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Joseph Heller

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Joseph Heller

an exhibition of
material from
The Matthew J. and Arlyn Bruccoli Collection

in conjunction with
The F. Scott Fitzgerald Centenary Celebration

Thomas Cooper Library
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina
September 1996
Joseph Heller

With the success of his first novel, *Catch-22* (1961), Joseph Heller not only achieved recognition as a major American author: he also contributed a new term to the language. Often celebrated as the best American novel of World War II, *Catch-22* attacks the hypocrisy and futility of war.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Heller joined the Twelfth Air Force at the outbreak of World War II. His wartime experiences as a bombardier in Italy provided background material for *Catch-22*. Mr. Heller continued his anti-war theme with two plays, *We Bombed in New Haven* (1968) and an adaptation of *Catch-22* (1971). Mr. Heller returned to the novel with *Something Happened* (1974), exposing the bankruptcy of middle-class American experience. His other books include the novels *Good as Gold* (1979), *God Knows* (1984), and *Picture This* (1988), and the autobiography *No Laughing Matter* (1986) written with Speed Vogel. *Closing Time*, the sequel to *Catch-22*, appeared in 1994.
The Exhibit

"I Don't Love You Anymore," *Story* 27 (September/October 1945): pp. 40-44.
Heller's first published short story appeared in this issue of *Story*, which was devoted to fiction written by former servicemen about their wartime experiences.

Photograph of Joseph Heller in front of a B-52, similar to the one in which he flew as a bombadier during WWII.

The published version of the history of Heller's Air Force unit. *(Thomas Cooper Library).*

Includes the first chapter of Heller's work-in-progress, then entitled "Catch-18." The title was changed to avoid confusion with Leon Uris's *Mila 18*, which was also published in 1961.

Proof copy of Heller's first novel, for advance circulation to reviewers.

First printing, in dust jacket.

*Catch-22.*
Taiwanese piracy, in dust jacket.

Advance reader's copy of the first English edition.

Promotional postcards for the first English edition of *Catch-22.*


Delta trade paperback edition.

First Modern Library edition, in dust-jacket.

Twentieth printing.
Heller's novel sold very well in the mass-market paperback edition, requiring twenty printings in its first five years.
Material cut from *Catch-22*,
including letters from Nately's father
to his son during the war.

Movie stills from the screen version

*Catch-22: A Dramatization by
Joseph Heller.*
Heller's revised typescript for stage
version of the novel. The play
premiered at the John Drew Theatre
in East Hampton, Long Island, in
1971. *(Thomas Cooper Library).*

*Catch-22: A Dramatization by
Joseph Heller* (New York: Samuel
French, 1971).
Acting script.

*Catch-22: A Dramatization by
First printing, in dust jacket. Reading
edition.

"Yossarian Survives," *Playboy* 34
(December 1987): pp. 144-146, 184,
186.
An episode from *Catch-22* that was
cut from the novel.

*Closing Time* (New York: Simon &
Schuster, 1994).
Advance reader's copy of Heller's sequel to *Catch-22*.


**Acknowledgments**

This exhibit has been curated by Robert Trogdon and Robert Moss. All items on display are by Joseph Heller, unless otherwise indicated, and are in the Matthew J. and Arlyn Bruccoli Collection.