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## **Preliminary Guide to the Lawrence Willson Papers**

Preliminary arrangement and description by D. Tambo, J. Mundy, and K. Curren; latest revision by D. Tambo, Feb. 23, 2009.

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## Preliminary Guide to the Lawrence Willson Papers

### Collection number: UArch FacP 21

Department of Special Collections  
Davidson Library  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Processed by:

Preliminary arrangement and description by D. Tambo, J. Mundy, and K. Curren; latest revision by D. Tambo

Date Completed:

Feb. 23, 2009

Encoded by:

A. Demeter

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Lawrence Willson Papers

**Dates:** ca. 1912-1995

**Collection number:** UArch FacP 21

**Creator:** Willson, Lawrence

**Collection Size:** 10 linear feet (9 records cartons, 1 document boxes, 2 map cabinet folders, 1 VHS videocassette, and 1 audiocassette).

**Repository:** University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Dept. of Special Collections  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

**Abstract:** The collection contains research files relating to Lawrence Willson's scholarly interests, including Henry D. Thoreau and American literature, as well as copies of his articles and reviews, correspondence, photographs, and files relating to the Thoreau Society, Phi Beta Kappa, early teaching assignments, and the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he taught in the English Department for many years.

**Physical location:** Boxes 1-10 (SRLF); Map folder (Map Cabinet 19/11); Audiovisual (Annex 2).

**Languages:** English

### Access Restrictions

The majority of this collection is stored offsite. Advance notice is required for retrieval.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

Lawrence Willson Papers. UArch FacP 21. Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

### Acquisition Information

Multiple donations from Lawrence Willson and family, ca. 1990-1996.

### Biography

Lawrence Willson was born in Lancaster, New Hampshire, on May 6, 1911. He received a bachelor's degree in English from Wesleyan University in Connecticut in 1934 and earned a doctorate in English from Yale University in 1944. He taught at Delaware, Tennessee, Wesleyan, and Berkeley before coming to UCSB in 1947, where he was a professor of English, a Henry D. Thoreau scholar, and a longtime active member in the UCSB Phi Beta Kappa chapter. He retired in 1978 and died in Santa Barbara on January 28, 1996. A Lawrence Willson Memorial Lectureship was established later in 1996 and has been awarded to some of the most distinguished faculty at UCSB.

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More information about Lawrence Willson's life is available in the UCSB Public Information Office Biographic Files and the Lawrence Willson oral history Down Country (OH 1), produced by David Russell for the UCSB Oral History Program.

### Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains research files relating to Lawrence Willson's scholarly interests, including Henry D. Thoreau and American literature, as well as copies of his articles and reviews, correspondence, photographs, and files relating to the Thoreau Society, Phi Beta Kappa, early teaching assignments, and the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he taught in the English Department for many years.

The collection is only partially processed, with descriptions at the series and box level. Arrangement of contents is largely as found.

### Arrangement

This collection contains the following series:

**Series I: General** - incl. Bio/Personal. Autobiographical and bibliographical materials. Undergraduate and graduate papers, notes from student days at Yale.

**Series II: Academic Files.** Files from before and during working at UCSB. Files from UCSB include English Department files, including Shakespeare and Animals in Art courses.

**Series III: Professional Organizations.** Including extensive Phi Beta Kappa files (undergraduate honors society), Thoreau Society, and UCSB Friends of the Library.

**Series IV: Research.** Files from other American writers including Faulkner and Hawthorne.

**Series V: Thoreau Files.** General files, including correspondence, lectures, writings about Thoreau.

**Series VI: Writings.** Copies of articles by Willson, as well as his dissertation, unpublished novel, and reviews of works by others. Boxes 9-10.

**Series VII: Oversize.** Birthday Posters. Map Folders 19/11.

**Series VIII: A/V.** Audiocassette and VHS videotape: "Lawrence Willson: Self Reliance" bicentennial lecture.

### Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Willson, Lawrence

Thoreau, Henry David, 1817-1862.

University of California, Santa Barbara. Dept. of English

### Related Material

Resources in UCSB Special Collections

Thoreau [Henry D.] / Lawrence Willson Collection. Mss 187.

UCSB Office of Public Information Biographical Files. UArch 11.

Willson [Lawrence] Oral History. OH 1.

