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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.GRENED
Title  Grene, David. Papers
Date  1948-2002
Size  13.5 linear feet (24 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  William David Grene (1913-2002) was a professor of classics, translator of Greek literature, and founding member of the University of Chicago’s Committee on Social Thought. Spanning the years 1948-2002, Grene’s papers include lecture notes, drafts of articles and translations, student material, work by Grene’s colleagues, editorial material, administrative records, personal items, and audio and video recordings.

Information on Use

Access

Series II contains student material that is restricted for 80 years.

Series V contains administrative material that is restricted for 30 years.

Series VI contains personal correspondence that is restricted indefinitely.

Series VII does not include access copies for material in this series. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material from this series.

The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Grene, David. Papers [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
William David Grene (1913-2002) was a professor of classics, translator of Greek literature, and founding member of the University of Chicago’s Committee on Social Thought. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Grene earned an M.A. from Trinity College in 1936, and arrived at the University of Chicago as an instructor in Classics in 1937.

Grene intended to complete a dissertation under the Richard McKeon; however, he fundamentally disagreed with McKeon and other proponents of the Chicago school of literary criticism in their understanding of Aristotle. Grene was outspoken in these views, and thus found that he was unable to secure tenure or make scholarly progress in the university’s established departments. Fortunately, Grene found a place in the newly founded Committee on Social Thought, chaired by John U. Nef. With his rigorous but unorthodox approach to classical literature, Grene joined other unconventional scholars on the interdisciplinary committee. He served as a professor in the Committee on Social Thought from 1947-2002, and also taught undergraduate courses in the College.

Grene taught and lectured widely on classical Greek theater and politics, Shakespeare and Jacobean theater, English and Irish literature, Tolstoy and Ibsen. He is best known for his translations of classical Greek literature, including works of Aeschylus, Euripides, Herodotus and Sophocles. His translations were both criticized and celebrated for their emphasis on readability and modern diction.

In addition to his academic career, Grene was an avid farmer, operating dairy farms in Illinois and Ireland. His memoir, Of Farming and Classics, was published posthumously by the University of Chicago Press in 2006.

**Scope Note**

The David Grene Papers include lecture notes, manuscripts, correspondence, student work, publications, personal material and audio-visual recordings. The collection is organized into seven series.

Series I: Subject Files, contains material spanning the years 1951-2001. This series consists primarily of Grene’s notes for lectures, speeches, tutorials and workshops. Most are associated with graduate courses Grene taught in the Committee on Social Thought, while others are from undergraduate courses, continuing education courses, conferences and special events. This series also includes drafts and manuscripts of articles and translations, reprints, reviews, and related correspondence and course material. Files in this series are organized alphabetically by subject, usually the name of an author or literary genre on which Grene focused. This series includes material from courses that Grene taught with other faculty such as Saul Bellow, Wendy Doniger and David Tracy.
Series II: Student Material, contains drafts of dissertations and course papers, Fundamentals examinations for Ph.D. students, correspondence, recommendations, grade reports, applications and admissions review material. Material in this series spans the years 1966-2002, and most relates to the work of graduate students in the Committee on Social Thought.

Series III: Works by Others, spans the 1960s-2000, and consists of material by scholars and authors other than David Grene, as well as some unidentified writings. Included in this series are drafts of articles and books, scripts, interview transcripts, offprints, clippings and photocopied texts. Drafts of works by Edward C. Dimock, Wendy Doniger, Clifford Orwin, James M. Redfield and A.K. Ramanujan are found in this series. Files are arranged alphabetically by author or subject, with unidentified and unsorted materials at the end of the series.

Series IV: Editorial, contains material relating to the publication of Grene's work. This series spans the 1960s-1990s, includes correspondence with editors and publishers, reader's reports, drafts and copies of reviews, and publicity material such as brochures and advertisements.

Series V: Administrative, consists of correspondence among administrators and faculty on the Committee on Social Thought, grant and course proposals, faculty curricula vitae, and material from reviews of faculty candidates. Material in this series spans the years 1948-2000.

Series VI: Personal, contains material not directly related to Grene's professional work. This series spans the 1950s-2000s, and includes correspondence with family and friends, copies of Grene's curriculum vitae, photographs, material on animal husbandry, travel itineraries, and a variety of periodicals, clippings and publicity material.


Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

University of Chicago. Committee on Social Thought. Records

Subject Headings
• Grene, David
• University of Chicago. Committee on Social Thought
• Classical literature
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• Classicists
• Translators

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