



ArchivesSpace

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Alfred Korzybski papers4078999

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 15, 2025.

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:	Korzybski, Alfred, 1879-1950
Title:	Alfred Korzybski papers
ID:	4078999
ID:	MS#0727
Date [inclusive]:	1917-1950
Physical Description:	11 linear feet 23 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

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

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Biographical / Historical

Polish-American philosopher and scientist. Alfred Habdank Korzybski is widely known for his system of "general semantics."

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Summary

Papers and correspondence including letters from leading intellectuals of the United States and Europe. Much of this correspondence pertains to the publication and critical discussion of his two influential works, MANHOOD OF HUMANITY : THE SCIENCE AND ART OF

HUMAN ENGINEERING (1921) and SCIENCE AND SANITY : AN INTRODUCTION TO NON-ARISTOTELIAN SYSTEMS AND GENERAL SEMANTICS (1933).

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Arrangement

Collection is in 2 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor

Columbia University, Mail Code 1127

535 W. 114th St.

New York, NY 10027

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

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

Material is unprocessed: Box 27-31. Please contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

Restrictions on Access

All material relating to the biographical materials restricted to the written permission of donor to examine or photocopy: Microfilm Reel 38, and Box 19, 22-23.

Alternate Form Available

Microfilm available. See CLIO record 4079782.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Read, Mrs. Charlotte Schuchart. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1969. Accession number--M-69.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Read, Charlotte S. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--01/19/93. Accession number--M-93-01-19.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Charlotte Schuchart Read, 1969, 1980, 1990 & 1992.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 07/--/89.

Processing Information

Papers Processed HR 03/17/93.

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

Mira Edgerly Korzybska papers, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- General semantics
- Philosophy
- Semantics (Philosophy)
- World War, 1914-1918
- Announcements
- Bills of sale
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Contracts
- Copyright certificates
- Financial records
- Lists (document genres)
- Manuscripts (documents)
- Memorabilia
- Memorandums
- Microfilms
- Patents
- Photographs
- Proceedings (reports)
- Reminiscences
- Scrapbooks
- Visiting cards
- Scientists
- Philosophers
- United States. Fuel Administration

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy Finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Papers, 1917-1950	
Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, 1917-1920	box 1
Manhood of Humanity Correspondence, July 1920-April 1921; 17 Feb. 1921-11 Jan. 1949	box 1
Correspondence, Sept 1920-May 1922	box 2
Original Correspondence, April-October 1921	box 3
Original Correspondence, November-December 1921	box 4
Correspondence, 1922-March 1923	box 4
Correspondence, March 1923-December 1924	box 5
Correspondence, 1924	box 6
Correspondence, December 1924-July 1926	box 7
Correspondence, 1925-1927	box 8
Correspondence, 1927-January 1931	box 9
Correspondence, January 1931-February 1933	box 10
Correspondence, 1933-1935	box 11
Correspondence, 1933-1935	box 12
General Correspondence, 1933-January 1935	box 13
Science and Sanity Correspondence, September 1932-February 1933	box 13
Science and Sanity, Permissions and Copyrights (permission to quote in Science and Sanity)	box 14
Science Press Correspondence, 1934-1938	box 14
Inventions	box 14

Congresses-Mathematical, Pan American, Philosophical	box 14
Clippings for Science and Sanity circular	box 15
Enquiries, gifts, etc., re: Science and Sanity, May 1933-January 1935	box 15
General, January-April 1935	box 15
Letters of Recommendation, after publication of Science and Sanity	box 15
First Congress on General Semantics clippings	box 15
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1918-1919	box 15
Miscellaneous Manuscripts	box 15
Miscellaneous Correspondence alphabetized	box 15
Congresses: Mathematical, Philosophical, Mental Hygiene	box 15
Correspondence with Dr. Arthur Bentley, 1932-1935	box 16
War Correspondence	box 17
Polish Materials	box 17
War Records	box 18
U.S. Horseshoe Co.	box 18
U.S. Fuel Administration	box 18
Biographical Materials: Korzybski's reminiscences, 1947	box 19
Scope and Contents	
1980 Gift. Not on microfilm.	
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>	
Conditions Governing Access	
Permission required to see.	
Scrapbook, 1917-1921	box 20
Scope and Contents	
1990 Gift. On microfilm	
Scrapbook, 1921-1929	box 21
Scope and Contents	
1990 Gift. On microfilm	
Photos and memorabilia, re: W. W. I, 1916-1918	box 21