Resources in the Davidson Library

Writings of Henry David Thoreau / Thoreau Edition

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/thoreau/index.html>

Email the Editor-in-Chief Elizabeth Witherell at [witherell@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:witherell@library.ucsb.edu)

Other Resources

Thoreau Society Archives at the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods Library, at <http://www.thoreausociety.org/>

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#### Series I: **General**

##### **Scope and Content Note**

Incl. Bio/Personal

Box 1

##### **Bio-Bib**

Box 1

##### **Bio - Miscellany**

##### **Correspondence**

Box 1

**Cards and Postcards, ca. 1912-1993**

Box 1

**Hilen, Andrew R.**

Box 1

**1940s [mainly 1947-1949] - alphabetically arranged**

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Box 1	<b>Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, ca. 1960-1972</b>
Box 1	<b>Miscellany, 1928, 1949-1988</b>
Box 1	<b>Knowledge Bowl (Santa Barbara), 1969-1970 Lancaster, New Hampshire</b>
Box 1	<b>Early memorabilia, dating back to 1921</b>
Box 1	<b>Lancaster Academy</b>
Box 1	<b>Lancaster High School</b>
Box 1	<b>"The Lancastrian" - student literary magazine of the Lancaster Academy, 1928-1929</b>
Box 1	<b>"Young Woodley" - play, with LW as actor, director, producer, 1932</b>
Box 2	<b>Photos - unsorted box, mainly snapshots of family and friends, as well as holiday cards from friends and colleagues; a few with LW</b>
Box 2	<b>Publicity - newspapers about LW</b>
Box 2	<b>Radio Broadcasts, 1948-1949</b>
Box 2	<b>Santa Barbara Civic Theater, 1951-1952</b>
Box 2	<b>Sermons, n.d.</b>
	<b>Speeches</b>
Box 2	<b>"Self Reliance," 1976</b>
Box 2	<b>Miscellany, n.d.</b>
Box 2	<b>Unitarian Church, ca. 1940s-1950s</b>
	<b>University Days</b>
Box 2	<b>Notes - undergraduate</b>
Box 2	<b>Papers - undergraduate and graduate, 1930s</b>
Box 2	<b>Wesleyan Alum File, ca. 1930s-1992</b>
Box 2	<b>Wesleyan Cardinal - L.W. contributor and managing editor, 1932-1934</b>
Box 2	<b>Wesleyan - Memorabilia</b>
Box 2	<b>Wesleyan - Transcript</b>
	<b>Yale Graduate School</b>
Box 2	<b>General</b>
Box 2	<b>Old English Course</b>
Box 2	<b>Miscellany - incl. autographed photographs of actresses and an 1863 letter from the bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire</b>

Series II: **Academic Files**

	<b>General</b>
Box 3	<b>English Drama</b>
Box 3	<b>English Literature Exams</b>
Box 3	<b>English Literature Syllabi</b>
Box 3	<b>English Teaching</b>
	<b>Lectures</b>
Box 3	<b>Moby Dick</b>
Box 3	<b>Self-Reliance</b>
Box 3	<b>Whitman</b>
Box 3	<b>Speech Course</b>
Box 3	<b>Colgate University</b>
Box 3	<b>Harvard University</b>
Box 3	<b>Immaculate Heart College</b>
Box 3	<b>Loyola University of Los Angeles</b>
Box 3	<b>San Jose State College</b>
Box 3	<b>Santa Barbara City College (SBCC)</b>
Box 3	<b>Santa Barbara City Schools - Adult Education, ca. 1950s-1960</b>
Box 3	<b>University of California, Berkeley, Summer 1951</b>
Box 3	<b>University of California, Davis</b>
	<b>University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)</b>
	<b>General</b>
Box 3	<b>Appointments</b>
Box 3	<b>Chancellors' Representatives for Undergraduate Scholarships (CRUS), 1963-1964</b>

