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University Archives
UMass Amherst Libraries 

Alfred Alexander Brown Papers

1935-1979

5 boxes (2.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: FS 043



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Alfred Brown received both his bachelors (1931) and masters (1933) degrees from Massachusetts State College in animal husbandry and agricultural economics and completed additional graduate work at Amherst College and Harvard University. In 1935, he returned to his alma mater as an assistant research professor in Agricultural Economics and was promoted in 1948 to full professor with a focus on Marketing and Transportation. During World War II, Brown served as a transportation economist

with the War Food Administration and as a consultant for the Office of Defense Transportation. Although Brown retired from teaching in 1972, he continued to work as a consultant for the United States Department of Transportation in Africa until his death in 2000.

The Brown Papers include published and unpublished transportation writings, correspondence, biographical and personal notes as well as notes for research and teaching, newsclippings, motion picture films, and slides. Also included among the papers are files related to Browns university service, including the Alumni War Memorial Fund, the University Centennial Committee, and the Alpha Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa.

See similar SCUA collections:

Agriculture

Mass State College (1931-1947)

Transport

UMass (1947-)

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Background on Alfred Alexander Brown

The transportation economist Alfred Alexander Brown was born in Methuen, Mass., on August 2, 1908, the son of Harvey and Maude (Freeman) Brown. After receiving his bachelor's (1931) and master's degrees (1933) at Massachusetts State College in agricultural economics, the latter for a thesis on marketing Massachusetts apples, Brown pursued additional graduate study at Amherst College and at the Littauer School of Public Administration and Graduate School of Business Administration at Harvard.

In 1934, Brown was hired for a brief period as a regional representative for the New York office of the American Fruit Growers Inc. and then as a marketing specialist for the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Vermont, however in the following year he returned to his alma mater as an assistant research professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Focusing of the issues surrounding marketing and transportation, he earned tenure and in 1948, promotion to full professor.

During his career at MSC and UMass, Brown was in demand as a consultant on transportation issues. Between 1941 and 1962, he worked with the Boston and Maine Railroad, and he was a consultant with the New York Central Railroad and, after its creation in 1967, with the Division of Policy and Plans for the U.S. Department of Transportation. During the Second World War, Brown also served as a transportation economist with the War Food Administration and consulted for the Office of Defense Transportation.

Throughout his time on faculty, Brown was active in university service, working as longtime treasurer of the War Memorial Building Fund and the Alumni Association, serving on the Buildings and Operations Committee of the Student Union, as advisor and trustee of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa, and as a member of the Pioneer Valley chapter of Delta Nu Alpha transportation fraternity.

Retiring from the university in 1972, Brown moved to Harwich Port, Mass. For many years, he remained active in the profession as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Transportation in Africa. He died in Brewster, Mass., on May 21, 2000.

Scope of collection

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Inventory

Series 1. Biographical and personal

1938-1973

7 folders

Brown, Alfred Alexander: Alexander Cance: Sturdy philosopher and teacher

1948

Box 1: 1

Correspondence

1938-1962

Box 1: 2

Cover letter and resume

1962

Box 1: 3
Emeritus status at UMass
1973

Box 1: 4
Government 250B (class)
Undated

Box 1: 5
Speech given to Delta Nu Alpha transportation fraternity
Undated

Box 1: 6
Testimonial for Adrian H. Lindsey
1968

Box 1: 7
Series 2. Transportation
1935-1979
0.75 linear feet
Correspondence on research
1935-1961

Box 1: 8
Correspondence on research
1940-1961

Box 1: 9
Newspaper articles
1965

Box 1: 10
Railroad: Greenfield Freight Yard notes (including notes on the effects of the 1954 hurricane on freight shipments)
1954

Box 1: 11
Railroads: Reports on freight cars unloaded at Greenfield, Mass.
1966

Box 1: 12
Statements given at hearings
1964-1966

Box 1: 13
Publications: Corn prices and freight rates
1963

Box 1: 14
Publications: Dairy products rate structure with particular reference to dressed poultry
Undated

Box 1: 15
Publications: Eastern grain rate adjustments
1964-1968

Box 1: 16
Publications: Freight rates and the eastern poultry industry
1963

Box 1: 17
Publications: Freight rates on feed
1959

Box 1: 18
Publications: Freight rates on grain in the east: the mileage rate sub-structure
Undated

Box 2: 19
Publications: Freight rates on grain in the east: the mileage rate sub-structure, misc.
Undated

Box 2: 20
Publications: Impact of mileage rates on freight charges on grain products to Greenfield
Undated

Box 2: 21
Publications: Massachusetts Agricultural Extension Station Bulletins

1939-1948

3 items

Box 2: 22

Publications: Mileage rates on grain and grain products in the east

1965

Box 2: 23

Publications: New York Central system grain-profit development programs (incomplete)

Undated

Box 2: 24

Publications: Transportation economics: monthly comment by the Bureau of Economics, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C.

1972-1979

Box 2: 25

Publications: Transportation, New England Agriculture, and grain rates

1966

Box 2: 26

Series 3. Associate Alumni

1946-1958

0.5 linear feet

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Correspondence

1946-1943

Box 3: 27

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Correspondence

1947-1953

Box 3: 28

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Correspondence

1949-1953

Box 3: 29

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Correspondence

1954-1958

Box 3: 30

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records (Journal)

1946-1948

Box 3: 31

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records (Ledger)

1946-1948

Box 3: 32

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records

1947

Box 3: 33

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records (Black ring binder)

1947-1958

Box 3: 34

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records: Journal

1949-1952

Box 3: 35

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records

1953-1958

Box 3: 36

Alumni War Memorial Fund: Financial Records: Minutes, Executive Committee

1947-1949

Box 3: 37

Associate Alumni: Financial Records (ring binder)

1956-1957

Box 4: 37

Associate Alumni: Financial Records (ring binder)

1957-1958

Box 4: 38

Associate Alumni: Student Government Association

1957
Box 4: 39
Series 4. University Centennial Committee
1959-1963
0.25 linear feet
Meeting minutes, reports, and related materials
1959-1963
4 folders
Box 4: 41-44
Series 5. Motion Picture Film and Photographs
1940-1969
2 films, 3 slides
Motion picture film (children) and 35 mm. slides (home on East Pleasant Street, Amherst)
Undated
Box 5: 45
Motion picture films: Transportation trip (May 1-2, 194) and Unidentified meeting
1940
Box 5: 46
1940 film features loading of circus trailers in South Boston yards on New Haven Railroad(?)

Slides of UMass Amherst campus
1956-1969
Box 5: 47
Campus Center Building
1969
Student Union Building
ca.1956
Metawampe Statue
Undated

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Mary Brown, 2002.

Processing Information

Processed by Mike Milewski, June 2002.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Alfred Alexander Brown Papers (FS 043). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Cance, Alexander E. (Alexander Edmond), 1874- .
Railroads--Massachusetts.
War Memorial Fund (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

Contributors

Brown, Alfred Alexander, 1908- . **[main entry]**
Brown, Alfred Alexander, 1908- .

Genres and formats

Motion pictures (Visual works).
Photographs.

Link to similar SCUA collections

Agriculture

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