Aldous Huxley Oral History Papers: Finding Aid

Processed by Gayle M. Richardson, completed April 1, 1997; machine-readable finding aid created by Xiuzhi Zhou; supplementary encoding and revision by Diann Benti.

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Aldous Huxley Oral History Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1985-1990
Collection Number: mssHM 56777-56907
Extent: 67 items in 5 boxes (31 interview transcripts and 36 audio tapes)
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
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Abstract: This collection contains audio cassette interviews and transcripts of interviews with twenty-six people who knew or came into contact with English writer Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) and his family. A majority of the interviewees are people who knew Huxley while he lived in California and, for the most part, cover his life after 1937. Some of the interviews include Lady Juliette Huxley (the widow of Sir Julian Huxley), Christopher Isherwood, Mary Loos, Burgess Meredith, and Lawrence Clark Powell.

Language: English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

The following interviews were restricted until March 2004 (HM 56897-HM 56907): Ellen Hovde (2 interviews and 2 tapes); Laura Huxley (3 interviews and 2 tapes); Matthew Huxley (1 interview and 3 tapes); Rosalind Rajagopal (1 interview and 1 tape); Claire White (1 interview and 1 tape); Jake Zeitlin (2 interviews and 2 tapes); Note: the restricted interviews have not been subject indexed in this finding aid.

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David K. Dunaway
The University of New Mexico
Department of English Language and Literature
Humanities Building 217
Albuquerque, NM 87131

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Preferred Citation

Provenance
Purchased from David K. Dunaway in three installments: April, 1989 (accession number 1456), March, 1990 (accession number 1529), and July, 1992 (accession number 1627).

Biographical Note
English writer Aldous Huxley 1894-1963 was born in Surrey, England, on July 26, 1894, to a family distinguished in science, education and literature. He began writing while at Oxford University. With his first wife, Maria, he departed for California in 1937 and for a time wrote motion picture screenplays. After the death of Maria, Huxley married Laura Archera and together they explored the worlds of Eastern religion and drugs. Huxley died on November 22, 1963. His novels include: Brave New World, The Gioconda Smile, The Doors of Perception, and Brave New World Revisited. He also published poetry and collections of essays. While in California he wrote the scenario for Pride and Prejudice with Jane Murfin (1940) and the treatment for Madame Curie (1943), both for M-G-M. In 1944 he wrote the scenario for 20th Century-Fox's Jane Eyre.


**Scope and Content**
This collection contains audio cassette interviews and transcripts of interviews with twenty-six people who knew or came into contact with English writer Aldous Huxley and his family. A majority of the interviewees are people who knew Huxley while he lived in California and, for the most part, cover his life after 1937. There is some material on his early life but it amounts to a very small part of the overall collection.

The following individuals are represented in the papers: Don Bachardy (b. 1934); Sidney Field (1905-1988); Juliette Huxley (b. 1896); Mark Trevenen Huxley; Christopher Isherwood (b. 1904); Mary Loos; Burgess Meredith (b. 1908); Lawrence Clark Powell (b. 1906). Topics discussed in the collection include: the Bates method of othopics, hallucinogenic drugs, LSD, marijuana, mescaline, and pacifism. Persons discussed in the collection include: W.H. Auden, Don Bachardy, Vanessa Bell, H. Abigail Bok, Charlie Chaplin, George Dewey Cukor, Sidney Field, Greta Garbo, George Gershwin, Rose de Haulleville, Gerald Heard, Edwin Powell Hubble, Julian Huxley, Juliette Huxley, Christopher Isherwood, D.H. Lawrence, Frieda von Richthofen Lawrence, Mary Loos, Burgess Meredith, Naomi Mitchison, Lawrence Clark Powell, Siegfried Sassoon, Bernard Shaw, Lytton Strachey, Igor Stravinsky, Virginia Woolf, and Jake Zeitlin.

**Arrangement**
Arranged in the following manner: 1. Transcripts, HM 56877-56896 (Box 1); 2. Audio cassettes, HM 56877-56896 (Boxes 2-3); 3. Transcripts, HM 56897-56907 (Box 4); 4. Audio cassettes, HM 56897-56907 (Box 5).

