Guide to the J. Kent Clark Papers, 1954-2003

Collection number: Consult repository

Archives

California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: J. Kent Clark Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1954-2003
Collection number: Consult repository
Creator: Clark, J. Kent, 1917-
Extent: 2 linear feet
Repository: California Institute of Technology. Archives.
Pasadena, California 91125

Abstract: J. Kent Clark, 1917-pres. Professor of English, CIT 1947-86. The papers include manuscripts of dramatic and musical works (with audio cassettes), biographical sketches, essays, a manuscript of Clark's biography of Thomas, Earl of Wharton, and some correspondence (esp. with Walter Garner).

Language: English.

Access
The collection is open for research. Researchers must apply in writing for access.

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Preferred Citation
Papers of J. Kent Clark. Archives, California Institute of Technology.
Guide to the J. Kent Clark Papers, 1954-2003

Acquisition Information
The papers of J. Kent Clark have been donated to the Caltech Archives over a large period of time. Much of the collection was donated in 1990.

Biography
J. Kent Clark came to Caltech in 1947 as an instructor in English. He was born in 1917 in Utah, and educated at Brigham Young University and at Stanford. At Caltech he was one of a group of outstanding teachers of the humanities who began their tenure following World War II, at the end of the Millikan era. His renown on campus grew with the creation of a series of musicals on campus life and characters between 1954 and 1988, in collaboration with Elliott Davis. The musicals were performed by the Caltech Stock Company. A number of songs from these shows have achieved notoriety of their own. Clark also wrote musicals and plays for organizations other than Caltech. He is the author of a novel, The King's Agent, and biographies of Goodwin and Thomas Wharton (the Tom Wharton biography is still in progress). Clark's life and career are described in the oral history done for the Caltech Archives in 1990. He became Emeritus in 1986.

Scope and Content
J. Kent Clark's papers were given to the Archives over a period of time. The first items to be received were the musicals, which in most cases were represented by text, musical scores, and frequently by audio cassettes as well. Of the remaining papers, the bulk was given in 1990. In preparing the materials for use, it was decided to bring all of them together in one place, in the collection now called the Papers of J. Kent Clark. The exception is the audio cassettes, which reside mostly--there are some exceptions--in the Archives' audio collection. Cross references to these audio cassettes are given in the Guide to the Papers. However, researchers should consult the separate guide to the audio cassette collection for some items which are not referenced in the papers. Three phonorecords of Clark's songs and musicals are also separately catalogued.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection.
California Institute of Technology
Caltech. Division of Humanities
Musicals
Songs

J. Kent Clark Papers

Section I: Dramatic and Musical Works

Musicals
Box 1, Folder 1
The Road to Stockholm (The Appalling Life of Dr. Pauling) 1954 See also: audio cassette collection; phonorecord collection
Folder 2
[This is Science] (Show for the AAAS Meeting, Pasadena City College) 1955
Folder 3
Who is this Guy DuBridge? 1956 See also: audio cassette collection; phonorecord collection
Folder 4
Take Your Medicine 1957-58; rev. 1985 [includes audio cassette]
Folder 5
The Importance of Being Earnest 1959 See also: audio cassette collection
Folder 6
Committees 1960 [2 copies]
Folder 7
What Makes Beadle Run? 1961
Folder 8
The Organization Women 1962
Folder 9
Lee and Sympathy 1966 [includes audio cassette] See also: audio cassette collection
Folder 10
A Broader View (Show for Caltech Y) 1966
Folder 11
The Bacher File 1970 See also: audio cassette collection
Folder 12
Beautiful Beckman 1975 [2 copies] See also: audio cassette collection
Folder 13
A Broader View (rev.) and Troll's Progress (Playreaders' Party) 1987
Folder 14
Middlekauf Cantata 1987
Folder 15
Caltech Revisited: or Déjà, Déjà Vu 1988
Folder 16
Selections from Kent Clark Shows [audio cassette]
Section I: Dramatic and Musical Works

Song Collections
Box 2, Folder 1
"Let's Advance on Science" and other songs [includes audio cassette] See also: phonorecord collection
Folder 2
Retirement songs: R. Sharp, H. Wayland, H. Brown
Folder 3
"Ballad of Chappaquiddick" and "The Richter Scale" [phonodisc]
Show, Huntington Library celebration
Folder 4
Paradise Re-Lost 1983 [for James Thorpe]

Section II: Literary Works

Profiles [Biographical sketches]
Box 2, Folder 5
[Note on Profiles]
Folder 6
Coltrin, Bill 1982
Folder 7
Eagleson, Harvey 1967
Folder 8
Eaton, Paul 1976
Folder 9
Hershey, Wes, memorial service 1989
Folder 10
Kent, Henry C. [JKC's grandfather; in letter to Clarence Kent] 1987
Folder 11
Kent, Percy D. and Sara [JKC's uncle and aunt] 1978
Folder 12
Langston, Beach 1979
Folder 13
Oliver, Bob, retirement 1988; Oliver, Darlene, memorial speech 1987
Folder 14
Searle, Don 1982-83

