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John Somerville papers6915356

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Somerville, John, 1905-1994
Title:	John Somerville papers
ID:	6915356
ID:	MS#1922
Date [inclusive]:	1960-1985
Physical Description:	5.5 linear feet 11 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); John Somerville Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Internationally known philosopher and peace activist who earned the Bertrand Russell Peace Award and the Gandhi Peace Prize. Born in New York City, Somerville earned three degrees from Columbia University and taught three decades at the City University of New York before moving to Southern California in 1967. Five of his 10 books on peace and philosophy were translated into Swedish, Danish, German, Russian and Japanese. Somerville coined and publicized the word omnicide as a warning against nuclear bombing. In his 70s, Somerville switched to writing plays, including "The Crisis" which dealt with ethical issues involved in President John F. Kennedy's handling of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. He won the Gandhi award given by the Connecticut-based group Promoting Enduring Peace in 1986 and the Russell award earlier. Somerville founded several peace organizations, including International Philosophers for Prevention of Nuclear Omnicide.

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Summary

Papers of Somerville, alumnus and brief Columbia professor, writer and political activist.

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Arrangement

Not organized.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processing Information

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Processing Information

Papers processed mmb 5/2/1999.

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Accruals

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Controlled Access Headings

- Peace
- Philosophy, Marxist
- Philosophers
- International Philosophers for the Prevention of Nuclear Omnicide