Scope and Contents

1990 Gift. On microfilm

Correspondence, Mostly with Mira E. Korzybska, 1940-1950 box 22

Scope and Contents

1992 Gift. Not on microfilm.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Permission required to see.

Financial and personal records, 1938-1950 box 23

Scope and Contents

1992 Gift. Not on microfilm.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Permission required to see.

Knute M. Houck case box 24

Knute M. Houck case box 25

Knute M. Houck case box 26

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Series II: Microfilms

Arrangement

Microfilm version of these papers: is arranged in a different sequence than the original mss.

Title/Description

Instances

Scrapbook and clippings (two scrapbooks) reel 1

Physical Description: 307 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Old green scrapbook, Science Press bills and contracts, War documents and records reel 2

Physical Description: 902 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

One scrapbook about Manhood of Humanity reviews, etc. reel 3

Physical Description: 336 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Roll A: Manhood of Humanity-Original manuscript, appendixes, correspondence (folders I and II) reel 4

Physical Description: 811 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Roll B: Manhood of Humanity-Correspondence (folder III), War correspondence and records. Paper on Alephs and Infinity, San Francisco 1945 reel 5

Physical Description: 520 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence Sept. 1920 - Aug. 1922 (important), also probably some correspondence June 1922 - July 1923 (important), Sept. 1920-July 1923 reel 6

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Remainder of correspondence folder on Roll 6, also correspondence with Arthur Bentley, 1922 June-July reel 7

Physical Description: 1384 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Roll 7: Correspondence (less important and copies), Jan. 1, 1922-August 22, 1922 reel 8

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Roll 8: Correspondence, August 1922-March 1923 reel 9

Physical Description: 1687 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Roll 9: Correspondence, August 1923-April 9, 1924 reel 10

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence from San Francisco, and part of reel 11
Correspondence, April-August 1921

Physical Description: 757 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence, letters, and miscellaneous manuscripts, reel 12
Aug.-Dec. 1921; 1921, 1922

Physical Description: 652 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence March 1923 - January 14, 1924 (less reel 13
important and copies) and part of Correspondence Jan. -
May 1924 (less important and copies), March 1923-May
1924

Physical Description: 752 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were
made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made
by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Part of correspondence January - May 1924, (less important reel 14
and copies), and correspondence April 15 - Dec. 15, 1924
(important - Library), 1924

Physical Description: 759 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were
made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made
by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence May - December 19, 1924 (less important reel 15
and copies), and part of correspondence Dec. 1924 - Dec.
16, 1925, 1924 December-1925 December

Physical Description: 757 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Part of correspondence Dec. 1924 - Dec. 16, 1925 (less important and copies), and part of correspondence (first part of folder) Dec. 16,1924 - July 1926, 1924 December-1926 July

reel 16

Physical Description: 739 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Latter part of folder of correspondence Dec. 16, 1924 - July 1926 (important), Dec. 16, 1924-July 1926

reel 17

Physical Description: 350 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence Dec. 1925 - Dec. 1926 (less important and copies) and first part of correspondence folder July 1926 (important), Dec. 1925-July 1926

reel 18

Physical Description: 730 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Latter part of folder of correspondence July 1926 (important); also Knute M. Houck case Dec. 1926 (confidential) and folder of Cases Dec. 1926 (confidential), also correspondence 1927 (important originals), and first part of folder of correspondence Jan. -Dec. 15 1927 (less important and copies), 1926 December-1927, 1926 December-1927

reel 19

Physical Description: 732 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Latter part of folder of correspondence Jan. 1927 - Dec. 15, 1927 (less important and copies), and first part of

reel 20

correspondence Dec. 1927 - Feb. 1929 (less important and copies), Jan. 1927-Feb. 1929

Physical Description: 738 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Latter part of correspondence Dec. 1927 - Feb. 1929 and all of folder of correspondence marked Nov. 1927 - Jan. 21, 1931(important), Dec. 1927-Jan. 1931

