Guide to the Alan Chadwick papers

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2005
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**Contributing Institution:** University of California, Santa Cruz

**Title:** Alan Chadwick papers

**Creator:** Chadwick, Alan, 1909-1980

**Creator:** Round Valley Garden Project (Covelo, Calif.)

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.202

**Physical Description:** 0.5 Linear Feet, 1 document box

**Date (inclusive):** 1935-1977

**Abstract:** This collection includes manuscript and typescript pages of poems, plays and stories by Chadwick. Also included are digital publicity photographs and copies of theater reviews from Chadwick's theater days in South Africa.

**Language of Material:** English

**Access**
Collection open for research.

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**Preferred Citation**
Alan Chadwick papers. MS 202. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Acquisition Information**

**Biography**
The English born Alan Chadwick came into the world on July 27, 1909. Born into the upper class of Edwardian society, Alan was exposed at a young age to a variety of aesthetic pursuits, gardening being chief among them. As a youth the mystic Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner heavily influenced him. Steiner’s theories, though largely disregarded by the wider academic community, found a stronghold in the mind of young Alan. Later in his life Chadwick would combine what he learned from Steiner with French gardening techniques to develop his own brand of biodynamic horticulture. Chadwick’s passion for the arts led him to the Shakespearean theater where he performed professionally for thirty two years. However his life pursuit of beauty was violently interrupted by the Second World War, which he described as having "capsized my attitude to civilization." After the war he moved to South Africa where he continued to act and to garden. In 1967, Chadwick was persuaded by his friend Countess Freye von Moltke to take a position at the burgeoning UC Santa Cruz. During his time at the University, Chadwick labored to construct a showcase garden employing his biodynamic techniques. While working the soil, he taught the students his philosophy based on a clear understanding of the rhythms of nature in creating a thriving botanical environment, as well as about the role of the garden in human culture. Chadwick was an extremely magnetic individual who attracted a large following to his lectures and a large number of devoted volunteers, whom he worked hard in the garden. Though a charming person, Chadwick was also quick to anger and notoriously difficult to get along with at times. This aspect of his personality, along with disputes over the direction of his ambitious farm project, led to his leaving the University in 1973. In the final seven years of his life, Alan continued to work in his signature style helping to create several gardens around America. He died on May 25, 1980.

Alan Chadwick remains highly regarded by the agricultural community and is seen as the forerunner to the Center for Agro-ecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) that exists today at UC Santa Cruz. The original garden remains an island of peace within the bustling University and is now named in his honor.

**Scope and Content of Collection**
This collection includes manuscript and typescript pages of poems, plays and stories by Chadwick. Also included are digital publicity photographs and copies of theater reviews from Chadwick’s theater days in South Africa.

**Other Finding Aids**
Round Valley Garden Project collection, MS 203

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Theater -- South Africa

Organic gardening -- California -- Covelo

Round Valley Garden Project (Covelo, Calif.)
| box-folder 1:1 | Correspondence, 1955 1970 |
| box-folder 1:2 | *Poems and Fairy Tales of Alan Chadwick* - manuscript and typescript pages, poems, notes, 1935-1977 |
| box-folder 1:3 | Theater reviews - photocopies of scrapbook pages, ca. 1936-1954 |
| box-folder 1:4 | 1 CD with 6 images of publicity shots - theater days in South Africa ms0202_med_0001 circa 1940s-1950s |

**Access**

Digital files are available in the UCSC Special Collections and Archives reading room. Contact Special Collections and Archives in advance to request access to digital files.

| box-folder 1:5 | Photographs, |
| box-folder 1:5 | Alan Chadwick - head shot, ca. 1948 |
| box-folder 1:5 | Alan Chadwick and two unidentified men at UCSC Garden, ca. 1970s |