
Guide to the John R. Theobald Collection

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Guide to the John R. Theobald Collection 1920/1989

Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: John R. Theobald Collection

Dates: 1920-1989

Identification: MS-0359

Creator: Theobald, John R., 1903-1989

Physical Description: 2.17 linear ft

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Special Collections & University Archives

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Biographical Information:

John R. Theobald was born September 5, 1903 in India where his parents were doing missionary work. He was sent to England at age 6 for schooling. He later attended Oxford University, graduating in 1925 with honors in English. He was also the recipient of the England Fellowship to Union Seminary in New York where he received a degree in theology in 1929. Dr. Theobald earned his doctorate in 1943 at the University of Iowa. He taught at Queens University in Canada, Amherst, Trinity College, Grinnell College, and San Diego State University. He also worked as a research associate in the Division of War Research at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Theobald came to San Diego State University in 1946 as an associate professor in the English department. He later became a full professor and retired in 1969 as professor emeritus. While at San Diego State University, Dr. Theobald gave numerous recitals and addresses on National Public Radio. He wrote a series of radio talks called *The Nine Ultimate Questions* that covered subjects from man to God and beauty and peace. He also did a fourteen part series on poetry and poets called *The Spoken Word*.

Dr. Theobald was also a respected author. His works include: *The Earthquake and Other Poems*, *An Oxford Odyssey*, *A Second Light*, *Planetsong*, and *Introducing Poetry*. His translations of French poetry were published in *Midi-Noon*, *A Work by Leconte De Lisle*, *The Lost Wine: Seven Centuries of Lyric French Poetry Into English Lyrical Poetry*.

Dr. Theobald died in December of 1989.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:

San Diego State University -- Faculty -- Biography -- Sources

Genre/Form of Material:

Personal Papers

Publications

Personal Name:

Lawrence, D. H. (David Herbert), 1885-1930 -- Criticism and interpretation

Theobald, John Richmond -- Archives

Title:

German poetry -- Translations into English

Topical Term:

American literature -- 20th century -- Sources

Authors, American -- 20th century -- Biography -- Sources

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Conditions Governing Access:

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Preferred Citation:

Identification of item, folder title, box number, John R. Theobald Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Arrangement of Materials:

I. Personal Files

II. Professional Files

Scope and Contents

The *John R. Theobald Collection* documents Theobald's writings. The collection dates from the 1920s to 1989 with many materials undated. The collection has been divided into two series: [Professional](#) and [Personal](#).

The [Professional](#) series documents Theobald's numerous radio addresses, poetry translations, and publications from 1926-1989, with some undated materials. Included in this series is the script for Theobald's *Nine Ultimate Questions* radio address; scripts for various other radio talks given in San Diego; gallery proofs, introduction, and publicity for his book *The Lost Wine: Seven Centuries of Lyric French Poetry Into English Lyrical Poetry*; manuscripts for some of his other works; poems in German translated into English by Theobald; and original poems. Also included in this series is correspondence between Theobald and Ezra Pound. There is no filing order.

The [Personal](#) series includes Theobald's memoirs, correspondence, poems (published and unpublished), essays, his thesis from Union Seminary on Benedetto Croce, and his PhD thesis on D.H. Lawrence. This series also includes a group photo of Theobald's class at Mansfield College in 1922. There is no filing order. The series dates from the 1920s to 1990, with some undated materials. There is no filing order.

Professional

Box 1, Folder 1	Nine Ultimate Questions (script for radio series)
Box 1, Folder 2	Radio Talks Given in San Diego 1950s
Box 1, Folder 3	Gallery Proofs for "Lost Wine"
Box 1, Folder 4	Introduction for "Lost Wine"
Box 1, Folder 5	Publicity for "Lost Wine" 1982-1985
Box 1, Folder 6	Forward for "Pound/Theobald Letters," and correspondence 1984
Box 1, Folder 7	German Poems Translated by Theobald
Box 1, Folder 8	RM Rilke Translations by Theobald
Box 1, Folder 9	German Poem Translations with Helga Barthold
Box 1, Folder 10	MSS for "The Earthquake and Other Poems" 1930-1949
Box 1, Folder 11	Original MSS and notes for "Was Blake a Mystic"
Box 1, Folder 12	Certificate of Copyright Registration for "Planesong" 1986
Box 1, Folder 13	"Twentieth Century Literature and Poetry" essays 1947, 1958
Box 1, Folder 14	"Vestiges of Bodhi in Indian Poetry" by Theobald
Box 1, Folder 15	Poems in "The Oxford Outlook" 1927-1928
Box 1, Folder 16	Poems in "Oxford Poetry" 1926-1927

Personal

Box 1, Folder 17	Childhood Memoirs
Box 1, Folder 18	Schooldays

Box 1, Folder 19	Oxford
Box 1, Folder 20	Crossing
Box 1, Folder 21	Another Time Regained
Box 1, Folder 22	The Cauldron
Box 1, Folder 23	Biting Through
Box 1, Folder 24	Nightmare Parables
Box 1, Folder 25	The Sea Again
Box 1, Folder 26	Starting at State
Box 1, Folder 27	Awakening Into Day
Box 1, Folder 28	Return Passage
Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence re. Poetry 1970-1990
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence from W.R. Johnson 1957-1977
Box 1, Folder 31	Two Essays Taken at Mansfield College 1921
Box 1, Folder 32	Early Poems done in Georgian Vein 1920s
Box 1, Folder 33	Testimony to Paul Lingren 1989
Box 1, Folder 34	Poems
Box 1, Folder 35	Thesis on Benedetto Croce 1929
Box 1, Folder 36	Impressions of the gospels; unpublished poems 1980s
Box 1, Folder 37	"Recollections of Frieda" (Mrs. D.H. Lawrence)
Box 1, Folder 38	Published Poems
Box 1, Folder 39	PhD Thesis on D.H. Lawrence 1942
Box 2	Group Photo at Mansfield College