
Guide to the J. Kent Clark Papers, 1954-2003

Collection number: Consult repository

Archives

California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: J. Kent Clark Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1954-2003

Collection number: Consult repository

Creator: Clark, J. Kent, 1917-

Extent: 2 linear feet

Repository: California Institute of Technology. Archives.

Pasadena, California 91125

Abstract: J. Kent Clark, 1917-pres. Professor of English, CIT 1947-86. The papers include manuscripts of dramatic and musical works (with audio cassettes), biographical sketches, essays, a manuscript of Clark's biography of Thomas, Earl of Wharton, and some correspondence (esp. with Walter Garner).

Language: English

Access

The collection is open for research. Researchers must apply in writing for access.

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Preferred Citation

Papers of J. Kent Clark. Archives, California Institute of Technology.

Acquisition Information

The papers of J. Kent Clark have been donated to the Caltech Archives over a large period of time. Much of the collection was donated in 1990.

Biography

J. Kent Clark came to Caltech in 1947 as an instructor in English. He was born in 1917 in Utah, and educated at Brigham Young University and at Stanford. At Caltech he was one of a group of outstanding teachers of the humanities who began their tenure following World War II, at the end of the Millikan era. His renown on campus grew with the creation of a series of musicals on campus life and characters between 1954 and 1988, in collaboration with Elliott Davis. The musicals were performed by the Caltech Stock Company. A number of songs from these shows have achieved notoriety of their own. Clark also wrote musicals and plays for organizations other than Caltech. He is the author of a novel, *The King's Agent*, and biographies of Goodwin and Thomas Wharton (the Tom Wharton biography is still in progress). Clark's life and career are described in the oral history done for the Caltech Archives in 1990. He became Emeritus in 1986.

Scope and Content

J. Kent Clark's papers were given to the Archives over a period of time. The first items to be received were the musicals, which in most cases were represented by text, musical scores, and frequently by audio cassettes as well. Of the remaining papers, the bulk was given in 1990. In preparing the materials for use, it was decided to bring all of them together in one place, in the collection now called the Papers of J. Kent Clark. The exception is the audio cassettes, which reside mostly--there are some exceptions--in the Archives' audio collection. Cross references to these audio cassettes are given in the Guide to the Papers. However, researchers should consult the separate guide to the audio cassette collection for some items which are not referenced in the papers. Three phonorecords of Clark's songs and musicals are also separately catalogued.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection.

California Institute of Technology

Caltech. Division of Humanities

Musicals

Songs

J. Kent Clark Papers

Section I: Dramatic and Musical Works

Musicals

- Box 1, Folder 1 **The Road to Stockholm (The Appalling Life of Dr. Pauling) 1954** See also: audio cassette collection; phonorecord collection
- Folder 2 **[This is Science] (Show for the AAAS Meeting, Pasadena City College) 1955**
- Folder 3 **Who is this Guy DuBridge? 1956** See also: audio cassette collection; phonorecord collection
- Folder 4 **Take Your Medicine 1957-58; rev. 1985** [includes audio cassette]
- Folder 5 **The Importance of Being Earnest 1959** See also: audio cassette collection
- Folder 6 **Committees 1960** [2 copies]
- Folder 7 **What Makes Beadle Run? 1961**
- Folder 8 **The Organization Women 1962**
- Folder 9 **Lee and Sympathy 1966** [includes audio cassette] See also: audio cassette collection
- Folder 10 **A Broader View (Show for Caltech Y) 1966**
- Folder 11 **The Bacher File 1970** See also: audio cassette collection
- Folder 12 **Beautiful Beckman 1975** [2 copies] See also: audio cassette collection
- Folder 13 **A Broader View (rev.) and Troll's Progress (Playreaders' Party) 1987**
- Folder 14 **Middlekauf Cantata 1987**
- Folder 15 **Caltech Revisited: or Déjà, Déjà Vu 1988**
- Folder 16 **Selections from Kent Clark Shows** [audio cassette]

Song Collections

- Box 2, Folder 1 **"Let's Advance on Science" and other songs** [includes audio cassette] See also: phonorecord collection
- Folder 2 Retirement songs: R. Sharp, H. Wayland, H. Brown
- Folder 3 **"Ballad of Chappaquiddick" and "The Richter Scale"** [phonodisc]
- Folder 4 **Show, Huntington Library celebration**
Paradise Re-Lost 1983 [for James Thorpe]
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Section II: Literary Works

Profiles [Biographical sketches]

- Box 2, Folder 5 **[Note on Profiles]**
- Folder 6 **Coltrin, Bill 1982**
- Folder 7 **Eagleson, Harvey 1967**
- Folder 8 **Eaton, Paul 1976**
- Folder 9 **Hershey, Wes, memorial service 1989**
- Folder 10 **Kent, Henry C. [JKC's grandfather; in letter to Clarence Kent] 1987**
- Folder 11 **Kent, Percy D. and Sara [JKC's uncle and aunt] 1978**
- Folder 12 **Langston, Beach 1979**
- Folder 13 **Oliver, Bob, retirement 1988; Oliver, Darlene, memorial speech 1987**
- Folder 14 **Searle, Don 1982-83**

