

**ALDERSON PAPERS**  
**WILLIAM LEWIS ALDERSON PAPERS**

**Provenance:** Gift of the William L. Alderson Family.

**Ownership:** Reed College owns the William Alderson Papers.

**Access:** Please consult the Special Collections Librarian at Reed College.

**Size:** 2 Linear Feet in 5 Manuscript Boxes.

**Processed By:** Mark Kuestner

**Date:** August, 2003

**Biography**

William Lewis Alderson was born on July 3, 1913. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

He taught English Literature at Reed College 1943-1964. His interests included folklore, folksongs, and Gilbert & Sullivan. He was a member of the American Folklore Society, the Pacific Coast Philosophical Association, the Modern Language Association, and the American Association of University Professors.

Professor Alderson died of a heart attack on July 5, 1964. His son, George Alderson, graduated from Reed in 1963.

**Scope and Content**

The William Alderson Papers consist of correspondence, class lecture notes, coursework and notes from his undergraduate and graduate studies, musical programs that detail his performances, notes and publications on folklore, and a script for a Television Learning Course in which he participated.

**Box Index**

**BOX 1**

- 1:1 Coursework for English 113 and 123, University of California
- 1:2 Coursework for English 117J, 121A, & 157, University of California
- 1:3 Coursework for English 151, University of California
- 1:4 Coursework for English 211, University of California
- 1:5 Coursework for 211B (notes on Beowulf), University of California
- 1:6 Coursework (composition classes, 1930's), University of California

## **BOX 2**

- 2:1 English comprehensive finals (1928-1932), University of California
- 2:2 Euripides (1950's), Reed College humanities courses
- 2:3 Exams (1934), University of California
- 2:4 Folksong materials

## **BOX 3**

- 3:1 Ancient writers, notes on Aristophanes – Sophocles
- 3:2 Carol (Ives) Anderson: notes from library school, 1934 (cataloging and classification)
- 3:3 Correspondence, general

## **BOX 4**

- 4:1 Graduate course notebooks, I
- 4:2 Graduate course notebooks, II
- 4:3 Humanities introductory lecture on reading literature (and the Baroque)
- 4:4 Miscellaneous papers (perpetual calendar, Chaucer notes)
- 4:5 Musical and dramatic performances

4:6 Thesis, 1946 (notes, annotated manuscript, and typescript copy)

**BOX 5**

5:1 Notes for Reed courses

5:2 Notes on English writers

5:3 Research notes

5:4 Summer course notes and exams (non-Reed), 1940's

5:5 Thesis and papers: "Possible Topic with Notes"

5:6 Term papers (by W. Alderson)

5:7 Humanities Telecourse: Shakespeare (Richard II), Medieval Church, etc. and KGW-TV, Channel 8, *Viewer's Guide*, Fall 1958