
Russell G. Benedict Polemical Literature

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California State University, Fullerton. University Archives and Special Collections

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2021

Descriptive Summary

Title: Russell G. Benedict Polemical Literature

Dates: 1930 - 1970

Collection Number: FC-06

Creator/Collector: Benedict, Russell.

Extent: 294 Document boxes and 9 lateral file drawers

Repository: California State University, Fullerton. University Archives and Special Collections
Fullerton, California 92834-4150

Abstract: The Benedict Collection was originally called University of Nevada's Contemporary Issues Collection and it was founded and curated by Russell G. Benedict. He collected periodicals, clippings, pamphlets, brochures and books focusing on the Civil Rights Movement, organized labor activities anti-Communist groups and extremist groups on either side of the political spectrum who targeted particular racial or religious groups or activities in hate literature and/or violent actions. His goal was to broaden the education of the university's students about the essential nature and broad implications of freedom of speech, freedom of association, and political activism. He wrote letters to extremist groups such as the Wide Awake Anti-Communist Crusade to the Cossack Combatants Association requesting literature for students; that he was a "dissatisfied old man, aiding students to be more accurately informed, more vigilant, and more worthily out-spoken".

Language of Material: English

Access

Open for research.

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Preferred Citation

Russell G. Benedict Polemical Literature. California State University, Fullerton. University Archives and Special Collections

Acquisition Information

Acquired from the University of Nevada in March 1980.

Biography/Administrative History

The Benedict Collection was originally called University of Nevada's Contemporary Issues Collection and it was founded and curated by Russell G. Benedict. He had worked in Los Angeles as a business representative for the International Association of Machinists for many years and moved to Nevada in the late 1940s where he wrote a column on labor unions for a northern Nevada labor paper. He began the collection in the early 1960s after having been approached by the library director, Dave Heron, and offered a volunteer position in the library. In March, 1980 the complete Benedict Collection was acquired as a gift donation from the University of Nevada Reno by CSUF. Mr. Benedict had been in declining health and his eyesight was failing which precluded him from continuing to work on the collection. The University of Nevada, Reno sought a more appropriate home for the collection because its focus did not fall within the local history emphasis of UNR's Special Collections Department's collection policy.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains 2,800 serial titles, 250 linear feet of pamphlets and soft-cover books, and 100 linear feet of miscellaneous materials.
