Guide to the Charles David O’Connell papers 1946-1951

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier    ICU.SPCL.OCONNELLCD
Title         O’Connell, Charles David. Papers
Date          1946-1951
Size          7.25 linear feet (15 boxes)
Repository    Special Collections Research Center
              University of Chicago Library
              1100 East 57th Street
              Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract       Charles David O’Connell (1923-2002) served in the University of Chicago administration after receiving of his M.A. in English (1947). He was named Assistant Director of Admissions in 1952, then served as Dean of Students from 1967 until his retirement in 1986. He was also named Vice President of the University in 1973. O’Connell developed a national reputation as a major influence on the development of policies on college recruitment, admissions and financial aid. This collection contains materials related to O’Connell’s tenure at the University as a graduate student in the English department. These include class notes, exams, lecture notes, and academic publications. The majority of the collection, however, is composed of correspondence written during this period.

Information on Use

Access        The collection is open for research.

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

Biographical Note

Charles David O’Connell (1923-2002) came to the University of Chicago in 1947 to pursue a Masters degree in English literature. After several years in the PhD program, O’Connell accepted a counseling position with the University of Chicago’s Admissions Office. He became Director of Admissions in 1958 and remained in this post until named Dean of Students in 1967. O’Connell retired in 1986.
O'Connell held several academic positions over the course of his life, at the University of Chicago and, as a graduate student, at Roosevelt and Creighton Colleges. Upon his retirement as Dean of Students, he maintained his post as Associate Professor in the English department.

During his tenure in the University administration, O'Connell developed a national reputation as a major influence on the development of policies on college recruitment, admissions and financial aid. He belonged to the National Association of College Admissions Counselors and from 1983-86 served as chairman of the trustee committee on finance for the Educational Testing Service. O'Connell was also involved with several philanthropic organizations, including the Chicago Tribune Foundation, the Pullman Foundation, and the Parish Board of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Hyde Park.

From 1943 to 1946, O'Connell served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. And in 1950 was recalled to duty in order to serve during the Korean War.

Scope Note
This collection consists of two series: Academic Materials and Correspondence. The first includes documents produced during O'Connell's time as a graduate student at the University of Chicago: notes on English and American literature, exams, academic texts. The correspondence series consists primarily of letters exchanged with his family. Of particular interest in the collection is the correspondence regarding O'Connell's position in the United States Army and his status as a war veteran (folder 1 of box 7 and folder 2 of box 13).

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

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

Subject Headings
• O'Connell, Charles David

INVENTORY
Series I: Academic Materials
This series primarily contains materials related to O'Connell's life at the University of Chicago, including: notes on various authors and subjects in English and American literature, lecture notes, academic publications, and exams. Also included in these series are a group of photographs taken in Hyde Park during O'Connell’s time as a student at the University of Chicago. Lastly, the series contains a few miscellaneous items: student identification cards, bookplates, diplomas, and a small collection of newspaper clippings.
Folder 1
Notes and outlines for Shakespeare, Daniel, Bacon, Johnson, Webster, Milton, Wycherley, n.d.
Box 1
Folder 2
Notes and outlines for Addison & Steele, Pope, Yorrick, Lamb, Morris, Conrad, Tyler, Irving, James, Thoreau, n.d.
Box 1
Folder 3
Box 1
Folder 4
Notes and outlines for Frost, Franklin, Lewis, Joyce, Kyd, Goldsmith, Sheridan, Poe, Emerson, Forster, n.d.
Box 1
Folder 5
Notes and outlines for Arnold, Burns, Tennyson, Sidney, O’Neill, Paine, More, Gay, Thompson, Thackeray, n.d.
Box 1
Folder 6
Box 1
Folder 7-8
Notes and outlines for Victorian English literature, n.d.
Box 1
Folder 9
Spiral notebook titled "American literature," n.d.
Box 2
Folder 1
Spiral notebook titled "Dudley Nichol Smith Lectures," 1947
Box 2
Folder 2
Spiral notebook titled "Chaucer's Canterbury Tales," exam notebooks, 1947
Box 2
Folder 3
Spiral notebook titled "Addison and Steele," 1946-47
Box 2
Folder 4
Spiral notebook titled "English Grammar - Historical and Analytical," exam notebooks, 1947
Box 2
Folder 5
Spiral notebook titled "Shakespeare," n.d.
Folder 6
   Typewritten text titled "Elizabeth Bowen - Notes on Writing a Novel," n.d.