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Box 3	<b>Cheadle, Vernon I. (Chancellor)</b>
Box 3	<b>Chron. Files, 1947, 1951-1989</b>
Box 3	<b>College Bowl, 1963</b>
Box 3	<b>Commencement Speech: "The Theory of Books"</b>
Box 3	<b>Distinguished Teaching Award - Lecture: "Image and Illusion," 1978-1979</b>
Box 3	<b>Emeriti Affairs, ca. 1985-1991</b>
Box 3	<b>Frosh Camp, 1966-1967</b>
Box 3	<b>Graduate Affairs, ca. 1968-1971</b>
Box 3	<b>Honors and Scholarships, ca. 1968-1970</b>
Box 3	<b>Huttenback, Robert A. (Chancellor), ca. 1981-1989</b>
Box 3	<b>Regents Scholarship Program, ca. 1973-1986</b>
Box 3	<b>Research Applications - by LW, 1950s</b>
Box 3	<b>Residence Halls Association, ca. 1956</b>
Box 3	<b>Standards</b>
Box 3	<b>Youth Conferences, ca. 1956-1957</b>
Box 4	<b>American Literature Exams</b>
Box 4	<b>American Literature Syllabi</b>
Box 4	<b>English Courses: Eng. 1A-Eng. 265</b>
	<b>English Department</b>
Box 4	<b>Comprehensive Exams</b>
Box 4	<b>Comprehensive Reading Lists</b>
Box 4	<b>Curriculum Committee, ca. 1950-1951</b>
Box 4	<b>Graduate Courses</b>
Box 4	<b>Graduate Matters - General</b>
Box 4	<b>Hand, George Edgar - Memorial, 1968</b>
Box 4	<b>Poetry Tests</b>
Box 4	<b>Robinson, Robert Elliott - Memorial, 1969</b>
Box 5	<b>Graduate Courses</b>
Box 5	<b>Graduate Matters</b>
Box 5	<b>University of Connecticut</b>
Box 5	<b>University of Delaware, mainly 1937-1939</b>
Box 5	<b>University of Tennessee, mainly 1941-1943</b>
Box 5	<b>University of Washington</b>
Box 5	<b>Uppsala</b>
Box 5	<b>Wesleyan University</b>
Box 5	<b>Yale University</b>

Series III: **Professional and Other Organizations**

Box 6	<b>Modern Language Association of America, 1946, 1967, 1972</b>
	<b>Phi Beta Kappa files - LW was founder of the UCSB chapter</b>
Box 6	<b>Associates</b>
Box 6	<b>Council [UCSB - Lambda Chapter of California], ca. 1970-1982</b>
Box 6	<b>Establishment of Chapter at UCSB, 1967</b>
Box 6	<b>Requirements for Election to Phi Beta Kappa</b>
Box 6	<b>Romanell - Phi Beta Kappa Lectures</b>
Box 6	<b>Triennial Council - United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, 1970-1988</b>
Box 6	<b>UCSB Commencement Programs [lacking some years] - with mention of Phi Beta Kappa, 1975-1995</b>
Box 6	<b>Miscellany</b>
Box 6	<b>Western College Association, ca. 1950s</b>

Series IV: **Research / Author Files**

**Scope and Content Note**

[Other than Thoreau]. Includes related course files; mainly clippings and articles.

Box 7	<b>Faulkner, William</b>
Box 7	<b>Frost, Robert</b>
Box 7	<b>Glasgow, Ellen</b>
Box 7	<b>Hawthorne, Nathaniel</b>

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Box 7	<b>Hemingway, Ernest</b>
Box 7	<b>Holmes, Oliver Wendell</b>
Box 7	<b>Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth</b>
Box 7	<b>Lowell, James Russell</b>
Box 7	<b>Melville, Herman</b>
Box 7	<b>Poe, Edgar Allen</b>
Box 7	<b>Pound, Ezra</b>
Box 7	<b>Powell, Lawrence Clark</b>
Box 7	<b>Santayana, George</b>
Box 7	<b>Selby, Hubert</b>
Box 7	<b>Shakespeare, William</b>
Box 7	<b>Twain, Mark</b>
Box 8	<b>Updike, John</b>
Box 8	<b>Veblen, Thorstein</b>
Box 8	<b>Wallant, Edward L.</b>
Box 8	<b>Welty, Eudora</b>
Box 8	<b>West, Nathaniel</b>
Box 8	<b>Wharton, Edith</b>
Box 8	<b>White, E. B.</b>
Box 8	<b>Whitman, Walt</b>
Box 8	<b>Whittier, John Greenleaf</b>
Box 8	<b>Williams, Tennessee</b>
Box 8	<b>Wodehouse, P. G.</b>
Box 8	<b>Wolfe, Thomas</b>

