Guide to the Louis A. Kenney Papers

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Louis A. Kenney Papers
Dates: 1914-1992
Bulk Dates: 1950-1992
Identification: MS-0393
Creator: Kenney, Louis A., 1917-1993
Physical Description: 3.71 linear ft
Language of Materials: English, French, German, Italian
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
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San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
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Biographical Information:

Louis A. Kenney was born February 28, 1917 in Dorchester, NE. He received his BA from Nebraska State College, Kearney in 1939 and completed a BS and a MS in Library Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana. He was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1941 and served with the 42nd Infantry Division in World War II. He returned to civilian life in 1946 and spent a year studying abroad in Switzerland from 1949 to 1950. In 1960 he was awarded his PhD in history from the University of Maryland. His thesis was titled The Censorship Edicts of Emperor Charles V in the Low Countries, 1515-1550.

Kenney was San Diego State's University Librarian from 1961 to 1980 and played an instrumental role in planning for a new library building, the Malcolm A. Love Library, which opened in 1971. As a result, the library's collection tripled in size and Kenney helped to establish the Special Collections department for rare books and manuscripts. He also helped form the Friends of the Malcolm A. Love Library in 1964 and served on its Board.

Kenney was an avid collector of rare books. In 1967, he purchased the Zinner Collection for Special Collections. Kenney retired from San Diego State in 1980 but remained active with the Friends of the Library and various other organizations. He was named Emeritus Librarian upon his retirement. He died in December of 1993.

Access Terms

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

Corporate Name:
San Diego State University--Faculty--Biography--Sources
San Diego State University. Library. Department of Special Collections--History--Sources

Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers
Photographs

Personal Name:
Kenney, Louis A., 1917--Archives
Kenney, Louis A., 1917--Correspondence

Topical Term:
Academic librarians--California--San Diego--Biography--Sources
Academic librarians--California--San Diego--Correspondence
Censorship--Netherlands--Early works to 1800
Censorship--Netherlands--History--16th century

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Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Louis A. Kennedy Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Arrangement of Materials:
I. Correspondence, 1960-1980
II. Professional Files, 1950-1992
III. Printing Ephemera
IV. Photographs and Scrapbooks, 1914-1950

Scope and Contents
The Louis A. Kenney Papers document Kenney's years as University Librarian at San Diego State University. The collection dates from 1914-1992, and has been divided into four series: Correspondence, Professional Files, Printing Ephemera, and Scrapbooks.

The Correspondence series includes Kenney's ingoing and outgoing correspondence from 1960 to 1980, as well as his dissertation. Included in this series are memos regarding the budget; various complaints and concerns from faculty and staff; information on meetings and new employee appointments; requests for forming cooperative relationships with other libraries; and memos regarding the library's move to a new building in 1971. The series is arranged chronologically.

The Professional Files series documents a broad range of Kenney's life from his doctoral dissertation to his retirement from the San Diego State library in 1980. The series dates from 1950 to 1992, with some undated materials. Included in this series is a copy of Kenney's PhD dissertation, The Censorship Edicts of Emperor Charles V in the Low Countries, 1515-1550, as well as a copy of a rare 1540 edition of Ordenung und Mandat, a primary document used for his dissertation; and three folders of correspondence regarding the library's Edward A. Block Memorial Collection from 1965-1973. Also included is Kenney's Campanile Club plaque, one of his nameplates, and a copy of a 42nd Infantry Division history/yearbook, ca. 1943. There is no filing order.

The Printing Ephemera series includes various materials collected by Kenney during his tenure as University Librarian.

The Photographs and Scrapbooks series includes photographs of the 1939 New York World’s Fair and Kenney’s wartime service in Europe, and three scrapbooks that document Kenney’s travels after the war and contain postcards he collected. The loose photographs primarily document Kenny’s wartime service and include photographs taken by Kenney and souvenir prints he purchased. The wartime photographs, which mostly date from the summer of 1945, include photographs taken in cities and towns in France, Germany, Austria and Scotland. The aftermath of the war is shown through several photographs of buildings destroyed by bombing. Also included are a group of photographs Kenney took while attending the New York World’s Fair in 1939, as well as a shot of Kenney’s relatives in Los Angeles. The first scrapbook was compiled by Kenney while on a trip through Italy with school friends in 1950. It includes postcards and photos of Kenney and his friends from Florence, Milan, Assisi, Rome, Amalfi, Pompeii, Sicily, and numerous other locations in Italy. The second consists of postcards from Hawaii, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and the Chinese countryside. It also includes some cards depicting the US Pacific Fleet, and the Japanese silk and tea industries. The third was compiled by Kenney while on a trip through France and Switzerland with school friends in 1949. It is unclear if this is the same trip in which he visited Italy. The album includes photos and postcards from the Queen Elizabeth cruise ship, Paris, the French countryside, Zurich, Bern, and the Swiss countryside.

