	"Toronto"	2009
3	"Toronto Tix"	2009