Box 2
Folder 7
   Typescript of lecture, titled "Dickens as a Critic of Society," given to the Illinois Club for Catholic Women, 1948

Box 2
Folder 8
   Typescript and notes for lecture on Catholic literature delivered to the Illinois Club for Catholic Women, 1948

Box 2
Folder 9
   Copy of James Root Hulber's dissertation, Chaucer's Official Life, 1912

Box 3
Folder 1
   Copy of Aristotle's Poetics, 1948

Box 3
Folder 2
   The Great Investigation: An account of the investigation of the University of Chicago by the State Seditious Activity Investigation Commission in the Spring of 1949, and including the complete testimony of Chancellor Hutchins and Dean Thompson of Rockefeller Chapel (The All-Campus Committee Opposing the Broyles Bill and the Broyles Investigation), 1949

Box 3
Folder 3

Box 3
Folder 4
   Copy of Albert Jay Nock's "The Disadvantages of Being Educated," n.d.

Box 3
Folder 5
   University of Chicago and University of Toronto diplomas, 1944, 1947

Box 3
Folder 6
   Two English exams, written by O'Connell, 1951

Box 3
Folder 7-8
   Notes for comprehensive examinations for the Master's Degree, 1947

Box 3
Folder 9
   University of Chicago student identification cards, 1947-1948

Box 3
Folder 10-11
   Copies of Time magazine and the University of Chicago's Maroon that have feature stories on Robert Hutchins, then the University of Chicago's Chancellor, 1949-50
Folder 12
   Newspaper clippings from The Times Literary Supplement and an unknown source, 1949
Box 3
Folder 13
   Box of bookplates, n.d.
Box 4
Folder 1
   Box of name cards, n.d.
Box 4
Folder 2
   Snapshots of individuals and groups in Hyde Park and Chicago (labeled on back), 1946-50
Box 5
Folder 1-3
   Snapshots of individuals and groups in Hyde Park and Chicago (labeled on back), 1946-50

Series II: Correspondence

The bulk of the correspondence in this collection was written by O'Connell's family. The rest of the series contains letters written received from friends and professional contacts. Of particular note is the correspondence regarding O'Connell's difficulties as a war veteran, to be found in the "Veterans Administration and the United States Army" and "Fieghan, Michael A." folders.

Box 5
Folder 4
   A, 1946-51
Box 5
Folder 5
   B, 1946-51
Box 5
Folder 6-7
   Baskerville, Catherine Q. and C.R. Baskerville, 1946-51
Box 6
Folder 1
   C, 1946-51
Box 6
Folder 2
   Christen, Mrs. Pat (sister), 1946-51
Box 6
Folder 3-4
   Connolly, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E., 1946-51
Box 6
Folder 5
  D-F, 1946-51
Box 6
Folder 6-7
  Dent, Bob, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 1
  Feighan, Michael A., House of Representatives (correspondence regarding O'Connell's status as a war veteran), 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 2
  G, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 3
  H-I, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 4
  Harth, Betty, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 5
  J-K, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 6
  L, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 7
  M, 1946-51
Box 7
Folder 8
  N-P, 1946-51
Box 8
Folder 1-2
  Nardin, Jim, 1946-51
Box 8
Folder 3-6
  O'Connell, Aunt Margaret and Uncle Patrick (some correspondence with Charles' O'Connell's father mixed in), 1946-51
Box 9
Folder 1-6
  O'Connell, Aunt Margaret and Uncle Patrick (some correspondence with Charles' O'Connell's father mixed in), 1946-51
Box 10
Folder 1-6
  O'Connell (maiden name), Marg (sister), 1946-51
Box 11
Folder 1-3
O’Connell (maiden name), Marg (sister), 1946-51
Box 11
Folder 4-6
O’Connell, Mr. and Mrs. (mother and father), 1946-51
Box 12
Folder 1
O’Connell, Neal (brother), 1946-51
Box 12
Folder 2-3
Posig, Mike J., 1946-51
Box 12
Folder 4
Q-R, 1946-51
Box 12
Folder 5-6
S, 1946-51
Box 12
Folder 7
Simons, Ag (sister), 1946-51
Box 13
Folder 1
T-Z, 1946-51
Box 13
Folder 2
Veterans Administration and the United States Army, 1946-51
Box 13
Folder 3-6
Wuka, Flo, 1946-51
Box 13
Folder 7
Unidentified family (Niece Sheila, Aunt Kitty, Moira), 1948-49
Box 14
Folder 1-2
Unidentified, 1946-51
Box 14
Folder 3-4
Ed (friend - last name unknown), 1946-51
Box 14
Folder 5-6
Correspondence miscellany including receipts, official correspondence regarding book orders and memberships, and official notifications from the University of Chicago, 1946-51
Box 15
Folder 1-2
Correspondence miscellany including receipts, official correspondence regarding book orders and memberships, and official notifications from the University of Chicago, 1946-51