

Ackerson, John T., papers (George Jarrboe)

John T. Ackerson (George Jarrboe) papers
1822-1961

Title Statement

Ackerson, John T., papers (George Jarrboe) John T. Ackerson papers (George Jarrboe) MSS 16775

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16775

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1510

Unit Date

1822-1961

Language

English

Creator

Jarrboe, George

Creator

Ackerson, John Thaddeus, 1898-1975

Extent

1.726 Cubic Feet 3 legal document boxes. 1 drop front box

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Lorne Bair by the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 17 March, 2022.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16775, John (Jack) T. Ackerson (George Jarrboe) papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

John (Jack) Thaddeus Ackerson (1898-1975), was an author antiwar poems. He was a sailor in World War I and II from Hackensack, New Jersey. He entered the war in 1917 as a member of the United States Naval Reserve Force (Seaman Class 4). He was stationed on the USS Christabel, which served on patrol duty off the western coast of France. He was involved in two conflicts with German u-boats. During World War II he became a purser in the merchant marine.

After the war, he published antiwar poetry under the pseudonym George Jarrboe, and authored "The Unknown Soldier Speaks," and "Anchor with a Laurel Wreath." His poetry was published in *The New Masses* and *Unrest: The Rebel Poet's Anthology for 1929*. He was involved in radical literary circles.

From the cover of "The Unknown Soldier Speaks," Jarrboe is described as a "manual laborer, travelling salesman, office manager, investigator, and law clerk." Jarrboe dedicated the work collectively to William, Hushka, Eric Carlson, and William Gunn". Jarrboe wrote, "It took the murder of these three comrades to make me realize the inadequacy of this booklet. Bourgeois born and bred, I have been swinging left, and shall proceed further."

Content Description

This collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, reviews, photographs, a lock of hair, and a scrapbook relating to the life and career of John Thaddeus "Jack" Ackerson, (1898-1975), who published radical antiwar poetry under the name George Jarrboe after his naval service during World War I and II. Ackerson wrote the chapbook "The Unknown Soldier Speaks" and many other pieces of writing under this pseudonym.

The bulk of the collection consists of 500 letters. Most of the correspondence is between Ackerson, his girlfriend and then-wife Katharine Bowen, and his immediate family; 137 are letters written by Ackerson himself. Other correspondents include Frank di Gioia, Agnes Inglis, Robert O. Erisman, James Neill Northe, Masaki Ikeda, F.V. Lamsin, Fernand Jouan, Howard Fast, Mary Minter Miles, Edith Barnard Delano and Harriet T. Hassell among others. Also included are a scrapbook and several letters about Ackerson's poetry and the release and reception of his chapbook, "The Unknown Soldier Speaks", twenty-four manuscripts, seven typescripts, and approximately twenty-five family documents. A 1929 copy of "Unrest" and a 1945 copy of "Anchor with a laurel wreath" were removed and are cataloged separately.

Keywords

poetry

authors

Anti-war poetry

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Correspondence and Scrapbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241971

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241973

Unit Date 1905-1915

Manuscripts [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241974

Unit Date 1916

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241975

Unit Date 1917 January-June

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241976

Unit Date 1917 July

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241977

Unit Date 1917 August

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241978

Unit Date 1917 September

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241979

Unit Date 1917 October-November

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241980

Unit Date 1917 December

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241981

Unit Date 1918 January-March

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241982

Unit Date 1918 August

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241983

Unit Date 1918 October-November

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241984

Unit Date 1919-1923

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Family correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241985

Unit Date 1942-1961

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241986

Unit Date 1916-1917

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241987

Unit Date 1918 January-July

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241988

Unit Date 1918 August-December

Mixed Materials [X032669279] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241989

Unit Date 1919

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241990

Unit Date 1920

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241991

Unit Date 1921-January-August

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241992

Unit Date 1921 September-October

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241993

Unit Date 1921 November-December

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241994

Unit Date 1922 January

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241995

Unit Date 1922 February

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241996

Unit Date 1922 March-April

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241997

Unit Date 1922 May

Mixed Materials [X032669280] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241998

Unit Date 1922 June-July

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241999

Unit Date 1922 August-September

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242000

Unit Date 1922 October-December

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242001

Unit Date 1923

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242002

Unit Date 1924 January-February

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242003

Unit Date 1924 March- 1925 December

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

John (Jack) Ackerson and Katharine Bowen Ackerson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242004

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Miscellaneous family letters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242005

Unit Date 1822-1878

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Miscellaneous family deeds

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242006

Unit Date 1822-1927

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Friends correspondence about World War I

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242007

Unit Date 1912-1917

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Miscellaneous love letter from a French girl named Georgette

Friends correspondence about World War I

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242013

Unit Date 1918-1919

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

Friends correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242008

Unit Date 1930-1954

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

Navy and Military certificate and cards

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242009

Unit Date 1917-1919, 1943

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Included is a form letter from the United States Food and Drug Administration and a letter from "The Fatherless Children of France."

Lock of hair

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242014

Unit Date [1918] envelope

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scrapbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242027

Mixed Materials [X032669282] 4 (box)

Series 2. Anti-war poems and manuscripts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241972

Poems and writings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242010

Unit Date 1917-1922

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English

Letters about poems

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242011

Unit Date [1902-1936]

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes letters from poet Josephine Johnson and James Rorty. There is also a letter from novelist and short story author, Edith Barnard Delano (1874-1946) to Katharine Bowen Ackerson (wife of John T.

Ackerson-"George Jarrboe") and a letter from silent film star Mary Minter Miles

Letters from authors, poets, and celebrities

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242012

Unit Date 1914-1958

Mixed Materials [X032669281] 3 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes letters from poet Josephine Johnson (1910-1990) and writer and poet James Rorty (1890-1973). There is also a letter from novelist and short story author, Edith Barnard Delano (1874-1946) to Katharine Bowen Ackerson (wife of John T. Ackerson-"George Jarrboe"), a letter from silent film star Mary Minter Miles (1902-1984), a card from Cardinal James Gibbons (1834-1921), and a letter from author Howard Fast (1914-2003).