Finding Aid to the James Ralston Caldwell Papers, 1925-1988, bulk 1925-1965

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Finding Aid to the James Ralston Caldwell Papers, 1925-1988, bulk 1925-1965

Collection Number: BANC MSS 67/97 c

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Date Completed:
December 2005

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: James Ralston Caldwell papers
Date (inclusive): 1925-1988,
Date (bulk): , bulk 1925-1965
Collection Number: BANC MSS 67/97 c
Creators : Caldwell, James Ralston, 1900-1965
Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxesLinear feet: 1.0
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Abstract: The James Ralston Caldwell papers include materials relating to the Loyalty Oath Controversy on the University of California and the University of Nevada campuses, a small amount of material relating to Caldwell's writing, and personal papers containing correspondence and materials concerning Caldwell's death. Correspondents include Reginald Francis Arragon, George Boas, Arthur H. Brayfield, the University of California Board of Regents, Robert G. Sproul, Group for Academic Freedom, Charlton Laird, and personal correspondence between James Caldwell and his wife Katherine Field (Katherine Ehrgott Caldwell) and with Caldwell's sister Josephine Caldwell.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], James Ralston Caldwell Papers, BANC MSS 67/97 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Separated Material
Printed materials have been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Caldwell, James Ralston, 1900-1965--Archives
Field, Katherine--Correspondence
University of California (1868-1952)
University of Nevada
Oaths--California
Oaths--Nevada
Authors, American--California--Berkeley
Minutes.
Faculty papers.
Poems.
Reviews.
Manuscripts for publication.
Brayfield, Arthur H
Arragon, Reginald Francis
Boas, George, 1891-
Laird, Charlton Grant, 1901-
Sproul, Robert Gordon, 1891-1975
Field, Katherine
Caldwell, Josephine
University of California (1868-1952). Regents
Group for Academic Freedom

Acquisition Information
The James Ralston Caldwell papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Katherine Field Caldwell on January 9, 1967. Additions were made by Dan Caldwell on May 5, 2004.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by Alison E. Bridger in 2004.

1900 Born on Jan. 20 in Hastings, Minnesota.
1922 Received baccalaureate from Princeton University, major in philosophy.
1925 Received A.M. from University of Wisconsin, in English.
1929 On September 1, married Katherine Field Ehrgott.
1930 Awarded Ph.D. from Harvard. Joined University of California faculty in Berkeley, California, as assistant professor of English.
1946 Attained professorship at the University of California.
1950-1951 Loyalty Oath Controversy at the University of California.
1965 Died on April 4.

Scope and Content of Collection
The James Ralston Caldwell papers include materials relating to the Loyalty Oath Controversy on the University of California and the University of Nevada campuses, a small amount of material relating to Caldwell's writing, and personal papers containing correspondence and materials concerning Caldwell's death. Correspondents include Reginald Francis Arragon, George Boas, Arthur H. Brayfield, the University of California Board of Regents, Robert G. Sproul, Group for Academic Freedom, Charlton Laird, and personal correspondence between James Caldwell and his wife Katherine Field (Katherine Ehrgott Caldwell) and with Caldwell's sister Josephine Caldwell.

The Loyalty Oath Controversy began when Universities around the country insisted on faculty and staff to sign oath of loyalty to the United States and state that they did not belong or believe in any organizations advocating the overthrow of the United States government including the Communist Party. In 1949 the University of California instituted such an oath and 31 professors and many university employees were dismissed for not signing. A Loyalty Oath was also instituted at the University of Nevada where professor Frank Richardson was fired for refusing to sign and took the University to court. The Caldwell papers include correspondence relating to the controversy at the University of California as well as other campuses across the United States, different University of California committee papers relating to the controversy, and documents and clippings about the dismissal proceedings by the University of Nevada against Frank Richardson.
Materials relating to Caldwell's writing includes letters of praise for his work John Keats Fancy, correspondence about his poetry and to his wife about publishing an unfinished work after his death. Manuscripts include, "Consider the Source," "What to Tell the Emperor," other essays and some poems. Also included are some reviews of Caldwell's work as well as reviews done by Caldwell and a list of publications by Caldwell from early in his career in 1939.

The personal papers of James Caldwell include correspondence, and items relating to his death. Correspondence is between Caldwell and his wife, most during their years of courtship while Caldwell was still in Wisconsin and Katherine was in Cambridge, Mass., and while Katherine was traveling in Italy and Greece. Also includes correspondence with Caldwell's sister, Josephine Caldwell, and a small amount of correspondence from other family members.

### SERIES 1 Loyalty Oath Controversy 1949-1963

**Physical Description:** Box 1

**Arrangement**

Arranged hierarchically.

**Scope and Content Note**

In three subseries: correspondence, University of California subject files and University of Nevada subject files.

#### Subseries 1.1 Correspondence 1949-1963

**Physical Description:** Box 1, folders 1-10

**Arrangement**

Arranged hierarchically then alphabetically.

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains correspondence between Caldwell and colleges concerning the Loyalty Oath Controversy at the University of California and elsewhere.

