Finding Aid for the Arthur Lerner collection on Poetry Therapy 0179

Finding aid prepared by Rebecca Hirsch
The processing of this collection and the creation of this finding aid was funded by the generous support of the National Historic Publications and Records Commission.
USC Libraries Special Collections
Doheny Memorial Library 206
3550 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, California, 90089-0189
213-740-5900
specol@usc.edu
2010
**Title:** Arthur Lerner collection on Poetry Therapy

**Collection number:** 0179

**Contributing Institution:** USC Libraries Special Collections

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 2.29 Linear feet, 4 boxes

**Date (inclusive):** 1953-1997

**Abstract:** This collection contains publications pertaining to poetry therapy collected by Arthur Lerner, as well as a small amount of his correspondence. Lerner was one of the pioneers of the use of poetry therapy techniques as a form of psychological therapy.

**creator:** Lerner, Arthur

**Preferred Citation**

[Box/folder# or item name], Arthur Lerner collection on Poetry Therapy, Collection no. 0179, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

**Conditions Governing Use**

The collection contains published materials; researchers are reminded of the copyright restrictions imposed by publishers on reusing their articles and parts of books. It is the responsibility of researchers to acquire permission from publishers when reusing such materials. The copyright to unpublished materials belongs to the heirs of the writers. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Conditions Governing Access**

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. Advance notice required for access.

**Biographical Note**

Arthur Lerner (1915-1998) was a psychologist who pioneered the use of poetry therapy techniques. Poetry therapy is the process whereby poetry is used to help psychological and psychiatric patients express themselves and to help awaken memories and feelings in the elderly. He received two doctorates from USC and lectured at UCLA and Los Angeles City College. Lerner also founded the Poetry Therapy Institute in Encino and organized the National Association for Poetry Therapy's certification process for poetry therapists.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains publications pertaining to poetry therapy collected by Arthur Lerner, newspaper clippings, and the manuscript for *Life Guidance through Literature*. Also included in this collection is a small amount of Lerner's correspondence.

**Acquisition**

The Arthur Lerner collection on Poetry Therapy was donated to USC by Arthur Lerner.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Lerner, Arthur -- Archives

American poetry--20th century--Archival resources

Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources

Bibliotherapy--Archival resources

Clippings

Correspondence

Manuscripts

Poetry--Therapeutic use--Archival resources

Psychologists--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources

Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1-2</th>
<th>Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
<td>Series contains correspondence and clippings pertaining to poetry therapy. Series also contains copies of articles written by Arthur Lerner about poetry therapy and a scrapbook containing clippings and printed ephemera.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finding Aid for the Arthur Lerner collection on Poetry Therapy

0179
Box 2-3  

**Life Guidance Through Literature**  

Scope and Content  

Box 4  

**Publications**  

Scope and Content  
Series contains periodicals and books containing articles or poetry written by Arthur Lerner or articles on poetry therapy. Series also includes a VHS tape of a lecture Lerner gave at Hofstra University.