

The Arthur Hailey Collection

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On February 21, 2013 at the Harry C. Moore Library (HCML) of the College of The Bahamas, the Arthur Hailey Collection was formally opened. The collection, over 800 items from the estate of Arthur Hailey, consists of personal copies of the author's commercial publications as well as mementos from the study at his Lyford Cay home in The Bahamas. These materials, along with the manuscript collection (Shoesmith, 2010) donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, can provide scholars with resources to support research about this bestselling author.

The simple search "Arthur Hailey" on Google Scholar™ demonstrates the impact of the author's work on academic research. Perhaps best known for his novels, Arthur Hailey received initial popular recognition for his television screenplay, *Flight into Danger*. Broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1956, it proved to be a starting point for his independent, professional career as a writer (Arthur Hailey, 2007). The collection has the 1959 stage adaptation of the screenplay published by Dramatic Publishing. In an interesting reversal of a future trend, Hailey's screenplay was turned into a novel, co-written with John Castle - pseudonym for the writing team of Ronald Charles Payne

and John William Garrod - and was first published by Souvenir Press (simultaneously in Canada by Ryerson Press) in 1958.

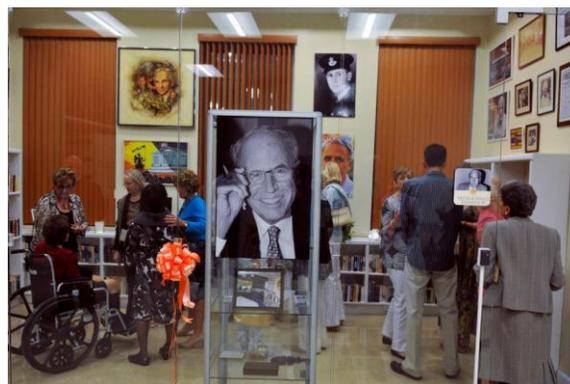


Figure 1: Opening of the Arthur Hailey Collection Room. Photograph courtesy of COB Office of Communications.

With the convenience of finding previews of books on the World Wide Web, current readers may have forgotten the importance of services such as Reader's Digest publications which republished extracted sections of popular novels. An early example in the collection is a 1960 edition of *Reader's Digest Condensed Books* containing a selection from *Final Diagnosis*. Several of Hailey's novels were selected and copies of these publications were included in the donation. As an international organization, Reader's Digest published translated extracts into other languages as well, including French, German, Dutch and

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Japanese, and the collection includes a variety of these editions. However, this reflects only a few of the many languages into which Hailey's publications have been translated.

There are 34 different languages represented in the Hailey Collection and non-English editions account for over 60 percent of the titles in the collection. It will be challenging to work with items in non-Latin characters such as מתח סיפור : הסכנה בצל הטיס and ストロング・メディスン. Even knowing languages may not help when titles are not literal translations taken from English language editions: *Le Destin d'une Femme* is the title used for a French translation of *Strong Medicine*.

Another indication of Arthur Hailey's world-wide popularity is demonstrated by examples of pirated editions. An admirer sent a copy of *Overload* to Hailey and enclosed a notice from Macmillan Company of India informing the public that it had exclusive rights for that title; however, this book is clearly a copy of a Bantam Books American edition. Equally interesting is the use of Hailey's name to promote sales. There is a copy of the novel *Liner*, written by James Barlow, which credits Arthur Hailey as the author. There are other books in the collection clearly not written by

Hailey for which the original authors have yet to be identified.

The most recent publication in the collection is *The Lyford Legacy: A History of Lyford Cay from 1788*. Written soon before his death in 2004, this 90-page book reflects Hailey's characteristic in-depth research on a subject of interest. It contains personal observations and anecdotes by the author as well as detailed historical information about the persons associated with the tract of land. Hailey's having lived with his wife Sheila in the residential development since 1970 (Hailey, 2004, p. 3), it is fitting that his final work should cover the history of this community on New Providence.

The Arthur Hailey Collection, housing all of the items, is located in the Special Collections room of the Harry C. Moore Library, Oakes Field Campus, College of The Bahamas. Basic bibliographic records for the print items and sound recordings have been added to COBWeb, the online public access catalogue for the College's libraries, which is freely accessible on the Internet at the url: <http://bahamas-voyager-linux.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com>.

Further information concerning the collection and access to it can be obtained from the Special Collections Librarian by e-mail: specialcollections@cob.edu.bs

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