

**University of Victoria Special Collections**  
**Coleman, H. T. J. (Herbert Thomas John), 1872-1964**

**SC024**

**Title**

H. T. J. Coleman fonds

**Dates**

1927-1981

**Extent**

92 cm of textual records  
4 photographs

**Biographical Sketch**

Herbert Thomas John Coleman was born in West Durham, Ontario, and died in Victoria, B.C. He was Dean of Arts and Science, University of British Columbia, and Head of the UBC Department of Philosophy and Psychology from 1920 to 1928. He was named Professor Emeritus in 1945. He retired to Sidney, B.C., and wrote numerous books of poetry for children.

**Scope and Content**

The fonds consists of records of Herbert Thomas John Coleman, including worksheets of his poetry and prose (also including two poems and an essay by his brother, Rufus Arthur Coleman); Coleman family photographs and negatives, financial records and certificates; correspondence from Coleman to other family members; scrapbooks of Coleman's poems, clippings and brochures; academic journals containing essays by Coleman and copies of Coleman's illustrated books for children, containing holograph inscriptions and extensive annotations.

**Finding Aids**

Inventory available with series and file level controls.

**Title Source**

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

**COLEMAN, HERBERT THOMAS JOHN**

**INVENTORY**

*Prepared by:* Anne Maclean

University of Victoria Special Collections

May 1991

**INTRODUCTION**

The records of Herbert Coleman were acquired by U. Vic. Special Collections from Coleman's daughter, Alice Coleman, in 1981. They document many of Dr. Coleman's teaching and writing activities and also include Coleman family photographs and financial records. This *fonds* will be of particular interest to literary researchers as well as students of education and the philosophy of education. These records are considered to be a closed *fonds* and no further accruals are expected.

Researchers may also wish to consult the records of Coleman's brother, Rufus Coleman, who was also a teacher and published poet. An inventory of Rufus Coleman's records is available in Special Collections. The records of Gray's Publishing Ltd., which published Herbert Coleman's book *All About Babies*, are also housed in Special Collections.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Herbert Thomas John Coleman was born in Darlington Township, West Durham, Ontario, on 20 January 1872. He obtained his B.A. from the University of Toronto and later his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He taught high school in Spokane, Washington and was professor of education at both Colorado State University and the University of Toronto. He became a U.S. citizen in 1899 but returned to Canada to teach at the University of British Columbia, serving from 1920 to 1928 as UBC's second Dean of Arts and Science; during the same period he was also Head of the Dept. of Philosophy and Psychology at UBC. In 1923 Coleman became provisional Director of the post-graduate course in Teacher Training at UBC. He resigned as Dean in 1928 and thereafter devoted his time to teaching and writing poetry and essays. He also collaborated with Alan Thompson on the song, "The New Hat". By 1940 he had become UBC's "ungarlanded poet-laureate", and in 1945 he was named Professor Emeritus.

Coleman, his wife Grace and their daughter Alice spent many summers at Brentwood Bay near Victoria, and after leaving UBC Coleman retired to nearby Deep Cove. Coleman maintained contact

with his sister Elizabeth, who lived in Vancouver, and his brother Rufus, also a teacher and poet, who lived for some years in Missoula, Montana.

Among Coleman's many books of children's poetry are *All About Babies*, a book of poems about baby animals, which was published by Gray's Publishing in Sidney in 1963; *Cockle-Shell and Sandal-Shoon* (Ryerson Poetry Chap-Books, Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1927); *The Far Hills* (Ryerson, 1958); *Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll* (J.M. Dent & Sons, Toronto, 1936); *The Poet Confides* (Ryerson Chap-Books, Ryerson Press, 1928); and *A Rhyme for a Penny* (The Clarke & Stuart Company Limited, Vancouver, 1934). He died at age 92 on 9 June 1964 in Deep Cove.

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**I POETRY, ca. 1927-1964**  
**Accession 81-27, Boxes 1-4**  
**50 cm.**

**Arrangement: Worksheets and unpublished drafts; published poems.**

Consists of typed and holograph worksheets of poems written by Coleman. Includes some correspondence; clippings; Christmas cards; dedication poem of St. Paul's United Church Christian Education Centre in Sidney; poem written to the staff of Resthaven Hospital; drafts of Coleman's published books of poetry.

**IA POEMS AND ESSAY BY RUFUS COLEMAN, n.d.**  
**Accession 81-27, Box 4, Files 9-10**

Consists of two poems and an essay on Mark Twain by Rufus Coleman. Tss., 13 leaves total.

