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Guide to the Ralph Lewis Papers 1921-ca. 1980s



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.LEWISR

Title Lewis, Ralph. Papers

Date 1921-ca. 1980s

Size 2.75 linear feet (6 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Ralph Lewis studied sociology at University of Chicago as an undergraduate and graduate student (PhB 1932, AM 1958), influenced by the work of Ernest Watson Burgess. After working as a minister, parole officer, and World War II chaplain, Lewis spent most of his career as a sociologist with the U.S. State Department. The Ralph Lewis Papers contain manuscripts, diaries, sociological data, correspondence and other material related to Lewis's work as a student, his professional career, and his personal life and avocations.

Information on Use

Access

Open for research.

No restrictions.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Lewis, Ralph. Papers [Box #, Folder #]

Biographical Note

Ralph Lewis studied at University of Chicago as an undergraduate student (PhB 1932), then studied at Chicago Theological Seminary. Lewis went on to serve as a minister, parole officer, and World War II chaplain. During and after the war Lewis participated in sociological surveys of US soldiers, as well as civilians in Germany and Korea.

Profoundly influenced by the work and encouragement of Ernest Watson Burgess, Lewis returned to University of Chicago for further study in sociology, and completed his Master's degree in 1958. He spent most of his career as a sociologist with the US State Department.

Lewis retired from the State Department in 1979, and lived in Santa Barbara, California until his death in 1995. A gift from Lewis to the University of Chicago established the Ralph Lewis Professorship in Sociology.

Scope Note

The Ralph Lewis Papers contain manuscripts, diaries, sociological data, correspondence and other material related to Lewis's work as a student, his professional career, and his personal life and avocations.

The first part of the collection relates to a ca. 1939-1942 study of the Kenwood Gardens apartment building, and includes diaries of Ralph Lewis and his colleagues, narrative drafts, and detailed sociological data about the building's residents.

The remainder of the collection includes writings on a variety of subjects, ranging from Lewis's work in post-WWII Germany and Korea, to memoirs about his personal life. Also included are copies of Lewis's bachelor's and master's papers, as well as a bound collection of Parole Supervision News, a newsletter edited by Lewis and published by the State of Illinois's Division of Supervision of Parolees.

Related Resources

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

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

Burgess, Ernest Watson. Papers

Subject Headings

- Lewis, Ralph
- Sociology, urban
- Hyde Park (Chicago, Ill.)
- Kenwood (Chicago, Ill.)
- Sociologists

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1-2

Kenwood Gardens study, Ralph Lewis diary, 1937-1941

Box 1

Folder 3-4

Kenwood Gardens study, questionnaires, ca. 1940

Box 1

Folder 5

Kenwood Gardens study, notes, ca. 1980s

Box 1

Folder 6-8

Kenwood Gardens study, Celia Healy diary, 1939-1942

Box 2

Folder 1-3

Kenwood Gardens study, Celia Healy diary, 1939-1942

Box 2

Folder 4-5

Kenwood Gardens study, Pat Davis, "Life in Kenwood Gardens" manuscript, 1940-1942

Box 2

Folder 6-8

Kenwood Gardens study, census, ca. 1940

Box 3

Folder 1

Kenwood Gardens study, drafts, notes and clippings, ca. 1940s- 1980s

Box 3

Folder 2

Kenwood Gardens study, drafts, notes and correspondence, ca. 1940s-1980s

Box 3

Folder 3

Kenwood Gardens study, drafts and notes, ca. 1970s-1980s

Box 3

Folder 4

Kenwood Gardens study, outlines, drafts and survey data, ca. 1940

Box 4

Folder 1

Juvenile delinquency in Hyde Park, drafts, survey data, correspondence and publications, 1931-1940

Box 4

Folder 2

An evaluation of the Functioning of an Agency Designed to Influence Community Attitudes, M.A. thesis, ca. 1958

Box 4

Folder 3

Negro Delinquency and Amateur Dramatics, Bachelor of Divinity dissertation, 1935

Box 4

Folder 4

Amerika Haus: From Rejection to Acceptance. A Study of the Process by which a U.S. Information Center Overcame Initial Community Resistance and Established Itself as an Institution of the Community, Master's report, 1958

Box 4

Folder 5

Parole Supervision News, vol. 1, # 1-6, 1941-42

Box 4

Folder 6

Hill City, South Dakota, notes, publications and ephemera, ca. 1971

Box 5

Folder 1-2

Diary notes, 1921-1955

Box 5

Folder 3-4

"I Was a Minister," manuscript, n.d.

Box 5

Folder 5

German society and culture, manuscript, n.d.

Box 5

Folder 6

Korea, drafts, notes and research material, ca. 1960s-1970s

Box 6

Folder 1

"Across Siberia by Train," drafts, n.d.

Box 6

Folder 2

Manuscripts, correspondence and notes, 1937-1941

Box 6

Folder 3

Correspondence and drafts, 1935-1937

Box 6

Folder 4

Drafts, clippings and travel material, ca. 1970s-1980s

Box 6

Folder 5-6

Drafts and notes, ca. 1960s-1970s