Guide to the Allan W. Anderson Papers

Finding Aid Authors: Priscilla Lopez & Rosanna Smith.
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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Allan W. Anderson Papers

Dates: 1953-2010

Bulk Dates: 1970-1990

Identification: MS-0478

Creator: Anderson, Allan W., 1922-

Physical Description: 5.85 linear ft

Language of Materials: English; Spanish; Castilian

Repository: Special Collections & University Archives

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Note:

Other Information:

An oral history of Allan Anderson was recorded on July 17, 2009, and is available here:
http://scua.sdsu.edu/collections/oralhist/home/index.shtml. Dr. Anderson’s oral history documents his teaching philosophy, his love of language and literature, and his interests in Eastern philosophy and the wisdom tradition. Especially noteworthy are Dr. Anderson’s readings of two poems from his children’s book of poetry titled, Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a Little Cove of Nonsense. Dr. Anderson also describes his ideal student-teacher relationship, and his teaching methods.

Biographical Information:

Dr. Allan W. Anderson was born in Hastings, New Zealand on July 18, 1922 but grew up in England. He moved to the United States in 1936 where he remained the majority of his life. He received a B.A. in history and general science in 1944 from Washington Missionary College, an M.A. in English literature from Trinity College in 1951, and a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion from Columbia University in 1960. He was an instructor at the National Academy of Broadcasting in Washington DC from 1947-1949, and was later a radio newscaster and announcer in Hartford, Connecticut, where he also worked as a social worker.

Anderson began teaching at SDSU in 1962 and retired in 1985. He was a founder of the Department of Religious Studies, established in 1969. He taught courses on philosophy of religion, metaphysics, ethics, scripture, and psychology with a focus on Hindu and Chinese canons. Additionally, he received the 1970 California State Distinguished Teaching Award and the Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award for 1982 and 1983.

His published works range from religious writings to children’s literature and fiction. Some of his works include Oracles of Love, Sonnets Toward Self-Change, The Hastings Papers, and Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a little cove of Nonsense. Perhaps his most well-known works are the eighteen one-hour dialogues between Anderson and Jiddu Krishnamurti entitled A Wholly Different Way of Living. The talks were broadcast every Sunday on KPBS from January to April, 1975, and were later published as a book.

In addition to his accomplishments in academia, Anderson founded Metanoia, a group for the study of self-transformation in La Jolla. He also participated in the Berkeley Regional Seminar in Confucian Studies and lectured regularly for the San Diego Friends of Jung organization.

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Identification of item, folder title, box number, Allan W. Anderson Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Related Materials:
Jiddu Krishnamurti Papers, 1935-1975

Scope and Contents
The Allan W. Anderson Papers (1949-2010) document Anderson’s work as a poet and academic in religious studies. The majority of the material dates from 1970 to 1990 with sparse documentation from pre-1970 and the 2000s on. These files document some of Anderson’s creative processes for his published works including the children’s book Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and A little cove of Nonsense, as well as unpublished materials. His collection includes poems, lectures, correspondence, research papers, student work, newspaper clippings, and audio visual materials. Highlights include drafts of some of his most prominent writings such as Reflections on the I Ching and Self-Transformation and the Oracular, in addition to correspondence concerning the publication of his dialogues with Jiddu Krishnamurti, A Wholly Different Way of Living. The collection consists of three series: Personal Papers (1949-1994), Published and Unpublished Writings (1963-2010), Professional Papers (1958-2003).

The Personal Papers (1949-1994) consist of four sub-series, Correspondence (1969-1974), Graduate and Doctoral Coursework (1956-1960), Jeannette Anderson (circa 1970’s), and Notes and Consultations (1949-1994). The Correspondence sub-series contains letters to friends and organizations, while the Graduate and Doctoral Coursework sub-series is compiled of papers and theses written by Anderson for his graduate and doctoral programs. The Jeannette Anderson sub-series contains interviews conducted for The Good Life by Jeannette Anderson, a wife of Allan Anderson. Finally, the Notes and Consultations sub-series encompasses a range of materials from a drawing of a broad-nosed crocodile drawn by Anderson in 1949, to I-Ching oracles and accounts of dreams. Materials are arranged alphabetically within their sub-series.