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Subjects**
Bachardy, Don, 1934-
Bell, Vanessa, 1879-1961.
Bok, H. Abigail.
Cukor, George, 1899-1983.
Garbo, Greta, 1905-1990.
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937.
Haulleville, Rose de.
Heard, Gerald, 1889-1971.
Hubble, Edwin, 1889-1953.
Huxley, Julian, 1887-1975.
Huxley, Mark Trevenen.
Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986.
Lawrence, D. H. (David Herbert), 1885-1930.
Lawrence, Frieda, 1879-1956.
Loos, Mary.
Meredith, Burgess, 1907-1997.
Mitchison, Naomi, 1897-1999.
Sassoon, Siegfried, 1886-1967.
Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950.
Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941.
Bates method of orthoptics.
Hallucinogenic drugs.
Hallucinogenic drugs and religious experience.
LSD (Drug)
Marijuana.
Mescaline.
Pacifism.

**Forms/Genres**
Audio cassettes -- 20th century.
Interviews -- 20th century.
Transcripts -- 20th century.

**Alternate Authors**
Bachardy, Don, 1934-.
Bok, H. Abigail.
Haulleville, Rose de.
Halsey, Dorris.
Hovde, Eilen.
Huxley, Laura Archera.
Huxley, Mark Trevenen.
Huxley, Matthew.
Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-1986.
Loos, Mary.
Meredith, Burgess, 1907-1997.
Mitchison, Naomi, 1897-1999.
Rajagopal, Rosalind.
White, Claire Nicolas, 1925-.

**Additional Note**
Acosta, Mercedes de, 1893-1968.
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
Arno, Peter.
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
  • In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884).
Bates Method of orthoptics.
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885), (HM 56886), (HM 56887)
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
  • In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892)
  • In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).
Bedford, Sybille, 1911 -.
  • In Halsey, Dorris (HM 56880)
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
  • In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894).
Bell, Vanessa, 1879-1961.
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882).
Bok, Curtis, 1897-1962.
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885).
Bok, Derek Curtis.
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881).
Brett, Dorothy, 1883-1977.
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
  • In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892).
  • In Halsey, Dorris (HM 56880)
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56887)
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
Collier, Constance, 1878-1955.
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
Cukor, George Dewey, 1899 -. 
  • In Barchardy, Don, 1934 -(HM 56877)
  • In Halsey, Dorris (HM 56880)
  • In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56887)
  • In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894).
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881).
Disney, Walt, 1901 -1966.
  • In Halsey, Dorris (HM 56880).
Garbo, Greta, 1905 -. 
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56887)
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
  • In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883).
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937.
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
Gertler, Mark, 1891-1939.
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882).
Goddard, Paulette.
  • In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
  • In Meredith, Burgess, 1908 -(HM 56890).
Graves, Robert, 1895 -. 
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882).
Hallucinogenic drugs.
  • In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56886).

Hallucinogenic drugs and religious experiences.
• In Barchardy, Don, 1934 -(HM 56877)
• In Bok, H. Abigail (56878)
• In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
• In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56886)
• In Mitchison, Naomi, 1897 -(HM 56891)
• In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894), (HM 56895)
• In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).

Haulleville, Rose de.
• In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892).

Heard, Gerald, 1889-1971.
• In Barchardy, Don, 1934 -(HM 56877)
• In Bok, H. Abigail (HM 56878)
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 - (HM 56882)
• In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Le Put, Marie (HM 56888)
• In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
• In Powell, Lawrence Clark, 1906 -(HM 56893)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894).

Hepburn, Audrey, 1929 -.  
• In Barchardy, Don, 1934 -(HM 56877).

Hovde, Ellen.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883).

Hubble, Edwin Powell, 1889-1953.
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
• In Meredith, Burgess, 1908 -(HM 56890).

Hubble, Grace Burke, d. 1980.  
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Le Put, Marie (HM 56888)
• In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).

Hughes, Howard, 1905-1976. 
• In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).

Huxley, Julian, 1887-1975. 
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Juliette, 1896-(HM 56882)
• In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
• In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Mitchison, Naomi, 1897 -(HM 56891)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894).

Huxley, Laura Archera.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Le Put, Marie (HM 56888)
• In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894), (HM 56895)
• In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).

Huxley, Matthew.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
• In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894)
• In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).

Huxley, Maria.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
• In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885), (HM 56887)
• In Le Put, Marie (HM 56888); Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
• In Meredith, Burgess, 1908 -(HM 56890)
• In Mitchison, Naomi, 1897 -(HM 56891)
• In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892)
• In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894), (HM 56895)
• In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).

Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -.
• In Barchardy, Don, 1934 -(HM 56877)
• In Bok, H. Abigail (HM 56878)
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Meredith, Burgess, 1908 -(HM 56890)
• In Powell, Lawrence Clark, 1906 -(HM 56893)
• In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).