Physical Description: 829 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence Feb. 1929 - Jan. 1931 (copies and less important) and Feb. 1931 - Feb. 1933 (important), Feb. 1929-Feb. 1933

Physical Description: 750 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence Jan. 1931 - Feb. 1933 (copies and less important) and first part of correspondence, 1931-Feb. 1933

Physical Description: 671 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Last part of correspondence folder 1931- Feb. 1933, all of folder Sept. 1932 - Feb. 1933, and first part of Feb. 1933-Oct. 4, 1933 (personal and important), 1931-Feb. 1933

Physical Description: 739 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Last part of correspondence folder Feb. 1933 - Oct. 4, 1933 (personal, important) and first part of General

Correspondence Jan. 1, 1933 - Jan. 5, 1935, Feb. 1933- Jan. 5, 1935

Physical Description: 674 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Last part of General Correspondence Jan. 1, 1933 - Jan. 5, 1935 all of folder of Lectures, General - Nov. 19, 1933
Scientific correspondence Dec. 12, 1934, 1933-1935

reel 26

Physical Description: 500 pages

Scope and Contents

The designations of important and less important were made by Korzybski and marked on his folders. Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Reviews 1933-1935 and Scientific meetings, March 5, 1934, 1933-1935

reel 27

Physical Description: 733 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Early correspondence between Alfred Korzybski and Mira Edgerly Korzybska, also Polish letters. Confidential

reel 28

Physical Description: 165 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Microfilm Corporation, New York.

Correspondence with Rainich

reel 29

Physical Description: 144 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Correspondence with Philip Graven. Confidential

reel 30

Physical Description: 643 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Copyright folder, also Business Correspondence with Dutton about Manhood of Humanity

reel 31

Physical Description: 278 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

1) War records, Petawawa Camp, Russian Artillery 2) U.S. Horse Shoe Co., Erie, Pa. 1917 3) War Records 4) U.S. Fuel Administration 5) Correspondence and Documents 1919-1920 6) Correspondence 1933-1935, various, alphabetical A through Miscellaneous L, 1917-1935

Physical Description: 1874 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Continuation from Reel 32 of Correspondence, various, alphabetized 1933-1935, L (Lang) through Z, 1933-1935

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Clippings for Science and Sanity circular; Enquiries, gifts, etc., re: Science and Sanity (May 1933 - Jan 1935); General Correspondence, Jan - Apr 1935; Letters of Recommendation, after publication of Science and Sanity; First Congress on General Semantics clippings; Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1918-1919; Miscellaneous Manuscripts (various years); Miscellaneous Correspondence alphabetized (various years); Congresses (Mathematical, Philosophical, Mental Hygiene), 1918-1935

Physical Description: 950 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Permissions to quote in Science and Sanity; Science and Sanity Copyright documents and correspondence; Science Press Correspondence 1933-1938; Science Press Bills (2 folders, one dated 1933-1935) Patent Documents for Anthropometer; Time-binding Papers and Anthropometer Copyrights, etc.; Inventions, Congresses - Mathematical, Pan American, Philosophical, 1933-1938

Physical Description: 1020 pages

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Knute M. Houck Case-2 large group folders

Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Polish Mechanics Co., potentials on recruiting officers on Polish Army in France; Miscellaneous	reel 37
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Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Biographical Materials in Polish, circa 1920-1940	reel 38
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Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Permission required to see.

Original scrapbook of Korzybski's father in the possession of Janusz Krajewski, Warsaw, Poland	reel 39
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Scope and Contents

Made by Columbia University.

Correspondence in files of the Institute of General Semantics, Alfred Korzybski file.

A	reel 40
Cab-Cloth	reel 41
F	reel 42
Ha	reel 43
Miscellaneous	reel 44
Miscellaneous	reel 45
Miscellaneous	reel 46
L	reel 47
Mea-My	reel 48
Pa-Pe	reel 49
Ro-Ry	reel 50
Sa-Se	reel 51
We-Wh	reel 52

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Series III: Unprocessed

Title/Description	Instances
Unprocessed	box 27
Unprocessed	box 28
Unprocessed	box 29
Unprocessed	box 30
Unprocessed	box 31

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