The Published and Unpublished Writings (1963-2010) series is divided into eight sub-series, Poetry (n.d.), Essays and Presentations (1967-1997), Lectures (1968-1980), Books and Manuscripts (n.d.), Notes and References (n.d.), Critiques and Reviews (1963-1992), Forwards and Prefaces (n.d.), and Articles, Journals and Newsletters (1977-2003). The Poetry sub-series contains several sub-sub-series: Poetry by Title, Poetry by Subject, and Drafts and Revisions, and the materials are most commonly of religious and spiritual themes corresponding to Dr. Anderson’s professional work as a religious studies professor. Revised originals of his most recent publication, Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and A little cove of Nonsense, and their accompanying audio and visual materials, can also be found within Drafts and Revisions. The second sub-series, Essays and Presentations, contains copies of papers submitted by Anderson to The International Foundation for New Human Paradigms in Guadalajara, Mexico, and some shorter meditations on religion and philosophical subjects. The Lectures sub-series includes copies and transcripts of lectures and sermons given by Anderson. The fourth sub-series, Books and Manuscripts, includes drafts of the creative process for some of Dr. Anderson’s published and unpublished works of religious thought and fiction, such as The Owl and the Pussy-Cat: Plain Talk on Self-Change, and The Pool, an unpublished novel. The Notes and References sub-series documents Anderson’s creative processes on a wide range of spiritual and philosophical subjects. Critiques and Reviews is mainly composed of reviews by Anderson for other authors in his field, with some correspondence with editors. The Forwards and Prefaces sub-series is similarly composed of introductions by Anderson for books written by his colleagues. Articles, Journals and Newsletters is a sub-series composed of published materials relating to Anderson’s work in religion and spirituality such as the Friends of Jung Newsletter and Inner Directions Journal, both of which featured presentations by Anderson in their publications. Materials are arranged...
alphabetically within their sub-series.

The Professional Papers (1958-2003) series is divided into five sub-series, J. Krishnamurti (1958-2003), Religious Studies Course Materials (1964-1982), Religious Studies Coursework (1978-1993), Religious Studies Department and Faculty Materials (1966-1988), and San Diego State University Lectures (1966-1988). The J. Krishnamurti sub-series mainly documents correspondence between Dr. Anderson and the Krishnamurti Foundation regarding his dialogues with Jiddu Krishnamurti in A Wholly Different Way of Living. The Religious Studies Course Materials sub-series contains references and materials used by Dr. Anderson in his religious studies courses at San Diego State, some of which were written by him specifically for the courses. The Religious Studies Coursework sub-series includes student writing assignments with annotations and recorded class lectures by Dr. Anderson while teaching at SDSU, and focus on the analysis of religious writings such as those used in Christianity, Taoism, and the use of I-Ching hexagrams. The sixteen recordings of Anderson’s lectures and classes are arranged chronologically by cassette tape. The Religious Studies Department and Faculty Materials sub-series is mainly composed of inter-departmental correspondence on faculty and courses, and includes a humorous letter on the usage of ‘FERP’ in the department. The San Diego State University Lectures sub-series contains records of presentations by Dr. Anderson at SDSU, and includes several highlights such as Patience: The Spiritual Warrior’s Virtue from the SDSU Philosophy Colloquium and On the Nature of Religious Language from the Humanities Division Lecture Series. Materials are arranged alphabetically within their sub-series.