**II PROSE - BOOKS, ESSAYS, REVIEWS, 1930-1961**  
**Accession 81-27, Box 5; Box 6, Files 1-6.**  
**18 cm.**

**Arranged by type and alphabetically by title or subject within each type.**

Consists of holograph and typed drafts of "As the Months Pass", an unpublished collection of essays; book on education; uncollected essays relating to education and philosophy; drafts of essay, "On Leisure: A Dialogue in the Platonic Vein", published under a different title in *The Personalist*, 1933; class notes; unidentified convocation speech, probably given at UBC.

**III FAMILY RECORDS, 1930-1964**  
**Accession 81-27, Box 6, Files 7-11**  
**5 cm.**

**Arranged chronologically.**

Consists of negatives of family photographs, including photos of wife Grace and daughter Alice; biographical information

on Coleman; publishers' agreements for *Patricia Ann* and *A Rhyme for a Penny*, and copyright assignment for *A Rhyme for a Penny*; financial records, including mortgage statement and income tax notice; certificates, testimonials [letters of reference], notices of teaching appointments, letters from Dean Packenham, University of Toronto; certificate of U.S. naturalization, 1899; copy of the UBC Senate memorial for Coleman, 1964.

**Series Descriptions cont'd.**

- IV CORRESPONDENCE, 1928-1981**  
**Accession 81-27, Box 6, Files 12-15; Box 7.**  
**18 cm.**  
**Arranged by subject.**

Consists of letters from Coleman to family members, including his daughter Alice; correspondence from Coleman to friends and associates - includes brochures and clippings; letters between other Coleman family members, including Herbert's sister Elizabeth and wife Grace; correspondence to Alice Coleman from UBC regarding the Dr. H.T.J. Coleman Scholarship.

- V SCRAPBOOKS, 1942, n.d.**  
**Accession 81-27, Box 8.**  
**12 cm.**

Consists of scrapbooks containing Coleman's poems, clippings, brochures and Alice Coleman's course manuals for Job Instructor Training Plan, Dept. of Labour, Ottawa, 1942.

- VI PUBLISHED MATERIAL, 1927-1963**  
**Accession 81-27, Box 9.**  
**6 cm.**  
**Books arranged alphabetically by title.**

Consists of copy of *The Personalist: A Quarterly Journal of Philosophy, Religion and Literature*. School of Philosophy, University of Southern California, Vol. XIV, No. 4, October 1933, containing "'Socrates' on Leisure: A Dialogue in the Platonic Vein" by Coleman, p. 259-267, and the following books published by Coleman: *All About Babies*, *The Far Hills and Other Poems*, *Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll*, *A Rhyme for a Penny*, and Ryerson Poetry Chap-Books: *Cockle-Shell and Sandal-Shoon* and *The Poet Confides*. The books contain holograph inscriptions and extensive annotations on the front and back pages.

**Accession 81-27**

**SERIES I: POETRY**

**Box 1**

1.1-7 Poetry worksheets, tss. and holographs.

**Box 2**

2.1-8 Poems - holographs and tss.  
2.9 Poems - tss. and holographs, 1960.  
2.10 Poems - holographs. Includes correspondence, 1962.  
2.11 Poems - holographs. Includes clippings. 1964.

**Box 3**

3.1 Poems - holographs and tss.  
3.2 Poems and fragments - includes words and music to "Jesus' Birthday". Holographs and tss.  
3.3 Poems - worksheets. Holographs and tss. Includes "Poem of Dedication" by Coleman, printed in programme for Dedication of St. Paul's United Church, Christian Education Centre, Sidney, B.C., 25 February 1962.  
3.4 "Hospital" - drafts of poem, "To the Administrator, Nurses and Staff of Resthaven Hospital". Holographs, 7 leaves; tss., 2 leaves.  
3.5 *All About Babies* - animal stories by Mrs. Jessie Wardlaw Williams. Tss., ca. 50 leaves.  
3.6 *All About Babies* - drafts of Coleman's poems.  
3.7 *All About Babies*. Published by Gray's Publishing Ltd., Sidney, B.C., 1963. Holographs and tss.  
3.8 *Cockle-Shell and Sandal-Shoon*. Drafts of poems. Tss. and holographs.  
3.9 *The Far Hills*. Drafts of poems, tss. and holographs.  
3.10 *Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll*. Original holograph ms., 17 leaves.  
3.11 *Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll*. Published by J.M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Limited, Toronto, 1936. Tss., 31 leaves. Inscribed, "Grace C. Coleman with the author's sincere compliments, Jan. 29 1932".

