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Descriptive Summary

Identifier: ICU.SPCL.ROSENTHAL

Title: Rosenthal, Robert. Papers

Date: 1962-1989 (inclusive)

Size: .75 linear feet (2 boxes)

Repository: 1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Abstract: The papers of Robert Rosenthal, Curator of Special Collections in the University of Chicago Library, include .75 linear feet of published and unpublished lectures, and other writings gathered from Rosenthal's files and other sources. Subjects range widely and touch upon many aspects of his career in Special Collections, as well as other interests in libraries and book collecting. The papers are typescript drafts unless indicated otherwise.

Information on Use

Access
No restrictions.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection the preferred citation is:

Rosenthal, Robert. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Robert Rosenthal was born February 9, 1926, in Patchogue, New York. He received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 1949 and an A.M. from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago in March 1955. He joined the staff of the University of Chicago Library in 1949, and in 1950 was appointed Curator for Manuscripts, Archives, and Lincolniana. Three years later, he was named the first Curator of the newly created Special Collections Research Center, and held that position for 36 years.

Rosenthal was responsible for the early growth of the Department in its first home in the West Tower of Harper Library and continued to direct its development after the move to Regenstein Library in 1970. Beginning in 1958, he offered classes and seminars in the Graduate Library School on the curatorial aspects of retrospective historical collections, with special emphasis on rare printed books, manuscripts, and archives. His research and writing focused on the
antiquarian book market, the definition of rarity, the social movement of books and book collections, and the history of book collecting and library development in the city of Chicago.

Among his many professional activities, he was a trustee of the Modern Poetry Association of Chicago and a visiting fellow to the Humanities Research Centre of the Australian National University. He served on the Committee on Libraries and the Publications Advisory Committee of the Art Institute of Chicago, and on the Advisory Committee of the Mulholland Library of Los Angeles. He was also a member of the Grolier Club, the Caxton Club, and a member and president of the Quadrangle Club. Robert Rosenthal died on December 27, 1989, while visiting friends and book dealers in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Scope Note

The papers of Robert Rosenthal, Curator of Special Collections in the University of Chicago Library, include .75 linear feet of published and unpublished lectures, and other writings gathered from Rosenthal's files and other sources. Subjects range widely and touch upon many aspects of his career in Special Collections, as well as other interests in libraries and book collecting. The papers are typescript drafts unless indicated otherwise.

Subject Headings

- Rosenthal, Robert
- University of Chicago Library
- University of Chicago Library. Special Collections Research Center
- Book collecting
- Rare book libraries
- Academic libraries
- Librarians

INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder 1
  Curriculum vitae, 1986
Box 1
Folder 2
  Introduction to the "Guide to the Julius Rosenwald Papers," ca.1962
Box 1
Folder 3
  Lecture on rare books, May 1964
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  Lecture on the formulation of manuscript guides, Modern Language Association convention, December 27, 1965
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  "The Chicago Area Historical Records Committee," November 29, 1967
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Stochastics lecture, May 1968
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Folder 7
"An Exhibition for the Dedication of the Joseph Regenstein Library, "December 1970
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Lecture on Special Collections, Special Libraries Association, March 23, 1971
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"The Minotaur among Manuscripts, " Society of American Archivists, October 14, 1971
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"History of Science Collections in Chicago, "June 1972
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"Restrictions and the Donor, "October 31, 1972
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"Remarks on Paraprofessionalism, " Midwest Archives Conference, March 23, 1974
Box 1
Folder 14
"The User and the Used, " Drexel Library Quarterly 11 (January 1975):97-105, typescript and photocopy of printed text
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"The Scholar's Right to Know vs. the Individual's Right to Privacy, Some Considerations from the View of the Private Depository, " Rockefeller Archives Center, December 5, 1975
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"How the Durrett Collection Left Louisville and Came to Chicago, " Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky, November 1, 1976
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"Book Buying and the Antiquarian Book Trade, " rough draft of "The Antiquarian Book Market, " 1977
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Being a History and Exhibition of the Books and Manuscripts Purchased in Berlin in 1891 for the University of Chicago by William Rainey Harper with the Support of Nine Citizens of Chicago (Chicago, University of Chicago Library, 1979), pp. 3-23

Box 1
Folder 20
"Medicine and Books at the University of Chicago, Some Notable Collections, " Society of Medical History of Chicago, February 27, 1980

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"As It Came to Be, The Harriet Monroe Modern Poetry Collection, " May 7, 1980

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"Making Our Posterity, " University of Texas Law School, January 7, 1981

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"Berlin and Bacon, " Chicago Literary Club, March 8, 1982

Box 1
Folder 24
"Books and the City, The Printed Past Comes to Chicago (to 1911), " proposed book outline, June 21, 1982

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Folder 26
"The History of Chemistry Collections of the John Crerar Library of the University of Chicago, " American Chemical Society Conference, St. Louis, April 10, 1984

Box 1
Folder 27
"Los Angeles & Chicago, Two Cities, Two Bibliophiles, " in A Bibliophile's Los Angeles, Essays for the International Association of Bibliophiles on the Occasion of Its XIVth Congress (Los Angeles, 1985), pp. 3-27, photocopy

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"Los Angeles & Chicago, Two Cities, Two Bibliophiles, ", research proposal, September 1984; typescript, March 24, 1985

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"Los Angeles & Chicago, Two Cities, Two Bibliophiles, ", typescript, n.d.

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"My Book Collection, "August 13, 1985

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Folder 32
"The Origins of the Chicago Book World, " summary of presentation at International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions meeting, Chicago, August 20, 1985

Box 1
Folder 33
"The Crerar Case, " ca.1985

Box 1
Folder 34
"Crerar Caper Lecture" Department of Library and Information Studies and the Graduate School, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, November 6, 1985, including list of slides, and "Chronology of the Relationship Between Joseph Putna and John Howell Books," compiled July 8, 1983

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"Crerar Caper Lecture", list of slides for New York lecture, December 1985

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Folder 36
"Crerar Caper Lecture", list of slides for San Francisco lecture, June 1986

Box 1
Folder 37
"Treasures of a Kind, The Shaping of the University Library, "June 1986

Box 2
Folder 1
"The Problems of Making Books Unrare, " Internationales Seminar in HerzogAugust Bibliothek, Wolfenbettel, Germany, September 30-October 3, 1986

Box 2
Folder 2
Lecture on Special Collections exhibition entitled "Treasures of a Kind, "November 14, 1986

Box 2
Folder 3
"Two Sides of the Same Street," with Anthony Rota, Minneapolis, October 21, 1988

Box 2
Folder 4
"Book Auctions,"March 1, 1989

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Folder 5
Out-of-Print and Antiquarian Book Market Seminar, University of Denver, August 6-11, 1989, program

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Folder 6
Introductions, prefaces, and forewords to Special Collections exhibit catalogs, 1972-1989
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   List of proposed papers, n.d.

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   "Rarity In the Community of Books," n.d.

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   Rarity Study; Proposal, n.d.

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   Lecture, given in Old Divinity Reading Room, Swift Hall, University of Chicago, n.d.

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Folder 12
   Untitled fragment on book collecting, n.d.