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Odell Shepard Collection

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Odell Shepard Collection

The Odell Shepard Collection consists of 113 boxes of papers relating mainly to Shepard's career as professor, writer, and politician. The voluminous correspondence includes letters from such writers as Irving Babbitt, Bliss Carman, Walter de la Mare, Bliss Perry, Sinclair Lewis, and Wallace Stevens. The collection also houses manuscript copies of many of Shepard's works from his novels and essays to texts for lectures and public addresses. The remainder of the collection is made up of a wide range of miscellaneous items.

The Shepard collection was donated to the Watkinson Library in two parts. The first section was presented in the 1960's by Odell Shepard through the good offices of Kenneth Walter Cameron. The second part was given to the Library in July of 1992 by Mrs. Marion Shepard, widow of Odell Shepard's son Willard. The two donations have now been integrated, with all items from the second installment marked with the accession number "A74".

Before his death, Shepard had apparently begun to put his papers in order, but did not complete the task. To maintain the integrity of the collection, the original Shepard files (identified by an asterisk*) are preserved and worked into the arrangement as far as possible. The current series are an attempt to strike a balance between the files created by Shepard and a traditional manuscript arrangement.

Odell Shepard (1884- 1967) served as the Trinity College Goodwin Professor of English from 1917 until his resignation in 1946. He also served as Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut in 1940- 41. In 1937 he received the Pulitzer Prize for his biography of A. Bronson Alcott, *Pedlar's Progress*. Shepard marries Mary Falwell Record and had one son, Willard Odell Shepard.

Series I: Background

-- Biographical information

Series II: Correspondence

1. General correspondence of Odell Shepard and his family (note: in alphabetical order following arrangement begun by Shepard, but now with letters to and from Shepard separated.)

1. Letters to Shepard from others
2. Letters from Shepard to others
3. Letters to Mary Shepard
4. Letters to Willard Shepard
5. Letters to and from others, re Shepard
6. Blank cards

2. Separate groups of correspondence

-- "Als 1"*

-- "Als 2"*

-- Correspondence with Beecher, Carl (including sheet music)*

-- Correspondence with *Christian Science Monitor* Editorial Board *

-- Christmas Cards (his file, processor label)

-- Correspondence re *Jenkin's Ear* *

-- Correspondence among Shepard, Alfred A. Knopf, publishers and Ives H.S. Lewis and Wm. H. Garrigus, authors of *They Found a Way* re charges of plagiarism in *Connecticut: Past and Present* *

-- Correspondence with Little, Brown and Company *

-- Correspondence labeled "McIntosh and Otis, Inc." (re *Jenkin's Ear*) *

-- Correspondence with Plutzik, Hyam *

- Correspondence with Scott, Cecil *
- Correspondence with Sister Miriam (including some of her writings) *

3. "Fan" mail and correspondence dealing with his works

- Alcott
- Book Reviews
- CSM I *
- CSM II *
- CSM III *
- CSM IV *
- CSM V *
- CSM VI *
- CSM VII *
- Christian Science Monitor
- *Connecticut Past and Present* *
- *Connecticut Past and Present*
- *Harvest of a Quiet Eye* *
- *Harvest of a Quiet Eye*
- *Heart of Thoreau's Journals*
- *Holdfast Gaines*
- *Lore of the Unicorn*
- *Pedlar's Progress I* *
- *Pedlar's Progress III* *
- *Pedlar's Progress*
- Poetry
- Talks, recordings, etc. *
- Teaching *
- Thoreau *
- Trinity *

Series III: Manuscript Works

1. Book- length works

- *Cabin (The Cabin Down the Glen)* (Partially his file, partially, processor arranged)
- *Cabin* preservation photocopies
- *Holdfast Gaines* (Partially his file, partially processor arranged)
- "Early drafts of *Holdfast Gaines*" *
- "Early drafts of *Holdfast Gaines* 2nd package" *
- Typescript of *Holdfast Gaines* *
- Typescript and blue books of *Old Glory* (earlier title for *Holdfast Gaines*) *
- *Jenkin's Ear* *
- *Lore of the Unicorn* * (note: includes part not originally with file)
- *The Old, Old Companions* (drama)
- *Pedlar's Progress* *
- "Work on *Pedlar's Progress*" *
- "Notes for *Pedlar's Progress* (a small portion)" *
- *Pedlar's Progress*
- Petrarch *
- Solitude *
- Solitude
- *Thy Rod and Thy Creel* *
- Unidentified book length typescript *