**Accession 81-27**

**SERIES I: POETRY**

**Box 4**

4.1 *The Poet Confides*. Tss.  
4.2 *The Rhyme for a Penny*. Published by The Clarke & Stuart Company Limited, Vancouver, 1934. Holographs and tss.  
4.3 "A Selection of Verses" - Books 1, 2. Tss.  
4.4 "A Selection of Poems" - 2. Tss. Includes correspondence, 1960-1965.

- 4.5 "A Selection of Poems", 2-3. Tss., carbons.
- 4.6 Poems - "Carbon copies, Bok 1, 2 & 3".
- 4.7 "Dr. Coleman's Christmas poems". Christmas cards with printed poems written by Dr. Coleman, 1932-1964.
- 4.8 Rough drafts of published poetry, book review by Dr. Coleman, copy of a published song, "The New Hat" (lyrics by Coleman, music by Alan Thompson), and letter to Coleman from A.J. Struthers.
- 4.9 Poems by Rufus Coleman, Missoula Montana: "Questions" and "Summer Rain". Tss., 2 leaves total.
- 4.10 "Mark Twain in British Columbia", essay by Rufus Coleman. Ts., 11 leaves.

**SERIES II: PROSE - BOOKS, ESSAYS, REVIEWS**

**Box 5**

- 5.1 "As the Months Pass". Original holograph manuscript, ca. 100 leaves.
- 5.2 "As the Months Pass". Rough draft, tss., ca. 100 leaves. 1961.
- 5.3 Book on philosophy, 1930. Original holograph manuscript, ca. 75 leaves, 1930.
- 5.4 Essays on philosophy. 1 of 2.
- 5.5 Essays on philosophy. 2 of 2.
- 5.6 "The Major Concepts of Education". Collection of essays. Ts. with holograph revisions, ca. 150 leaves.
- 5.7 Essay, "On Leisure: A Dialogue in the Platonic Vein". Ts., 13 leaves.

**Accession 81-27**

**SERIES II: PROSE - BOOKS, ESSAYS, REVIEWS**

**Box 6**

- 6.1 Rough drafts for two articles by Dr. Coleman and an essay by W.H. Lambert. 1940.
- 6.2 Rough drafts for articles or chapters of a book.
- 6.3 Convocation speech [at UBC?], n.d. Holographs, 7 leaves.
- 6.4 Dr. Coleman's notes on three plays: *Julius Caesar*, *Electra*, and *The School for Scandal*; notes on the Treaty of Versailles.
- 6.5 Notes by Coleman on the Nervous System; Principles of Education. Holographs and tss., 43 leaves total.

6.6 Notebook for Psychology 301 [UBC?]. Includes rough draft of book review by Dr. Coleman on "Adolescence and Youth" by Paul Landis.

**SERIES III: FAMILY RECORDS**

- 6.7 Negatives of family photographs, including daughter Alice Coleman and Mrs. Coleman, ca. 1930's.
- 6.8 Biographical information on Coleman, ts., 2 leaves, ca. 1931.
- 6.9 Publishers' agreements for *Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll* and *A Rhyme for a Penny*; copyright assignment for *A Rhyme for a Penny*, Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., Toronto. 1930-1936.
- 6.10 Personal financial records - Canada Permanent Mortgage Statement, November 1930; 2nd Reminder of Income Taxes, October 1930.
- 6.11 Certificates, testimonials, notices of teaching appointments, letters from Dean Packenham, University of Toronto; certificate of U.S. naturalization, 1899; copy of the UBC Senate memorial for Dr. Coleman, 1964.

**Accession 81-27**

**SERIES IV: CORRESPONDENCE**

**Box 6**

- 6.12 Correspondence - Dr. Coleman to his sisters. Each letter includes a poem written by Dr. Coleman. 1958-1960.
- 6.13 Correspondence to Dr. Coleman. Includes one letter to Alice Coleman. 1940-1968.
- 6.14 Correspondence from Dr. and Mrs. Coleman to Alice Coleman. [no years given] 1 of 3.
- 6.15 Correspondence from Dr. and Mrs. Coleman to Alice Coleman. 2 of 3.

