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Theodore Fred Abel papers 4078375

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Abel, Theodore, 1896-1988
Title:	Theodore Fred Abel papers
ID:	4078375
ID:	MS#0003
Date [inclusive]:	1930-1984
Physical Description:	2 linear feet 4 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Theodore Fred Abel papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical sketch

Born in Lodz, Poland on 24 November 1896; immigrated to U.S. by 1925; died March 23, 1988, in Albuquerque, NM. Sociology professor. Abel received his M.A. degree in 1925 and his Ph.D. degree in 1929 from Columbia University. He began his career as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1925, moving to Columbia University in New York as an associate professor of sociology from 1929 to 1950. He became a full professor of sociology at Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1950, retiring in 1967. His first book was "Protestant Home Missions to Catholic Immigrants", published by the Institute of Social and Religious Research in 1933, and his last book, a collection of essays "Reflections of an Unorthodox Christian" (1986). He was a member of the Eastern Sociological Society (president, 1957), and he was fluent in German, Russian, and French.

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Biographical sketch

In 1934 Theodore Abel traveled to Germany representing Columbia University and offering a prize for autobiographies of members of the National Socialist movement. He received hundreds of essays which enabled him to theorize about how the National Socialist movement managed to gain and retain power. Over the years many people have drawn on these essays. Of particular value is his presentation of the life histories of various Germans: a worker; a soldier; an anti-Semite; a middle-class youth; a farmer; and a bank clerk; all of whom explain in their own words why they joined the NSDAP.

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Biographical sketch

Recently, Thomas Childers has noted how the past half-century of research and writing on Nazi Germany has verified Abel's original insights into the broad appeal of the National Socialist movement. Some of Abels' Books are: "Protestant Home Missions to Catholic Immigrants", Harper, 1933; "Why Hitler Came Power", Prentice-Hall, 1938 (Editor) "Freedom and Control in Modern Society", Van Nostrand, 1954; "Systematic Sociology in Germany", Octagon, 1966; "The Nazi Movement, Atherton", 1967; "The Foundation of Sociological Theory", Random House, 1970; "Reflections of an Unorthodox Christian, Privately published, 1986.

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Scope and Content

Typescript diaries, with holograph correction detailing Theodore Abel's daily personal and professional life with his comments on local, national and world events. Recorded are his daily activities and his thoughts on all aspects of the human conditions: history, literature, the arts, religion, science, politics, sociology, etc. The journals are rich in details about the Columbia University Sociology Department and related departments.

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Arrangement

Cataloged in full.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD created by PTL EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. In response to recurring reference queries, added Related Materials note.
cml 2009-06-26 2011-11-14 2019-05-20 2020-08-19

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Journal: Source of acquisition--Abel, Theodore. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--04/--/85.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Theodore Fred Abel, 1985.

Alternate Form Available

Original typescript in the author's possession.

Reproduction Note

Type of reproduction--Photocopy

Processing Information

Journal processed BRC 03/--/86.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

The [Inventory of the Theodore Fred Abel papers \[Collection No. 50000\]](#) located at the [Hoover Institution Archives](#), Stanford University contains diaries, other writings, and printed matter related to sociological theory and world politics. The collection *also* includes autobiographical sketches (biograms) by members of the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP) [National Socialist German Workers' Party], relating to their reasons for becoming national socialists, collected by Abel as research material for his book *Why Hitler Came into Power: An Answer Based on the Original Life Stories of Six Hundred of His Followers* (1938).

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Controlled Access Headings

- National socialism
- Sociology
- World politics -- 20th century
- Germany
- Diaries
- Sociologists -- United States
- Abel, Theodore, 1896-1988
- Columbia University. Department of Sociology
- Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei

Collection Inventory

Theodore Fred Abel papers	
Title/Description	Instances
Journal of Thoughts and Events, July 1930-October 1936. Volumes I-III	box 1
Journal of Thoughts and Events, October 12, 1936-June 7, 1943. Volumes IV-VIII	box 2
Journal of Thoughts and Events, June 8, 1943-May 1968. Volumes IX-XVI	box 3
Journal of Thoughts and Events, June 1968-1984. Volumes XVII-XXIII	box 4

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