

University of Victoria Special Collections

Coleman, Rufus A.

SC025

Title

Rufus Arthur Coleman fonds

Dates

1860-1975

Extent

12 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Rufus Arthur Coleman, brother of H. T. J. Coleman, was born in Arthur, Ontario and died in Victoria, B.C. He was Professor of English at Montana State University from 1927 to 1956 and was appointed Professor Emeritus at Montana State in 1956. He retired to Victoria in 1958, and wrote poetry and essays in addition to doing scholarly research. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation for Boston University, 1937, on the life and works of the American author, John Townsend Trowbridge.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records of Rufus Coleman relating to his research on the works of John Townsend Trowbridge, including copies of Trowbridge correspondence, photograph of Trowbridge with Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), off prints of articles written by Coleman about Trowbridge, notes and copy of Coleman's Ph.D. dissertation.

Finding Aids

Inventory available with series and file level control.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

RUFUS A. COLEMAN

INVENTORY

Prepared by: Anne Maclean

University of Victoria Special Collections

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INTRODUCTION

The records of Rufus Coleman were acquired by U. Vic. Special Collections in October 1977. They document his research for his Ph.D. thesis on the American writer John Trowbridge, and contain many photocopies of Trowbridge correspondence. These records will therefore be of special interest to researchers of American literature.

It is unlikely that further accruals will be received; however, this inventory will be updated as necessary.

Researchers may also wish to consult the records of Rufus Coleman's brother, Herbert Thomas John Coleman, also a teacher and poet. Herbert Coleman's records contain two poems and an essay on Mark Twain by Rufus Coleman. The inventory of Herbert Coleman's records is available in Special Collections.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rufus Arthur Coleman was born on 19 June 1886 in Arthur, Ontario. He came from a well-known family of educators, his brother Herbert having taught at UBC and published numerous books of children's poetry.

Rufus Coleman obtained an A.B. degree from Whitman College in 1909, attended the University of Toronto in 1912-1913, and obtained his Ph.D. from Boston University in 1937. His Ph.D. dissertation dealt with the life and works of the American writer John Townsend Trowbridge. Coleman was appointed Assistant Professor of English at Montana State University in 1927 and promoted to full professor in 1936 and became Professor Emeritus in 1956. He was also Visiting Professor during summer session in 1938 at the University of Alberta, in 1939 at Washington State College, and at Victoria College, B.C., in 1959.

In addition to his research on Trowbridge, Coleman wrote essays on other American writers including Mark Twain, and also

wrote poetry. In 1958 he moved to Victoria after retiring from Montana State, and died in Victoria on 22 January 1975.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I PERSONAL RECORDS, 1975 **Accession 77-60, Box 1, File 1** **1 cm.**

Consists of Rufus Coleman's obituary in the *Victoria Daily Colonist*, January 23, 1975.

II RESEARCH ON JOHN TOWNSEND TROWBRIDGE, 1860-1958 **Accession 77-60, Box 1, Files 2-10** **11 cm.**

Consists of photocopies of Trowbridge correspondence from the Folger Shakespeare Library, Huntingdon Library, Yale University Library, the Boston Public Library and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Library, 1860-1915; correspondence from John Moore to Rufus Coleman, 1952-1958; photograph of John Trowbridge with Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), 1908; offprints of articles written by Coleman about Trowbridge, 1939-1953; notes; carbon ts. of Coleman's Ph.D. dissertation, *John Townsend Trowbridge*, Boston University, 1937, 423 pages.

Accession 77-60

Box 1

- 1.1 Obituary for Rufus Coleman, *Victoria Daily Colonist*, Thursday January 23, 1975; other biographical information.
- 1.2 Photocopies of John Trowbridge correspondence from the Folger Shakespeare Library, 1860-1871.
- 1.3 Trowbridge to Fields, 1865-1867. Photocopies of letters in the Huntingdon Library.
- 1.4 Copies of Trowbridge correspondence to various friends and associates. From Yale, Boston Public Library, *et al.* 1868-1907.
- 1.5 Correspondence from John Moore to Rufus Coleman, 1952-1958. Includes b & w photograph of Trowbridge with Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), 30 June 1908.
- 1.6 Correspondence from John Trowbridge to John Burroughs, 1874-1915, 8 holographs.
- 1.7 Offprints of articles written by Rufus Coleman about Trowbridge, 1939-1953.
- 1.8 Rufus Coleman - notebook containing transcripts of John Trowbridge publications.
- 1.9 Transcripts of Trowbridge from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Library.

1.10 Rufus Arthur Coleman, *John Townsend Trowbridge*. Ph.D.
dissertation, Boston University, 1937. Carbon ts., 423 p.