**Box 7**

- 7.1 Correspondence from Dr. and Mrs. Coleman to Alice Coleman. 3 of 3.
- 7.2 Correspondence from Dr. Coleman to friends and associates; clippings; brochures; book advertisements. 1933-1981.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Dr. Coleman to Alice Coleman, ca. 1928. Includes poems.
- 7.4 Re. Dr. H.T.J. Coleman Scholarship, UBC. Correspondence to Alice Coleman from Byron H. Hender, Director of Student Awards, UBC, 1976.
- 7.5 Correspondence, to Elizabeth Coleman (Herbert Coleman's sister) from Violet Scudamore, 1952, and from Joy Scudamore, 1966.
- 7.6 Correspondence from Coleman to Grace Coleman, Vancouver, 1928.

## **SERIES V: SCRAPBOOKS**

### **Box 8**

- 8.1-2 Scrapbooks of poems by Coleman, clippings, greeting cards.
- 8.3 Alice Coleman's course manuals for Job Instructor Training Plan, Dept. of Labour, Ottawa, 1942.

### **Accession 81-27**

## **SERIES VI: PUBLISHED MATERIAL**

### **Box 9**

#### **Journals:**

- 9.1 *The Personalist: A Quarterly Journal of Philosophy, Religion and Literature*. School of Philosophy, University of Southern California. Vol. XIV, No. 4, October 1933. Contains "'Socrates' on Leisure: A Dialogue in the Platonic Vein" by Coleman, p. 259-267.

#### **Books:**

- 9.2 *All About Babies*. n.p. 2 copies, 1 inscribed "To Rufus and Alexia", 1 with rough illustrations.
- 9.3 *The Far Hills and Other Poems*. 48 p. Published by the Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1958. 2 copies.
- 9.4 *Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll*. 63 p. With illustrations by Elsie Deane. Includes holograph inscriptions and letters written on front and back pages.
- 9.5 *A Rhyme for a Penny*. 49 p. With drawings by Elisabeth Kerr. 2 copies, 1 containing drafts of six religious poems and 1 inscribed "To Tami-Ann from Miss [Alice] Coleman, April 8, 1973".



- 9.6 Ryerson Poetry Chap-Books. *Cockle-Shell and Sandal-Shoon*, Ryerson Press, 1927. 24 p. Inscribed, "To Mabel R. Brown, Deep Cove V.I. With cordial regards, June 21/27".
- 9.7 Ryerson Poetry Chap-Books. 24 p. *The Poet Confides*, Ryerson Press, 1928.

#### INDEX - NAMES AND SUBJECTS

- All About Babies* 2, 4, 5, 9  
 "As the Months Pass" 3, 6  
 Brown, Mabel R. 9  
 Clarke & Stuart Company Limited 6  
*Cockle-Shell and Sandal-Shoon* 2, 4, 5, 9  
 Dr. H.T.J. Coleman Scholarship 4, 8  
 Coleman, Alice 2-4, 7-9  
 Coleman, Elizabeth 2, 4, 8  
 Coleman, Grace 2-5, 8  
 Coleman, Rufus 2, 3, 6, 9  
 Deane, Elsie 9  
*Far Hills and Other Poems* 2, 4, 5, 9  
 Gray's Publishing Ltd. 2, 5  
 Hender, Byron H. 8  
 J.M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Ltd. 5  
 Kerr, Elisabeth 9  
 Lambert, W.H. 7  
 Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd. 7  
 "Major Concepts of Education" 6  
 "The New Hat" 6  
 "On Leisure: A Dialogue in the Platonic Vein"  
 3, 6  
 See Also "'Socrates' on Leisure: A Dialogue in the  
 Platonic Vein"  
 Pakenham, Dean 3, 7  
*Patricia Ann: The Story of a Doll* 2-5, 7, 9  
*The Poet Confides* 2, 4, 6  
 Resthaven Hospital 3, 5  
*A Rhyme for a Penny* 2-4, 6, 7, 9  
 Scudamore, Joy 8  
 Scudamore, Violet 8  
 "A Selection of Poems" 6  
 "A Selection of Verses" 6  
 "'Socrates' on Leisure: A Dialogue in the  
 Platonic Vein" 4, 9  
 St. Paul's United Church. Christian Education  
 Centre (Sidney, B.C.) 3, 5  
 Struthers, A.J. 6  
 Thompson, Alan 6  
 Twain, Mark 3, 6  
 University of British Columbia 2  
 University of British Columbia. Senate 3, 7  
 University of Toronto 3  
 Williams, Jessie Wardlaw 5