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LEWIS ELLSWORTH AKELEY PAPERS

PAPERS, ca. 1900-1963

(bulk dates, 1916-1959)

Quantity 1.5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated to the Archives and Special Collections in March 1983 by Melville H. Miller, Lewis Akeley's son-in-law, with the assistance of Herbert Schell.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

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ACCESSION #: RC83-0001

History

Lewis Ellsworth Akeley was one of the original faculty of the University of South Dakota. From 1887 until 1908 he served as a professor of chemistry and physics, but also taught courses in Latin, physical geography and physiology. Akeley assisted Alexander Pell in establishing an engineering department in 1903 which would become the College of Engineering in 1907. Akeley became the college's second dean in 1908 and served until its end in 1933. Thereafter, at the age of 72, Akeley "retired" and taught part-time as a lecturer in philosophy until his mid-nineties. Akeley remained active with the university until his passing in 1961 at the age of 100.

Akeley was a professor of natural science who also believed that classicism was an integral part of education. With regard to the establishment of the College of Engineering, Akeley wrote, "I experienced a new birth that completed my academic journey through classicism to science and then to technology." Much of the material in this collection contains his writings on philosophical topics.

Scope and Content Note

The Lewis Ellsworth Akeley Papers contain materials from his tenure at the University of South Dakota. The papers are divided into five series: **Correspondence**, **Printed Materials**, **Typescripts**, **Manuscripts**, and **Miscellaneous**. Most material is undated.

The **Correspondence** series is divided into three sub-series: Incoming, Outgoing, and Other. The material in the incoming and outgoing series contains correspondence primarily between Lewis Akeley and his colleagues and associates. Much of the content in Other concerns the publication of Akeley's memoir *This Is What We Had in Mind*.

The **Printed Material** contains newspaper articles covering Akeley's birthday celebrations, Akeley's views on atomic energy, the publication of his book *This Is What We Had in Mind*, and his passing in 1961.

The **Typescripts** include a wide range of writings from Lewis Akeley. Some of these writing may have also been published. Some of the writings include "Public Opinion in Democracy," "Liberty and Freedom," and "Science and Thought." There are also several drafts of his memoir *This Is What We Had in Mind*.

The **Manuscripts series** are divided into two sub-series: Lecture Series and Miscellaneous. The Lecture Series contains philosophy lectures from Akeley. The content of the lectures includes introductory philosophy material, as well as an introduction to the philosophy of Immanuel Kant. The miscellaneous **Manuscripts** include additional philosophy compositions from Akeley whose topics range from "The Progress of Science in the Nineteenth Century" to "The Social Mission of the Church." Judging from the content of the material, the papers date from the beginning of the 20th Century to post-World War I. Whether or not these writings were meant for publication, the classroom, or for another purpose is unclear.

The **Miscellaneous** material contains requisition forms, a list of those receiving complimentary copies of Lewis Akeley's memoirs, and a list of Akeley's published articles.

Related Subjects

Akeley, Lewis E., 1861-1961
 Education, Higher—South Dakota
 Lawrence, Ernest O.
 Philosophy
 Science—Studying and Teaching
 University of South Dakota—History

Additional Resources

Akeley, Lewis Ellsworth. *This Is What We Had in Mind: Early Memories of the University of South Dakota*. Vermillion, South Dakota: University of South Dakota, 1959.

Cummins, Cedric. *The University of South Dakota, 1862-1966*. Vermillion, South Dakota: Dakota Press, 1975.

Cummins, Cedric; Hilderbrand, Robert; and Ward, Stephen. *The College of Arts and Sciences, 1882-1982*. Vermillion, South Dakota: College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Dakota, 1982.

Norgren, Carl A. *As I Was Saying*. Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Publishing Co., 1965

Box 1

CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming

Cummins, Cedric

29 January 1959

Harrington, Elbert W.

06 December 1955

22 June 1956

26 September 1959

Klyce, Scudder (Correspondence Coursework?)

24 February 1929

July 1929

n.d.

Meyers (?), Joseph

08 June 1917

30 July 1917

Outgoing

Breckenridge, Garrett

16 January 1925

17 January 1925

Glander, Mavis

09 August 1945 (incl. writing from Myra Akeley)

23 November 1945

01 January 1946

21 December 1948 (incl. writing from Myra Akeley)

Harrington, Elbert W.

20 October 1953

30 September 1954

20 January 1955

21 July 1961

n.d.

Other

From Harrington, Elbert W. to Editor of University of Minnesota
University Press

27 October 1953

From Harrington, Elbert W. to Clapsattle [sic], Helen

09 November 1953

From Clapesattle, Helen to Harrington, Elbert W.