**Personal Papers (1949-1994)**

**Correspondence**

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Letter to 'Cin' May 29, 1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Notes on Christian Meditation - Letter to Roy February 13, 1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Yi-Ching Institute and American Oriental Society - Letter March 1974 |

**Graduate and Doctoral Coursework**

| Box 1, Folder 4 | Dimension of Personal Experience, A : Graduate Paper by Allan Anderson |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Dubliners, The : Book Report by Allan Anderson |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | On the Concept of Charity in St. Thomas Aquinas and as Related to the 'Univocity of Being' in John Duns Scotus, by Allan Anderson Spring 1956 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | On the Nature of Religious Experience by Allan Anderson |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Problems in Mysticism : Graduate Paper and Notes by Allan Anderson |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sacrifice : A Comparative Study of the Concept in St. Gregory of Nyssa's Contemplation on the Life of Moses and Seri Aurobindo's Commentary On the Veda - Doctorate Thesis by Allan Anderson 1960 |

**Jeannette Anderson**

| Box 1, Folder 10 | Transcripts of The Good Life with Jeannette Anderson |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Transcripts of The Good Life with Jeannette Anderson |

**Notes and Consultations**

| Box 2, Folder 1 | Account of a Dream by Allan Anderson October 29, 1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Blessings of the Tarot : Reading for Allan Anderson n.d. |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Drawing of a Broad-Nosed Crocodile by Allan Anderson 1949 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | I-Ching Consultation on Retirement n.d. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | I-Ching Consultation on Wife Alexandra January 1, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | I-Ching Consultations 1974-1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | International Conference on the New Paradigms of Science November 14-18, 1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Planetary Profile for Allan Anderson n.d. |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Twilight Imagining Experiment November 11, 1974 |
Published and Unpublished Writings (1963-2010)

Poetry

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Box 3, Folder 4   Poetry on Religion and Spirituality
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Drafts and Revisions
Box 3, Folder 7   Book of Elfini Hour, The - Draft and Illustrations
Box 3, Folder 8   Herself: Poems in Celebration of Woman & the Feminine - Drafts
Box 3, Folder 9   Oracles of Love - Drafts
Box 3, Folder 10  Root and Flower: Versions 1 and 2 - Drafts
Box 3, Folder 11  Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a Little Cove of Nonsense - Forward and Early Draft
Box 3, Folder 12  Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a Little Cove of Nonsense - Drafts, Notes and Illustrations (1 of 2)
Box 4, Folder 1   Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a Little Cove of Nonsense - Drafts, Notes and Illustrations (2 of 2)
Box 4, Folder 2   Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a Little Cove of Nonsense - CD 2010
Box 4, Folder 3   Songs from the Mifflinger Sea and a Little Cove of Nonsense - DVD of Allan Anderson reading "A Tale from This Old Armchair" June 2010
Box 4, Folder 4   Sonnets Toward Self-Change - Drafts
Box 4, Folder 5   Notes and References

Essays and Presentations
Box 4, Folder 6   3 Faces of the Divine
Box 4, Folder 7   Awareness, Consciousness and Bearing December 7, 1996
Scope and Contents
Presented to The International Foundation for New Human Paradigms.

Box 4, Folder 8   Biblical View of Right Action, The
Box 4, Folder 9   Christian Spirituality: A Reinterpretation for Our Time 1967, 1969
Box 4, Folder 10  Concept of Skill in Mencius 5B:1.7 and Its Implications for Self-Culture January 9-10, 1976
Scope and Contents
Submitted to Berkeley Regional Seminar in Confucian Studies, First Workshop.

Box 4, Folder 11  Contra-Sexuality and Self-Awakening: The Myth of the Fall Revisited
Box 4, Folder 12  Earth
Box 4, Folder 13  Ecclesia December 7-8, 1968
Box 4, Folder 14  Human Transformation Independent of Knowledge and Time November 16, 1994
Scope and Contents
A Paper Presented to The Second International Conference on the New Paradigms of Science at the University of Guadalajara Mexico.
Box 4, Folder 15: "Identity & Contrariness in the I-Ching: On the Way Toward a Spiritual Anthropology"
March 21, 1985

Scope and Contents:
American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division Meeting at the Golden Gate Holiday Inn, San Francisco.

Box 5, Folder 1: "If They Hear Not Moses...Reason and Revelation in Genesis 1-3"

Box 5, Folder 2: "Inner Transformation and Bearing November-December 1995"

Scope and Contents:
A Paper Presented to The Third International Conference on the New Paradigms of Science at the University of Guadalajara Mexico.