- **Box 1, Folder 1**
  - Outgoing 1949-1963
  - **Incoming**
    - Arragon, Reginald Francis. 1951-1952
    - Boas, George. 1950
    - Brayfield, Arthur H. 1951
    - University of California (1868-1952). Regents. 1950
    - Sproul, Robert Gordon. 1949-1950
    - Laird, Charlton Grant. 1953-1955
    - Miscellaneous A-L 1950-1963
    - Miscellaneous M-Z 1950-1951

#### Subseries 1.2 University of California Subject Files 1949-1960

**Physical Description:** Box 1, folders 11-24

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically.

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains files of various committees on campus that dealt with the Loyalty Oath, Caldwell's notes, and other information concerning the controversy.

- **Box 1, Folder 11**
  - Committee on Academic Freedom. 1950-1951
- **Box 1, Folder 12**
  - Committee on Privilege and Tenure. 1950
- **Box 1, Folder 13**
  - Committee on Welfare of non-Senate Academic Employees. [1950?]
- **Box 1, Folder 14**
  - Faculty Committee on Financial Assistance. [1950?-1951]
SERIES 1 Loyalty Oath Controversy 1949-1963
Subseries 1.2 University of California Subject Files 1949-1960

Box 1, Folder 15-16
Special Unified Committee on Tenure.
Minutes 1950-1953

Box 1, Folder 17
Proposed amendments 1953-1955
Reports 1952-1954
Memoranda 1953-1955
Miscellaneous 1953-1955

Box 1, Folder 21
Material about Loyalty Oath 1949-[1951]

Box 1, Folder 22
James Caldwell's notes [ca. 1950]

Box 1, Folder 23
Clippings [1950-1959]

Box 1, Folder 24
Special Combined Senate Committee on University Extension. 1960

Subseries 1.3 University of Nevada Subject Files 1952-1956

Physical Description: Box 1, folders 25-26
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note
Contains reports and clippings on the Loyalty Oath controversy on the University of Nevada campus and the case of Frank Richardson, who was fired for refusing to sign.

Box 1, Folder 24
Materials regarding oath controversy and the Frank Richardson case [1952-1953]
Clippings 1952-1956

SERIES 2 Writings 1939-1979

Physical Description: Box 2, folders 1-13
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note
In two subseries: correspondence, and manuscripts, reviews, and list of publications.

Subseries 2.1 Correspondence 1946-1979
Physical Description: Box 2, folders 1-3
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence to James Caldwell and later his wife concerning his writing.

Box 2, Folder 1
Regarding book John Keats Fancy 1946

Box 2, Folder 2
Regarding poetry 1964

Box 2, Folder 3
Regarding unfinished work 1965-1979

Subseries 2.2 Manuscripts, Reviews, and List of Publications 1939-1961
Physical Description: Box 2, folders 4-13
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note
Contains a small amount of manuscripts, reviews by and of Caldwell and a list of publications by Caldwell.

Box 2, Folder 4
Consider the Source undated

Box 2, Folder 5
Lecture notes on Byron [ca. 1961]

Box 2, Folder 6
Tribute to Dr. Meiklejohn in ACLU News 1957

Box 2, Folder 7
What to Tell the Emperor undated
SERIES 2 Writings 1939-1979
Subseries 2.2 Manuscripts, Reviews, and List of Publications 1939-1961

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 8</th>
<th>Essays undated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
<td>Poems undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 10</td>
<td>Miscellaneous manuscripts undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>Reviews of James Ralston Caldwell's work 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>by Caldwell, James Ralston 1960-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13</td>
<td>List of publications 1939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERIES 3 Personal Papers 1925-1988

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 2, folders 14-17, Box 3</th>
<th>Physical Description: Box 2, folders 14-17, Box 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Arrangement Arranged hierarchically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note In three subseries: correspondence, materials relating to death of James Ralston Caldwell and miscellaneous items.</td>
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</tbody>
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Subseries 3.1 Correspondence 1925-1988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 1-9</th>
<th>Caldwell, James Ralston to Field, Katherine. 1926-1959</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 10</td>
<td>from Field, Katherine. 1929</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 11-14</td>
<td>to Caldwell, Josephine. 1955-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 15</td>
<td>Field, Katherine. to Caldwell, Josephine. 1956-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 16</td>
<td>Incoming miscellaneous 1924, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 17</td>
<td>Caldwell family miscellaneous 1931, 1966, 1988</td>
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</table>

Subseries 3.2 Death of James Ralston Caldwell 1965

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 14</th>
<th>Condolence letters 1965</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 15</td>
<td>Eulogies 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td>Obituaries 1965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries 3.3 Miscellaneous Items 1957, 1977, undated

Physical Description: Box 2, folder 17
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Contains a library card of James Ralston Caldwell, resume of Katherine Field for travel to the Peoples Republic of China and an unidentified piece of manuscript music.

Box 2, Folder 17

Library card, resume of Katherine F. Caldwell and music manuscript 1957, 1977, undated