2. Shorter Writings

- *Christian Science Monitor* essays (his file, processor label)
- Editorials *

- Essays, Articles, etc. *
- Essays, Articles, etc
- Essays *
- Everyman's English *
- Here and Now *
- Hermit *
- Letter to the Editor *
- Letter to the Editor
- " 'Neath the Elms" *
- "Notes for a book never written..." *
- Poetry
- Reviews *
- "Reviews 2" *
- Reviews
- The Underground Road (note for novels)
- Miscellaneous

1. Labeled fragments
2. Blue Books
3. "Conn Walk" notes
4. Notebooks
5. Unidentifiable fragments
6. Partial sheets of Ms notes
7. Notes labeled "ABA" *

Series IV: Proofs

- *Holdfast Gaines*
- "Here and There"
- *Lonely Flute*
- *Lore of the Unicorn*
- *One Hundred Years of Printing*
- *Thy Rod and Thy Creel*

Series V: Talks

- Audio recordings
- Broadcasts *
- Broadcasts
- Emerson Lectures, Bangor, Maine *
- Lectures *
- Public Addresses *
- Sermons *
- Shakespeare *
- Talks *
- Talks

Series VI: Miscellaneous Files Created by Shepard (note: these files retain the labels used by Shepard and many have parallel files to include papers on the same subject but omitted by Shepard from his original file)

- "Civil Liberties" *
- "Civil Liberties" *
- American Civil Liberties Union (processor arranged)
- "Duplicates" *
- Emerson *
- Emerson/ Thoreau
- Father *
- "Forestry" *

- Harvest of a Quiet Eye (his file; processor labeled)
- Heart of Thoreau's Journals *
- Heart of Thoreau's Journals *
- "Highway Protection Areas" *
- Holdfast Gaines (his file, processor labeled)
- "Housatonic Valley" *
- I.B. [Irving Babbitt] Man and Teacher *
- Jenkin's Ear (his file, processor labeled)
- Jenkin's Ear (his file, processor labeled)
- JFK *
- "Joys of Forgetting"
- Unicorn-- Lore of the" *
- Unicorn-- the Lore of the" *
- "Lore of the Unicorn" *
- "Miscellaneous" *
- Mohegans *
- Mohegans
- "Pictures" *
- "Place Names" *
- Politics *
- Politics
- Politics (his file, processor labeled)
- Seafaring (his file, processor labeled)
- Teaching *
- Teaching
- Teaching
- HDT
- Thoreau *
- Trinity *
- Yeats' Byzantium

Series VII : Periodicals

1. Including articles by Odell Shepard
2. Including articles about Odell Shepard
3. With no direct ties to Odell Shepard

Series VIII: Newspaper Clippings

1. Photocopies

- Politics *
- Unsorted

2. Originals

- Politics *
- Unsorted
- *Christian Science Monitor* articles
- "Duplicates O.S. Monitors" *
- Heart of Thoreau's Journals *
- Holdfast Gaines *
- Lore of the Unicorn *
- Unsorted *

Series IX: Musical settings of Shepard poems by

1. Carl Beecher
2. Rick Sowash

Series X: Photographs

- Of Odell Shepard, family, etc.
- Of gravestones
- Various subjects

Series XI: Ephemera

- Programs, tickets, invitations
- Advertisements, book announcements
- Postcards (not used for Shepard's correspondence)
- Art reproductions

Series XII: Miscellaneous (note: this series contains items apparently collected by Shepard, most with no obvious connection to Shepard himself)

- Miscellaneous writings neither by nor about Shepard
- Notes
- Notebooks
- Sketchbooks
- Datebooks
- Photostats
- Travel guides, pamphlets, etc.
- Maps
- Nature miscellaneous
- Instruction booklets
- Bills/ receipts
- Books
- Library book request slips *

Odell Shepard Collection: Supplement

The Odell Shepard collection consists of 113 boxes of papers relating mainly to Shepard's career as professor, writer, and politician. To this primary collection have been added six boxes of supplementary material, some of which relates directly to the primary collection. When consulting the supplementary collection, the inventory of the primary collection should be referred to.