Series V: **Thoreau Files**

	<b>Thoreau - General</b>
Box 8	<b>Bibliography - Harvard</b>
Box 8	<b><i>Cape Cod</i></b>
Box 8	<b>Correspondence - incl. letters from other Thoreau scholars</b>
Box 8	<b>Harvard University</b>
Box 8	<b>Lectures on Thoreau - by LW</b>
Box 8	<b>Notes (by LW)</b>
Box 8	<b>Thoreau Edition - Walter Harding (State University College, Geneseo, NY), ca. 1967-1971</b>
Box 8	<b>The Thoreau Fellowship</b>
Box 8	<b><i>Thoreau Journal Quarterly</i></b>
Box 8	<b>Transcendentalism</b>
Box 8	<b>Transcendentalism Course</b>
Box 8	<b>Turkey Press (Harry and Sandra Reese) - printed ephemera</b>
Box 8	<b><i>Walking Project</i> - Carolee Campbell, Ninja Press</b>
Box 8	<b>Wolf, Harriet</b>
Box 8	<b>Writings about Thoreau (by others) - incl. articles, dealers' catalogs, manuscript drafts of scholarly papers, publishers' notices, and other similar material</b>
Box 8	<b>The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau - Princeton University</b>
Box 8	<b>The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau - UCSB</b>
Box 8	<b>Miscellany - incl. Thoreau-themed greeting cards</b>
	<b>Thoreau Society</b>
Box 9	<b>Booklets</b>
Box 9	<b>Bulletins</b>
Box 9	<b><i>The Concord Saunterer</i></b>
Box 9	<b>Correspondence</b>

Series VI: **Writings**

	<b>Scope and Content Note</b>
	[Writings by LW]
Box 9	<b>Dissertation: <i>The Influence of Early North American History and Legend on the Writings of Henry David Thoreau</i> (Yale University, 1944)</b>

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- Articles by Willson - mainly copies/offprints, a few typescript drafts**
- Box 9 "American Letters," *Arts and Letters*, [ca. 1982]  
 Box 9 "American Letters II," *Arts and Letters*, [ca. 1985]  
 Box 9 "American Philosopher," *Arts and Letters*, [ca. 1986]  
 Box 9 "Another View of the Pilgrims," *New England Quarterly*, June 1961  
 Box 9 "The 'Body Electric' Meets the Genteel Tradition," *New Mexico Quarterly*, Winter 1956-1957
- Box 9 "Education and the American College," *Educational Forum*, Mar. 1957  
 Box 9 "The Gods of New England," *Pacific Spectator*, Spring 1955  
 Box 9 "The Great Reversal," *Dalhousie Review*, [1959-1960]  
 Box 9 "A Jollification of Jameses," *Arts and Letters*, [Fall 1992]  
 Box 9 "Ladies at the Escritoire: American Letters III," *Arts and Letters*, [ca. 1988]  
 Box 9 "Leftover Letters," *Arts and Letters*, [ca. 1986]  
 Box 9 "Man Thinking," typescript  
 Box 9 "The Puritan Tradition in American Literature," *Arizona Quarterly*, Spring 1957  
 Box 9 "The Question of Wilder," *Arts and Letters*, [ca. 1985]  
 Box 9 "The Scholar as Teacher," *Journal of General Education*, Jan. 1955  
 Box 9 "Shakespeare and the Genteel Tradition in America," *New Mexico Quarterly*, Spring 1956
- Box 9 "Thoreau and New England's Weather," *Weatherwise*, June 1959  
 Box 9 "Thoreau: Defender of the Savage," *Emerson Society Quarterly*, No. 26 (I Quarter 1962)
- Box 9 "Thoreau on Education," *History of Education Quarterly*, Mar. 1962  
 Box 9 "Thoreau: Student of Anthropology," *American Anthropologist*, Apr. 1959  
 Box 9 "Thoreau's Canadian Notebook," *Huntington Library Quarterly*, May 1959  
 Box 9 "Thoreau's Medical Vagaries," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 1960
- Box 9 "The Transcendentalist View of the West," *Western Humanities Review*, Spring 1960
- Box 9 "Yankee Misanthrope," *Arts and Letters*, Summer 1992  
 Box 9 "Yet Another Note on *Moby Dick*," [1955-1956]
- Box 9 **Novel - untitled, unpublished**
- Reviews - of other authors' works**
- Box 9 *Journal of Modern Literature* - various reviews by LW  
 Box 10 *Key Reporter* - reviews by LW on various works, appearing in the Phi Beta Kappa serial; also review notes and related correspondence
- Box 10 Koestler, Arthur - *The Age of Longing*, 1951  
 Box 10 *Modern Language Quarterly*  
 Box 10 Review Notes  
 Box 10 University of Missouri Press  
 Box 10 Miscellany - mainly on works about Thoreau, ca. 1965-1967

Series VII: **Oversize**

Map Cabinet **Oversize Birthday Posters**  
 19/11

Series VIII: **Audio / Visual**

Tape No. **Audiocassette: L. Willson, Lobero (Theater, Santa Barbara), n.d.**  
 A15284/CS  
 Tape No. **VHS cassette: "Lawrence Wilson: Self Reliance" Bicentennial Lecture (51.04 minutes)**  
 V3400/VHS