Kiskadden, Peggy.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Le Put, Marie (HM 56888).

Krishnamurti, J., 1895 -.
• In Field, Sidney, 1905-1988 (HM 56879)
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
• In Wessburg, Sigfried (HM 56896).

Lawrence, D.H. (David Herbert), 1885-1930.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881).

Lawrence, Frieda von Richthofen, 1879-1956.
• In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
• In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
• In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
• In Powell, Lawrence Clark, 1906 -(HM 56893).
Leary, Timothy Francis, 1920 -. 
  • In Field, Sidney, 1905-1988 (HM 56879).
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
Loos, Anita, 1894-1981. 
  • In Halsey, Dorris (HM 56880)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885), (HM 56887)
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
  • In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894), (HM 56895).
LSD (Drug). 
  • In Field, Sidney, 1905-1988 (HM 56879)
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56886), (HM 56887).
Marijuana. 
  • In Huxley, Mark Trevenen (HM 56883).
Mescaline. 
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56886), (HM 56887)
  • In Mitchison, Naomi, 1897 -(HM 56891)
  • In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892)
  • In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894).
Morrell, Ottoline Violet Anne Cavendish-Bentinck, Lady, 1873-1938. 
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885)
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889)
  • In Neveux, Jeanne (HM 56892).
Ogden, C.K. (Charles Kay), 1889-1957. 
  • In Powell, Lawrence Clark, 1906 -(HM 56893).
Pacifism. 
  • In Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -(HM 56884)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885), (HM 56887)
  • In Mitchison, Naomi, 1897 -(HM 56891)
  • In Wendel, Betty (HM 56894).
Pascal, Gabriel, 1894-1954. 
  • In Halsey, Dorris (HM 56880).
Rajagopal, Rosalind. 
  • In Field, Sidney, 1905-1988 (HM 56879)
  • In Haulleville, Rose de (HM 56881)
  • In Kiskadden, Peggy (HM 56885).
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882).
  • In Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -(HM 56882).
Sale, Richard, 1911 -. 
  • In Loos, Mary (HM 56889).
Sassoon, Siegfried, 1886-1967.
Transcripts

Arrangement
The materials are filed alphabetically and then chronologically by date of interview.

Box 1

**Transcripts (HM 56877-56896)**

**Bachardy, Don, 1934 -. 1989 September 18** HM 56877
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

**Bok, H. Abigail. 1989 September 17** HM 56878
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

**Field, Sidney, 1905-1988. 1985 August 13** HM 56879
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

**Halsey, Dorris. 1985 August 12** HM 56880
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette
Haulleville, Rose de. 1985 August 11 HM 56881
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Huxley, Juliette, 1896 -. 1985 July 5 HM 56882
1 transcript; 2 audio cassettes

Huxley, Mark Trevenen. 1985 July 12 HM 56883
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Isherwood, Christopher, 1904 -. 1985 June 2 HM 56884
1 transcript; 2 audio cassettes

Kiskadden, Peggy. 1985 May 31 HM 56885
1 transcript; 2 audio cassettes

Kiskadden, Peggy. 1985 June 3 HM 56886
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Kiskadden, Peggy. 1988 August 13 HM 56887
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Le Put, Marie. 1986 July 10 HM 56888
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Loos, Mary.. 1986 July 10 HM 56889
1 transcript; 2 audio cassettes

Meredith, Burgess, 1908 -. 1986 August 7 HM 56890
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Mitchison, Naomi, 1897 -. 1990 June 19 HM 56891
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Neveux, Jeanne. 1985 July 8 HM 56892
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Powell, Lawrence Clark, 1906 -. 1985 December 10 HM 56893
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Wendel, Betty. 1985 June 2 HM 56894
1 transcript; 2 audio cassettes

Wendel, Betty. 1985 August 14 HM 56895
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Wessberg, Sigfried [sic]. 1988 February 3 HM 56896
1 transcript; 1 audio cassette

Box 4

Transcripts (previously restricted) (HM 56897-56907)
Consists of interviews with: Ellen Hovde; Laura Huxley; Matthew Huxley; Rosalind Rajagopal; Claire White; and Jake Zeitlin.
Audio-cassette interviews

Arrangement
The audio tapes (corresponding to the above transcripts) are arranged alphabetically by interviewee and then chronologically by date of interview.

Box 2  Audio cassettes (HM 56877-56887)
Box 3  Audio cassettes (HM 56888-56896)
Box 5  Audio cassettes (previously restricted) (HM 56897-56907)