02 November 1953

09 February 1954

From Munro, Evelyn to Harrington, Elbert W.

12 November 1953

From Harrington, Elbert W. to Handy, Rollo; Cummings,
Sherwood; Muggenburg, Joanne

10 February 1959

From Harrington, Elbert W. to Cummins, Cedric; Trotzig, E.G.;
Falk, R.D.

04 May 1959

From Billups, Ruth to Trotzig, E.G.

12 June 1959

From Harrington, Elbert W. to Register of Copyrights

24 June 1959

Box No. Description

29 May 1961
 From Harrington, Elbert W. to Schmitt, Henry J.
 16 July 1959
 From Murphy, Richard to Harrington, Elbert W.
 18 July 1959
 From Braden, Samuel E. to Harrington, Elbert
 21 July 1959
 From Noteboom, Charlotte to Harrington, Elbert W.
 26 July 1959
 From Baird, Craig to Harrington, Elbert W.
 5 August 1959

PRINTED MATERIAL

Miscellaneous Publication

National Association of University Dames, 1937-1938 [bulletin dedicated to Myra Akeley (Mrs. L. E. Akeley)]

Newspaper articles (18 October 1945-3 July 1962)

“Urges [sic] Atomic Knowledge Be Kept in U.S.A.,” (18 October 1945)
 “Teacher of Atomic Bomb Expert Gives Views on Future of World,” (18 October 1945)
 “Dean L. E. Akeley to Observe 91st Birthday February 22,” (21 February 1952)
 “Dean Akeley, Nearing 92nd Birthday, Has Served At University 65 Years,” (27 January 1953)
 “Dean Akeley to Observe 92nd Birthday,” (17 February 1953)
 “Eisenhower Writes Akeley,” (1 July 1958)
 “Lewis Akeley, 100, Passes Away at Home September 5,” (1 October 1961)
 “SUSD Professor Compares Philosophy of Three Authors,” (3 July 1962)

TYPESCRIPTS

Bergson, (Henri-Louis) and Education
 Bergson, (Henri-Louis) and Science
 Bergson, (Henri-Louis) and Science (draft used for publication)
 Liberalizing Objectives in Engineering Education
 Liberty and Freedom
 Public Opinion in Democracy
 The Republic of Plato
 Revolution in Education versus the Leaven of Common Sense
 Science and Thought
 Science and Thought (draft accepted for publication), 27 April 1917
 Science and Thought, 3rd Edition
 Typescript of Lewis Akeley’s *This Is What We Had in Mind*, 1of 4
 Typescript of Lewis Akeley’s *This Is What We Had in Mind*, 2of 4
 Typescript of Lewis Akeley’s *This Is What We Had in Mind*, 3of 4

Box 2

TYPESCRIPTS (cont.)

Typescript of Lewis Akeley’s *This Is What We Had in Mind*, 4of 4
 Utopia’s Challenge to University Men
 Untitled-Concerning Albert Einstein, Law of Conservation of Energy, and the Hydrogen Bomb

MANUSCRIPTS

Lecture Series

Optimism versus Pessimism

I. Introduction to Philosophy and Its Problems, (29 July 1931)

II. The Great Illusion

III. The Great Delusion in Some of Its Prevailing Times – Education
– Discovery of Intelligence and Norms (?) – ??

IV. Vicious Abstractionism

V. Entities Preferred and Common

VI. Relevancy of the World of Abstractions to the Actual

VII. Integrated Wholes

VIII. Emerged Wholes

IX. Economic versus Cultural Wholes

X. The Psychological Whole

XI. The Ethical Whole

Lecture Series

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 1

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 2

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 3

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 4

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 5

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 6

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 7

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 8

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 9

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 10

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 11

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 12

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 13

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Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 17

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 18

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Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 21

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Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 24

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 25

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 26

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 27

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 28

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 29

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 30

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 31

Box 3

MANUSCRIPTS (cont.)

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 32

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 32

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 33

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 34

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 35

Box No. Description

Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 36
 Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 37-39
 Introduction to (Immanuel) Kant, 40

Lecture Series

Introduction to Philosophy, 23-24
 Introduction to Philosophy, 25-26
 Introduction to Philosophy, 27-28

Miscellaneous

American Opportunity in the Past – Hudson (?) Ankunde (?)
 Address
 German Philosophy and Politics
 History of Modern Philosophy, 37
 Progress of Science in the Nineteenth Century
 The Social Mission of the Church, Baptist Association, 10 May
 1916
 Untitled
 Untitled

MISCELLANEOUS

Local requisition blanks (20 August 1958 – 10 July 1959)
 List of those receiving complimentary copies of Akeley's memoirs
 List of published papers by Lewis Akeley