Guide to the Eugenio Donato Papers MS.C.009

Finding aid prepared by Carole McEwan and Alexandra Bisio
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P.O. Box 19557
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California, 92623-9557
949-824-3947
spcoll@uci.edu
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Title: Eugenio Donato papers
Identifier/Call Number: MS.C.009
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet(3 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1970-1983
Abstract: This collection contains publications, manuscripts, notes, annotated sources, subject files, and curriculum vitae of former University of California, Irvine French and Comparative Literature professor, Eugenio Donato.
creator: Donato, Eugenio
Access
The collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
Acquisition Information
Processing History
Historical Background
Eugenio Donato, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, at the University of California, Irvine, was an Armenian-Italian literary critic, particularly noted for his work on The Structuralist Controversy: The Languages of Criticism and the Science of Man with Richard Macksey.
Donato was born on August 17, 1937 in Cyprus to an Italian father and an Armenian mother. Though he spent his youth in Alexandria, Egypt, where he received his French Baccalaureates-lettres, he began his undergraduate studies at UCLA before moving to New York to attend Columbia University. After graduating from Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1956, Donato taught French and Mathematics at Portsmouth Priory in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.
In 1960, Donato began his PhD in Romance Language at the Johns Hopkins University under the direction of Rene Girard. Donato completed his degree in 1965 with a dissertation entitled, "From Marivaux to Voltaire: an Essay in the Definition of a Literary Style." Remaining at Johns Hopkins as an assistant professor, Donato participated in the famous 1966 Johns Hopkins conference "The Language of Criticism and the Science of Man," whose guests included Jacques Derrida, Paul de Man, and J. Hillis Miller. In partnership with Richard Macksey, Donato edited the proceedings of the conference into a volume entitled The Structuralist Controversy: The Languages of Criticism and the Science of Man. This conference and work gave a "radically new orientation to humanities studies in North America."
During his career, Donato taught at Cornell University (1963-1964), Johns Hopkins (1964-1968), and SUNY Buffalo (1968-1764) where he directed the program in Comparative Literature. Donato came to UCI in 1978. He taught in the departments of French and comparative literature, and was the chair of the departments of French and Italian.
Eugenio Donato died on September 19, 1983. His book The Script of Decadence: Essays on the Fictions of Flaubert and the Poetics of Romanticism, a study of nineteenth century theories of representation in the work of Gustave Flaubert, was published posthumously in 1993. The Eugenio Donato Chair of Comparative Literature at the University at Buffalo is named in his honor.
Source The Regents of the University of California."University of California: In Memoriam - Eugenio Donato, French and Italian: Irvine." Calisphere,
1937  Born in Cyprus.
August 17
1954  Received Baccalaureates-lettres.
      Began undergraduate study at UCLA.
1956  Received Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics, Columbia University.
      Began teaching French and mathematics at Portsmouth Priory.
1960  Began graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University.
1963-1964 Assistant Professor of Romance Literatures, Cornell University.
1965  Completed PhD in Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins University.
1968-1976 Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature, SUNY Buffalo.
1970-1972 Professeur Agrege de Litterature Comparee, University de Monreal.
1973-1977 Director, Program in Comparative Literature, SUNY, Buffalo.
1976-1978 Professor of Comparative Literature, SUNY Buffalo.
1978  Professor of French and Comparative Literature, UC, Irvine.
      Chairman of the Departments of French and Italian, UC, Irvine.
1983  Died in Irvine, California.
September 19

Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection contains a sample of the late academic work of University of California, Irvine French and Comparative Literature professor, Eugenio Donato. Materials in this collection include publications, manuscripts, notes, annotated sources, subject files, and curriculum vitae. The majority of the papers relate to Donato's posthumously published book The Script of Decadence, a study of nineteenth century theories of representation in the work of Gustave Flaubert. Some material on Hegel, Derrida, and deconstruction is also included.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in four series:
- Series 1. Writings, 1970-1983, .7 linear feet
All series are in their original order.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Flaubert, Gustave, 1821-1880
Rowe, John Carlos, 1945-
University of California, Irvine.
Critical theory -- Archives.
Critical theory -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- California -- Irvine
Literary critics.
Box 3, Folder 1-6, Box 2, Folder 8-19

**Notes and sources Series 2 1970-1983**

- Physical Description: 1.0 Linear foot
- **Scope and Content Summary**
  This series contains annotated photocopies of published primary sources, notebooks, and notecards used and taken by literary critic Eugenio Donato. The majority of the notes and sources in this series were used for Donato's posthumously published work *The Script of Decadence*.
- **Arrangement**
  This series is in its original order.

Box 3, Folder 7-18

**Subject files Series 3 1970-1983**

- Physical Description: 0.7 Linear feet
- **Scope and Content Summary**
  This series contains subject files created by Eugenio Donato on various authors, such as Michele Foucault and Rene Girard, literary works, and topics. Files contain notes, photocopies of academic articles and sources, offprints, and essays by Donato.
- **Arrangement**
  This series is in its original order.

Box 3, Folder 19

**Curriculum vitae Series 4 1970-1983**

- Physical Description: 0.1 Linear feet
- **Arrangement**
  This series is in its original order.
- **Scope and Content Summary**
  This series contains Eugenio Donato's edited curriculum vitae circa 1980s.