

A Guide to the Elmer Lewis Smith Papers, 20th century SC 0166

Elmer Lewis Smith Papers
20th century



Title Statement

A Guide to the Elmer Lewis Smith Papers, 20th century SC 0166

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0166

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/228

Unit Date

20th century

Language

English

Abstract

The Elmer Lewis Smith Papers, 20th century, consist of six folders of notes and drafts, compiled and written by Elmer Lewis Smith, on folk superstitions, ghosts, conjuring, powwowing, folk healing, and holiday superstitions in the Shenandoah Valley.

Creator

Smith, Elmer Lewis, 1920-1981

source

Stewart, John, 1918-2010

Extent

0.2 cubic feet 6 folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk. (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Donated by John G. Stewart, former colleague of Elmer L. Smith, in October of 2001.

Processing Information

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in 2017-2018. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 4038.**

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Elmer L. Smith Papers, 20th century, SC 0166, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Bio/Historical Note

Elmer L. Smith was born in 1920 in Newark, New Jersey. He earned a B.S. from Florida Southern College in 1946, an M.A. from Western Reserve University in 1948, and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1956. From 1948-1958 he served as chairman of the Department of Sociology at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania and in 1958, he became James Madison University's Director of the Social Sciences Division. Smith was one of the founders of the Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society. He conducted research and interviews to document the folk culture of the Shenandoah Valley until his death in 1981. Smith also published a wide variety of books and papers, many of which are available at the Blue Ridge Institute in Ferrum, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The Elmer Lewis Smith Papers, 20th century, consist of six folders of notes and drafts, written and compiled by Elmer L. Smith, on folk superstitions, ghosts, conjuring, powwowing, folk healing, and holiday superstitions in the Shenandoah Valley.

Some of these subjects include proposed tables of contents and book or article layouts and drawings. The notes appear to be from a variety of secondary sources and interviews. Many of the notes and drafts have been edited by hand. According to John G. Stewart, Smith's former partner and the donor of this collection, these materials were never published.

Related Material

John G. Stewart Papers, 1761-2002 (bulk 1953-1973), SC 0157, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Keywords

Folklore -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History
Ghost stories, American -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History
Holidays -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History
Traditional medicine -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Witchcraft -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Manners and customs -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- Social life and customs
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History
Stewart, John, 1918-2010

Bibliography

Blue Ridge Institute Newsletter

Arrangement

The collection is arranged topically in six folders.

Description of Subordinate Components

Superstition

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/336

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000885905] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Ghosts

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/337

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000885905] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Conjuring

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/338

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000885905] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Powwowing

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/339

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000885905] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Occult Folk Healing

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/340

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000885905] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Special Days/Holidays

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/341

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000885905] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)