Correspondence 1960-1980

Box 1, Folder 1  
Incoming n.d.
Box 1, Folder 2   Incoming 1980
Box 1, Folder 3   Incoming 1979
Box 1, Folder 4   Incoming 1978
Box 1, Folder 5   Incoming 1977
Box 1, Folder 6   Incoming 1976
Box 1, Folder 7   Incoming 1975
Box 1, Folder 8   Incoming 1974
Box 1, Folder 9   Incoming 1973
Box 1, Folder 10  Incoming 1972
Box 1, Folder 11  Incoming 1971
Box 1, Folder 12  Incoming 1970
Box 1, Folder 13  Incoming 1969
Box 1, Folder 14  Incoming 1968
Box 1, Folder 15  deBellis Library 1968, 1969
Box 1, Folder 16  McConnel, Mrs. Frederick 1969
Box 1, Folder 17  Incoming 1967
Box 1, Folder 18  Incoming 1966
Box 1, Folder 19  Incoming 1965
Box 1, Folder 20  Incoming 1964
Box 1, Folder 21  Incoming 1963
Box 1, Folder 22  Incoming 1962
Box 1, Folder 23  Incoming 1961
Box 1, Folder 24  Incoming 1960
Box 1, Folder 25  Outgoing 1980
Box 1, Folder 26  Outgoing 1979
Box 1, Folder 27  Outgoing 1978
Box 1, Folder 28  Outgoing 1977
Box 1, Folder 29  Outgoing 1976
Box 1, Folder 30  Outgoing 1975
Box 1, Folder 31  Outgoing 1974
Box 1, Folder 32  Outgoing 1973
Box 1, Folder 33  Outgoing 1972
Box 1, Folder 34  Outgoing 1971
Box 1, Folder 35  Outgoing 1970
Box 1, Folder 36  Outgoing 1969
Box 1, Folder 37  Outgoing 1968
Box 1, Folder 38  Outgoing 1967
Box 1, Folder 39  Outgoing 1966
Box 1, Folder 40  Outgoing 1965
Box 1, Folder 41  Outgoing 1964
Box 1, Folder 42  Outgoing 1963
Box 1, Folder 43  Outgoing 1962
Box 1, Folder 44  Outgoing 1961
Box 1, Folder 45  Outgoing 1960
Box 1, Folder 46  1950s
Professional Files 1950-1992

Box 2, Folder 1  Correspondence 1981,1982
Box 2, Folder 2  Correspondence 1983,1984,1985
Box 2, Folder 3  Correspondence 1986,1987
Box 2, Folder 4  Correspondence: Kearney State Foundation 1984-91
Box 2, Folder 5  Correspondence 1988,1989,1990
Box 2, Folder 6  Correspondence-Margit Smith 1986-1992
Box 2, Folder 7  Elizabeth Frazee- Worsley Correspondence 1968-70
Box 2, Folder 8  Block Memorial Collection Correspondence 1965-73
Box 2, Folder 9  Block Memorial Collection Correspondence 1965-73
Box 2, Folder 10 Block Memorial Collection Correspondence 1965-73
Box 2, Folder 11 "Despot Rules Love Library" ca 1971

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| Box 2, Folder 12 | Courtney File |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | "Report on the State of the Library" 1961 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Talks, reports, mixed dates |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Retirement 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Curriculum vitae, bio sketches (see also Kenney bio file) |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Talks to Library Personnel mixed dates |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Pictorial History of SDSU, proposed publication 1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Censorship issue talks mixed dates |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | "Public Relations in the College Library" July 1984 |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | Manpower Research Project 1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | The London World Fair of 1851 by Louis A. Kenney 1950 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | The American Democratic Faith and The Pragmatism of William James, Term Paper 1955 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Doctoral Dissertation rewriting and abridgement |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Doctoral Dissertation, Fourth Carbon Copy; Dissertation Summary, Reprint of Abstract |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Doctoral Dissertation Manuscript for Publication (not published) |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Printing and Censorship in the Period 1450-1550 (unpublished article) |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | Book Review ca 1908 |
| Box 2, Folder 29 | Unmarked Folder containing newspaper clippings |
| Box 2, Folder 30 | Aztec Shops Calendar |
| Box 2, Folder 31 | "Frank J. and Amelin Kenney..." by Louis Kenney |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | Miscellaneous cards, certificates, photos |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | Mental Illness: Book Review |
| Box 2, Folder 34 | Mental Illness: Correspondence, Review, etc. 1983- |
| Box 2, Folder 35 | Photostat and typed of a rare 1540 copy "Ordenung und Mandat". Typed copy in Modern German and original in old German script (was the final document for his PhD dissertation) |
| Box 2, Folder 36 | SDSU Library Staff Association Bicentennial Cookbook |
| Box 2, Folder 37 | Library Employee Handbook 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 38 | Security and Emergency Policy |
| Box 2, Folder 39 | General Division Minutes |
| Box 2, Folder 40 | California Faculty Association |
| Box 2 | Field Artillery Battalion- 42nd Infantry Division (Yearbook) |
| Box 2 | Campanile Club Plaque 1984-85 |
| Box 2 | Desk nametag "L.A. Kenney, Director of Libraries" |
| Box 2 | Printing Ephemera |
| Box 2, Folder 41 | Exhibit Notices and Catalogs |
| Box 2, Folder 42 | Prospectuses and Announcements |
| | Photographs and Scrapbooks 1914-1950 |

| Box 3 | Dr. Louis Kenney and his classmates' trip through Italy 1950 |
| Box 4 | Pacific Cruises 1914-1915 |
| Box 5 | Dr. Louis A. Kenney and his classmates' trip through Switzerland and France 1949 |
| Box 6, Folder 1 | New York World's Fair, 1939 |
| Box 6, Folder 2 | Los Angeles, 1942 |
| Box 6, Folder 3 | Europe, 1945 |
| Box 6, Folder 4 | Paris, 1945 |
| Box 6, Folder 5 | Salzburg, 1945 |