

University of Chicago Library

Guide to the Nathan F. Leopold Collection 1926-1991



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.LEOPOLD
Title	Leopold, Nathan F. Collection
Date	1926-1991
Size	.25 linear ft. (1 box)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract The Nathan F. Leopold Collection consists of materials gathered by John P. Long, a classmate of Leopold's at the University of Chicago. The collection includes correspondence, which traces Long's involvement with Leopold and his case. The relationship between the two was reestablished in 1952 as Long assisted in the efforts to parole Leopold from prison. After Leopold's death, Long was contacted by Ronald Martinetti, who in conjunction with Leopold's widow, was working on a biography of Leopold. Other materials in the collection include news clippings and books. One of the books is a group of poems written by Jack Franks and dedicated to his brother Bobby, the boy murdered by Leopold and Richard Loeb.

Information on Use

Access

No restrictions.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Leopold, Nathan F. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Nathan Freudenthal Leopold, Jr. (1904-1971) is notorious for his partnership with Richard Loeb in the murder of a 14-year-old neighborhood boy, Bobby Franks, on May 24, 1924. Both from prominent Kenwood families and students at the University of Chicago (Leopold 1920-1924 and Loeb 1919-1924), they planned an intellectual exercise, "the perfect murder." They were discovered eight days later. With Clarence Darrow working for the defense, they were sentenced to life imprisonment. Paroled in 1958, Nathan Leopold lived in Puerto Rico until his death in August of 1971. Richard Loeb was murdered in prison in 1936 by a fellow inmate.

Scope Note

The Nathan F. Leopold Collection consists of materials gathered by John P. Long, a classmate of Leopold's at the University of Chicago. The collection includes correspondence, which traces Long's involvement with Leopold and his case. The relationship between the two was reestablished in 1952 as Long assisted in the efforts to parole Leopold from prison. After Leopold's death, Long was contacted by Ronald Martinetti, who in conjunction with Leopold's widow, was working on a biography of Leopold. Other materials in the collection include news clippings and books. One of the books is a group of poems written by Jack Franks and dedicated to his brother Bobby, the boy murdered by Leopold and Richard Loeb.

Related Resources

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

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spl/select.html>

Subject Headings

- Leopold, Nathan Freudenthal, 1904 or 5-1971
- Long, John P.
- Murderers-Illinois-Chicago

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Correspondence, 1942-1958

- Nathan F. Leopold to John P. Long, April 30, 1952, TLS, 1 p.
- Long to Leopold, May 2, 1952, TLC, 1 p.
- Leopold to Long, June 15, 1952, TLS, 2 pp.
- Leopold to Long, May 14, 1957, TLS, 2 p.
- Leopold to Long, July 29, 1957, TLS, 2 pp.
- Leopold to Long, February 15, 1958, TLS, 1 p.
- Leopold to Long, February 20, [1958], telegram
- Leopold to Long, February 21, 1958, TLC, 1 p.
- Leopold to Long, February 22, 1958, TLS, 1 p.
- Neal C. Johnson to Commanding General, USAFISPA, October 9,
- 1942, citation for award of Soldier's Medal to John P. Long

Box 1

Folder 2

Correspondence, 1957

- Elmer Gertz to John P. Long, July 11, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
- Edward van Lier to John P. Long, July 18, 1957, TLS, 1 p.

Box 1

Folder 3

Leopold, "Influence of Castanar on My Own Personality," ditto, 7 pp.

Box 1

Folder 4

Newspapers clippings, 1944-1991

- Newspaper clipping, "Marine Captain Back Home with Medal," (John P. Long) The Chicago Sun, September 25, 1944
- Newspaper clipping concerning Leopold in Puerto Rico, n.d.
- Newspaper clippings, executive clemency hearing, Chicago newspapers, July 9-15, 1957
- Reviews of Life Plus 99 Years by Leopold, 1958
- Newspaper clipping, "Lucky Charm," Chicago Tribune, June 19, 1991

Box 1**Folder 5**

Life Plus 99 Years, inscribed by the author to Jack Long, 1958

Box 1**Folder 6**

Franks, Jack, My Blessed Little Pal, 1926, book of poems dedicated to Robert C. Franks, with frontispiece photograph of Robert Franks, inscribed by the author to "Miss Cooke"

Box 1**Folder 7**

Correspondence, Ronald Marinetti to John P. Long, 1975