
Guide to the Alan Chadwick Papers

Collection number: MS 202

The University Library
Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Alan Chadwick papers

Dates: 1935-1977

Collection number: MS 202

Creator: Chadwick, Alan

Collection Size: 1 document box

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: This collection includes manuscript and typescript pages of poems, plays and stories by Chadwick. Also included are publicity shots and copies of theater reviews from Chadwick's theater days in South Africa.

Physical location: Stored offsite at NRLF: Advance notice is required for access to the papers.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Alan Chadwick papers. MS 202. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Bernard Taper and Stephen Crimi in February 2004.

Biography / Administrative History

The English born Alan Chadwick came into the world on July 27, 1909. Born into the upper class of Edwardian society, Alan was exposed at a young age to a variety of aesthetic pursuits, gardening being chief among them. As a youth the mystic Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner heavily influenced him. Steiner's theories, though largely disregarded by the wider academic community, found a stronghold in the mind of young Alan. Later in his life Chadwick would combine what he learned from Steiner with French gardening techniques to develop his

own brand of biodynamic horticulture. Chadwick's passion for the arts led him to the Shakespearean theater where he performed professionally for thirty two years. However his life pursuit of beauty was violently interrupted by the Second World War, which he described as having "capsized my attitude to civilization." After the war he moved to South Africa where he continued to act and to garden. In 1967, Chadwick was persuaded by his friend Countess Freye von Moltke to take a position at the burgeoning UC Santa Cruz. During his time at the University, Chadwick labored to construct a showcase garden employing his biodynamic techniques. While working the soil, he taught the students his philosophy based on a clear understanding of the rhythms of nature in creating a thriving botanical environment, as well as about the role of the garden in human culture. Chadwick was an extremely magnetic individual who attracted a large following to his lectures and a large number of devoted volunteers, whom he worked hard in the garden. Though a charming person, Chadwick was also quick to anger and notoriously difficult to get along with at times. This aspect of his personality, along with disputes over the direction of his ambitious farm project, led to his leaving the University in 1973. In the final seven years of his life, Alan continued to work in his signature style helping to create several gardens around America. He died on May 25, 1980.

Alan Chadwick remains highly regarded by the agricultural community and is seen as the forerunner to the Center for Agro-ecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) that exists today at UC Santa Cruz. The original garden remains an island of peace within the bustling University and is now named in his honor.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection includes manuscript and typescript pages of poems, plays and stories by Chadwick. Also included are publicity shots and copies of theater reviews from Chadwick's theater days in South Africa.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Chadwick, Alan--Archives

Theater--South Africa

Organic gardening--California--Covelo

Round Valley Garden Project

Other Finding Aids

Round Valley Garden Project collection, 1977-1981, MS 203

Box:Folder 1:1 **Correspondence, 1955 1970**

Box:Folder 1:2 ***Poems and Fairy Tales of Alan Chadwick* - manuscript and typescript pages, poems, notes, 1935-1977**

Box:Folder 1:3 **Theater reviews - photocopies of scrapbook pages, ca. 1936-1954**

Box:Folder 1:4 **1 CD with 6 images of publicity shots - theater days in South Africa, ca. 1940s-1950s**

Box:Folder 1:5 **Photographs,**

Box:Folder 1:5 **Alan Chadwick - head shot, ca. 1948**

Box:Folder 1:5 **Alan Chadwick and two unidentified men at UCSC Garden, ca. 1970s**