Box 5, Folder 3: "Metanoia"

Box 5, Folder 4: "On the Concept of Freedom in the I-Ching: A Deconstructionist's View of Self-Cultivation 1987"

Box 5, Folder 5: "On "Guarding the Feminine"

Box 5, Folder 6: "On Meditation"

Box 5, Folder 7: "On the Myth of the Fall: Anita Hill / Clarence Thomas"

Box 5, Folder 8: "On Self-Change: Between Me and Myself, Two Voices on One Theme"

Box 5, Folder 9: "Primal Institution & Bearing November 27, 1997"

Scope and Contents:
A Paper Presented to The International Foundation for New Human Paradigms, Guadalajara Mexico.

Box 5, Folder 10: "The Time Has Come..."

Lectures

Box 5, Folder 11: "Abide as the Self: The Essential Teachings of Ramana Maharashi; Transcribed by Allan Anderson"

Scope and Contents:
Video Script Questions and Answers: Teleprompter Version

Box 5, Folder 12: "All-Saints Lecture: Questions and Answers"

Box 5, Folder 13: "An Early Concept of the Good in Indian Buddhism" by David Mitchell 1971

Box 5, Folder 14: "Basis of Belief, The 1970"

Scope and Contents:
Presented at the Fall Retreat of the Southern California Adventist Forum.

Box 5, Folder 15: "Christian and Ethics, The September 18, 1978"

Scope and Contents:
Presented at St. Paul's Parish.

Box 5, Folder 16: "Divination and Self-Cultivation Lecture February 20, 1980"

Box 5, Folder 17: "Genesis 2 and 3: The Fall Lecture for Friends of Jung"

Box 5, Folder 18: "Lectures on I-Ching by Allan Anderson May / June 1971"

Scope and Contents:
Lectures given at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Box 5, Folder 19: "On Non-Attachment: Some Aspects of Asian Thought May 5, 1968"

Scope and Contents:
A Lecture-Sermon delivered the the Unitarian Church of San Dieguito, Ca.
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<td>Presentation by Dr. Anderson from the 2nd International Conference on New Paradigms reprinted by Inner Directions Journal.</td>
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<td>PNEUMA Project : Journal of Self-Inquiry April, July, Fall 1985, Winter 1986</td>
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**J. Krishnamurti**

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*Guide to the Allan W. Anderson Papers*  
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Box 11, Folder 17  
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*Eros and Agâpé : Q & A between Dr. Anderson and Students*

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*Oracular Studies - Course Materials Spring 1971*

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*Adriadne, Mistress of the Labyrinth* by Christine Downing

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*Artemis : The Goddess Who Comes From Afar* by Christine Downing

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*Beginning with Gaea* by Christine Downing

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*Class Papers and Notes by Barbara Asaro 1978, 1980-1983*

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| Box 13, Folder 12 | Collective Bargaining Argument - Articles, Correspondence 1966, 1969, 1985 |
| Box 13, Folder 13 | Correspondence : Professor Ray Jordan and Usage of ‘FERP’ 1987 |
| Box 13, Folder 14 | Critical Review of Proposed Religious Studies Courses 1969 |
| Box 13, Folder 15 | Irving Gefter Peer Review 1988 |
| Box 13, Folder 16 | On the Contribution to College and University of an Introductory Course in Religious Studies by Allan Anderson |

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| Box 13, Folder 17 | On the Nature of Religious Language by Allan Anderson April 27, 1966 Scope and Contents |
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| Box 13, Folder 18 | On the Value of Doing Nothing by Allan Anderson December 8, 1982 Scope and Contents |
| | Presented as part of the San Diego State University Philosophy Colloquium. |
| Box 13, Folder 19 | Patience : The Spiritual Warrior’s Virtue by Allan Anderson November 19, 1975 Scope and Contents |
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| Box 13, Folder 20 | Prospectus Speech on 'FERP' by Allan Anderson May 26, 1988 |
| Box 13, Folder 21 | Religious Studies Colloquium May 14, 1970 |