Materials in the supplementary collection concern, chiefly, the research, writing, and publication of Shepard's Pulitzer Prize book, *Pedlar's Progress*, a biography of Bronson Alcott. In addition, there are some materials (photographs) related to other publications.

The supplementary collection is organized in five series:

- I. *Pedlar's Progress*: Notes, clippings, photos.
- II. *Pedlar's Progress*: Miscellaneous transcripts of original documents by or about Bronson Alcott.
- III. *Pedlar's Progress*: ABA journals, transcripts.

IV. *Pedlar's Progress*: Notes on Bronson Alcott's philosophy and thought, and miscellaneous.

V. Photographs (not related to *Pedlar's Progress*).

BOX 1

Series I: Notes, Clippings, and Photos

1. Memorandum- Alcott Journals, Diaries and Letters
2. Newspaper clippings
3. Photos re *Pedlar's Progress*
4. Alcott's Journals and *Tours and Conversations*
5. Bronson Alcott and his daughters
6. Notebooks (6a- 6c)

Box 2

Series II: Miscellaneous Transcripts (note: ABA stands for A. Bronson Alcott in Shepard's notes)

Folder 1

- Journal Notes
- W.A. Alcott Rambles at the South
- A. Bronson Alcott Journal- Introduction
- Orsettes Brownson's Review of Conversations on the Gospels
- ABA Bibliography- Autobiographical Index 1800- 1850

Folder 2

- Philadelphia 1831
- Ralph Waldo Emerson on A. Bronson Alcott 1836- 1871

Folder 3

- ABA Journal- March 1837, Week XIII
- Extracts from English Diary (2 copies)
- ABA Biography 1842

Folder 4

- Boston 1855
- Walpole 1855

Folder 5

- Boston 1851

Folder 6

- Davenport, Iowa 1871

Folder 7

- Fragments of autobiography- Peddling in the South
- ABA Jan 1, 1837 Week First Vol. X

BOX 3-5

Series III: ABA Journals

Box 3

1. 1828-1830
2. 1834
3. 1835, 1837, 1842, 1843
4. 1846
5. 1847
6. 1848
7. 1850, 1851, 1853

Box 4

1. 1854
2. 1858
3. 1859
4. 1861- 1862
5. 1863- 1864
6. 1869
7. 1870, 1872

Box 5

1. 1873
2. 1874
3. 1875- 1876
4. 1877- 1878
5. 1879- 1880
6. 1881-1882

BOX 6

Series IV: Notes on Bronson Alcott's Philosophy and Thought & Miscellaneous

Folder 1

- Reform
- Orphic Sayings

Folder 2

- Politics
- ABA's Reading Library
- Religion

Folder 3

- Journals of Bronson Alcott
- *Pedlar's Progress*- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ABA- Frances Quarles
- Race and Genealogy
- Reading

Folder 4

- Thought
- Pastoralism
- Teaching
- Russell

Folder 5

- Reputation
- Letters
- *Tours and Conversations*

Folder 6

- Tension
- Temperament
- Temple School
- Bronson Alcott- Teacher

Folder 7

- Mrs. Sarah Ripley
- Transcendentalism
- Miscellaneous Notes

Folder 8

- ABA Biography- The Times
- E.P.P.'s Preface
- Places of Residence
- William Andrus Alcott

Folder 9

- Alcott House
- Mrs. Alcott

BOX 7

Series V: Connecticut Photos

1. Photos for *Connecticut Great and Small*
2. Miscellaneous Photos
3. Indian Connecticut

Primary collection processed by Susan Spitler, Student Assistant, August 1992
The supplementary collection was organized and inventoried by Dominic Skowronek, Trinity College
'95, Student Assistant in the Watkinson Library, summer 1995.
Prepared for electronic publication by Michael J. Breen '99, July 1999.

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