Essays and Other Writings

- Folder 15 **[Note on Essays]**
- Folder 16 **[Jonathan] Swift and the Dutch 1954**
- Folder 17 **Eliot's Poetic Theory and Practice 1956**
- Folder 18 **Readings in Rationalism 1959**
- Folder 19 **The Art Program at Caltech 1971**
- Folder 20 **Diatribes [re Jenijoy LaBelle; in letter to Peter Fay] 1976**
- Folder 21 **The Creative Arts and Twentieth Century Education 1979**
- Folder 22 **Article on secretaries 1986**
- Folder 23 **Letter to students [re abolishing Invocation at Commencement] 1985**
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Section II: Literary Works

Humanities Division Working Papers:	
Folder 24	The Inglorious Revolution 1979 Lilliburlero (Chap. 16 of Goodwin Wharton biography) 1979 The Colonel and the Queen (Chap. 19 of Goodwin Wharton biography) 1980
Folder 25	The Search for the First Earl of Wharton [2 copies] 1988 Young Tom Wharton 1989 Marriage á la Mode 1990 The Third Whig 1991 The Plot of "The Plot" [Ch. 9 of Wharton biography, n.d.]
Folder 26	Defense of Robert Oliver's <i>George Woods and the World Bank</i> 1993

Section III: Personal

Box 2, Folder 27	Vita
Folder 28	Reunion Program, Brigham Young University 1989 See also: Oral History Collection See also: Audio Tape Collection

Supplement 1994

Box 3, Folder 1	Exclusion [Ch. 10-12 of the Wharton biography]
Folder 2	The Search for Goodwin Wharton 1976
Folder 3	The Publication of <i>Goodwin Wharton...</i> and the Search for Thomas, Earl of Wharton 1984

Supplement 1995

Box 3, Folder 4	Anne Wharton [Ch. 13 of the Wharton biography]
Folder 5	Outrages [Ch. 14 of the Wharton biography]
Folder 6	Seizures [Ch. 15 of the Wharton biography]

Supplement 1996

Box 3, Folder 7	Transcript of speech by J. C. Clark for 100th Founder's Day celebration of Gnome Club 9 March 1996
Folder 8	Letter to Denise Smith 17 Jan 1996 Correspondence with Walter Garner
Folder 9	1976-1978
Folder 10	1979-1981
Folder 11	1982-1984
Folder 12	1985-1986
Folder 13	1987-1988
Folder 14	1989-1990
Folder 15	1991-1992
Folder 16	1993-1996
Box 4, Folder 1	Letter about Elliott Davis 20 Nov 1996 (to Walter and Irene Garner)

Supplement 1997

Box 4, Folder 2	Horses and Bridles [Ch. 19 of Tom Wharton Biography] November 1997
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Supplement 1998

Box 4, Folder 3 **Speech to the Class of 1958 [15 May 1998]**

Supplement 1999

Box 4, Folder 4 **Wharton, Thomas, Draft for Dictionary of National Biography**

Supplement 2001

Box 4, Folder 5 **Foreward to Diary of Martin Tangora
New Vita (1999): See 2.27**

Supplement 2002

Box 4, Folder 6 **Talk to Class of 1952 May 16, 2002**
Short essays
Box 4, Folder 6 **George Epstein's poetry**
Box 4, Folder 6 **Elegy on my brother: Ernest Eugene Clark**

Supplement 2003

Box 4, Folder 7 **Huntington Library (with Carol B. Pearson), March 12, 2003**

J. Kent Clark Audio Material

I. Audio Cassettes in Audio Cassette Archive

12-9-54 The Road to Stockholm [2 copies]
12-7-56 Who is This Guy DuBridge?
10-22-59 [The Importance of Being Earnest]
3-21-61 What Makes Beadle Run?
4-28-66 Caltech in E-flat
11-18-66 Lee and Sympathy
1966 A Broader View [Caltech Y Anniversary]
1-12-69 DuBridge Farewell Program
DuBridge Farewell Dinner (also exists on reel-to-reel tape)
11-19-70 The Bacher File
The Bacher Dinner
1-13-75 Beautiful Beckman [2 copies]
5-13-78 On the Trail of Goodwin Wharton (Talk on Alumni Seminar Day) [2 copies]
4-7-80 Arnold Beckman's 80th birthday party (performance by K. Clark and G. Lorden)
1-11-90 Caltech As Musical Comedy (for Caltech Women's Club)
4-10-92 Arnold Beckman's 92nd birthday party (reprise of material from 80th party by Clark and Lorden)

II. Audio Cassettes in the Papers of J. Kent Clark

1958 Songs from Take Your Medicine [1.4]
1966 Lee and Sympathy (excerpt) [1.9]
1975 Selections from Kent Clark Shows [1.16]
1975 Let's Advance on Science (song collection) [2.1]

III. Phonorecords in Phonorecord Collection

ca 1954 The Road to Stockholm [2 copies]
ca 1956 Who is This Guy DuBridge?
after 1975 Let's Advance on Science (song collection)

IV. Phonorecord in the Papers of J. Kent Clark

no date "Ballad of Chappaquiddick" and "The Richter Scale" [2.3]