Essays and Other Writings
Folder 15
[Note on Essays]
Folder 16
[Jonathan] Swift and the Dutch 1954
Folder 17
Eliot's Poetic Theory and Practice 1956
Folder 18
Readings in Rationalism 1959
Folder 19
The Art Program at Caltech 1971
Folder 20
Diatribe [re Jenijoy LaBelle; in letter to Peter Fay] 1976
Folder 21
The Creative Arts and Twentieth Century Education 1979
Folder 22
Article on secretaries 1986
Folder 23
Letter to students [re abolishing Invocation at Commencement] 1985

Humans Division Working Papers:
Folder 24
The Inglorious Revolution 1979
Lilliburlero (Chap. 16 of Goodwin Wharton biography) 1979
The Colonel and the Queen (Chap. 19 of Goodwin Wharton biography) 1980
Folder 25
The Search for the First Earl of Wharton [2 copies] 1988
Young Tom Wharton 1989
Marriage à la Mode 1990
The Third Whig 1991
The Plot of "The Plot" [Ch. 9 of Wharton biography, n.d.]
Folder 26

Section III: Personal

Box 2, Folder 27
Vita
Folder 28
Reunion Program, Brigham Young University 1989
See also: Oral History Collection
See also: Audio Tape Collection

Supplement 1994

Box 3, Folder 1
Exclusion [Ch. 10-12 of the Wharton biography]
Folder 2
The Search for Goodwin Wharton 1976
Folder 3
The Publication of Goodwin Wharton... and the Search for Thomas, Earl of Wharton 1984
Supplement 1995

Box 3, Folder 4  
Anne Wharton [Ch. 13 of the Wharton biography]
Folder 5  
Outrages [Ch. 14 of the Wharton biography]
Folder 6  
Seizures [Ch. 15 of the Wharton biography]

Supplement 1996

Box 3, Folder 7  
Transcript of speech by J. C. Clark for 100th Founder's Day celebration of Gnome Club 9 March 1996
Folder 8  
Letter to Denise Smith 17 Jan 1996
Correspondence with Walter Garner
Folder 9  
1976-1978
Folder 10  
1979-1981
Folder 11  
1982-1984
Folder 12  
1985-1986
Folder 13  
1987-1988
Folder 14  
1989-1990
Folder 15  
1991-1992
Folder 16  
1993-1996
Box 4, Folder 1  
Letter about Elliott Davis 20 Nov 1996 (to Walter and Irene Garner)

Supplement 1997

Box 4, Folder 2  
Horses and Bridles [Ch. 19 of Tom Wharton Biography] November 1997

Supplement 1998

Box 4, Folder 3  
Speech to the Class of 1958 [15 May 1998]

Supplement 1999

Box 4, Folder 4  
Wharton, Thomas, Draft for Dictionary of National Biography

Supplement 2001

Box 4, Folder 5  
Foreward to Diary of Martin Tangora
New Vita (1999): See 2.27

Supplement 2002

Box 4, Folder 6  
Talk to Class of 1952 May 16, 2002
Short essays
Box 4, Folder 6  
George Epstein's poetry
Box 4, Folder 6  
Elegy on my brother: Ernest Eugene Clark

Supplement 2003

Box 4, Folder 7  
Huntington Library (with Carol B. Pearson), March 12, 2003
J. Kent Clark Audio Material

I. Audio Cassettes in Audio Cassette Archive

12-9-54 The Road to Stockholm [2 copies]
I. Audio Cassettes in Audio Cassette Archive

12-7-56 Who is This Guy DuBridge?
10-22-59 [The Importance of Being Earnest]
3-21-61 What Makes Beadle Run?
4-28-66 Caltech in E-flat
11-18-66 Lee and Sympathy
1966 A Broader View [Caltech Y Anniversary]
1-12-69 DuBridge Farewell Program
DuBridge Farewell Dinner (also exists on reel-to-reel tape)
11-19-70 The Bacher File
The Bacher Dinner
1-13-75 Beautiful Beckman [2 copies]
5-13-78 On the Trail of Goodwin Wharton (Talk on Alumni Seminar Day) [2 copies]
4-7-80 Arnold Beckman's 80th birthday party (performance by K. Clark and G. Lorden)
1-11-90 Caltech As Musical Comedy (for Caltech Women's Club)
4-10-92 Arnold Beckman's 92nd birthday party (reprise of material from 80th party by Clark and Lorden)

II. Audio Cassettes in the Papers of J. Kent Clark

1958 Songs from Take Your Medicine [1.4]
1966 Lee and Sympathy (excerpt) [1.9]
1975 Selections from Kent Clark Shows [1.16]
1975 Let's Advance on Science (song collection) [2.1]

III. Phonorecords in Phonorecord Collection

ca 1954 The Road to Stockholm [2 copies]
ca 1956 Who is This Guy DuBridge?
after 1975 Let's Advance on Science (song collection)

IV. Phonorecord in the Papers of J. Kent Clark

no date "Ballad of Chappaquiddick" and "The Richter Scale" [2.3]