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Edward Phinney Papers

1957-1996

6 Boxes (1 oversized) including Photos, VHS, Cassettes and Floppy Disks (2.25 linear feet)

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Read collection overview

Background on Edward Phinney

A product of America's Great Depression, Phinney hailed from a middle-class Texan family that placed a high value on education. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Oregon, and after receiving his PhD from the University of California Berkeley (1963), he joined the Classics department at UMass Amherst in 1969. Ed was both a distinguished teacher, winning awards at USC and UMass, and an able administrator, who chaired the Classics Department for twelve years (1981-1992). He was an innovator in Latin and Greek education, revising the Cambridge Latin Course for American students, and creating two additional language courses, LINGO and Salvete!. He lent support to secondary school teachers, as he visited several local classrooms to speak about the classics. He made many contributions to the American Classical League, Eta Sigma Phi, the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association, and the National Greek Exam. Ed also served as President of the Pioneer Valley Classical Association and the Classical Association of Massachusetts, both of which he founded. A popular lecturer who was considered "extraordinarily generous with his time," Phinney's Greek mythology course typically drew 500-600 students. This was popularly known as "the Phinney course" and was considered part of the UMass experience. He continued teaching in the Classics Department until his death in 1996.

Scope of collection

The Phinney collection includes a copy of Phinney's dissertation, "Apollonius Rhodius," both handwritten and typed manuscripts, his diplomas and numerous awards, and selected notes and resources for teaching and research, particularly for his popular course on mythology. Also included are two books of poetry translated by Phinney as well as his translations of Modern Greek poetry written by family friend George Thaniel. Additionally, a collection of letters and documents leading up to and following Phinney's death are included.

Inventory

Biographic Material

ca.1996

Box 1: 1

Curriculum Vitae, Autobiography, Photographs, Obituary Materials

Personal Correspondance

1977-1996

Box 1: 2

Letters from colleagues and students, magazine article with sticky note message, elementary school student thank you letters

Class Material

undated

Box 1: 3

Take Your Pick of Latin Lit, Slide Notes, Handouts and Quizzes, Cambridge Latin course reading (1978), Student Comic, Latin For Everyone

Class Material

undated

Box 1: 4

Latin for Everyone, Learning to Read Latin Checklist, Latin reading and translation, Independent Learning Manual

Class Material

1985-1990

Box 1: 5

Building projects for latin class, The Classical Investigation printout, Curriculum Report (1990), Principle Parts Handout, Midland Examining Group Latin Scholl Classics Project (undated and 1991), Midland Examining Group Classical Subjects Booklet (1991), Greek Myth Notes, William J. Mayer Using "Authentic Materials" in the Latin Classroom (11/19/1985) and Bibliography, Reading the Aeneid Now: A quarter Century of Representative Scholarship, Natural History "How Carthage Lost the Sea, Solar Technology in the Ancient World by Robert M. Wilhelm, Vitae Virorum Illustrium Americae by Nathan Covington Brooks

Class Material

ca.1972-1989

Box 1: 6

An Introduction to Sappho's Greek by John E. Stambaugh (1975), Latin Teaching Texts Survey (10, 1988), A National Profile of Foreign Language Instruction at the Elementary and Secondary School Levels (1987), Proposed Budget, The Classical Outlook (87-88), Prospects: Classics in the Elementary Schools (1989), Limerick Contest, Art in Pompeii: Senior Honors Portfolio by Jennifer Rooks (5, 1989), Advertising in Pompeii by Jennifer Rooks (5, 1989), UMass Classics Club present Amphitruon of Plautus (4/27/27) and student responses

Class Materials: LINGO and Salvete!

undated

Box 2: 1

LINGO Pamphlets and note from Deborah, North American Edition LINGO, LINGO Teacher's Manual, Salvete! Teacher's Manual

Class Material: Cambridge Latin Course Workbooks and Transparent Language

ca.1991-1995

Box 2: 2

Cambridge Latin Course Workbook Unit 1-4, Note from Carrie at Transparent Language, User guide to Version 2.11 of Transparent Language, Notice from Carrie at Transparent Language (2/13/1992), Transparent Language MS-DOS User Guide, Word Torture 4.0, Notice from Carrie at Transparent Language (8/13/1992), Vestes Novae Imperatoris by Hans Christian Anderson Floppy Disk (1991), Transparent Language GrammarPro! (1995), Transparent Language Installation and Quick Reference Guide

Class Material

ca.1991-1996

Box 2

Transparent Language Diskettes (1991-1993), Transparent Language Language Sampler Cassette, Transparent Language Latin Cassette, Phinney Greek Myth VHS (2/28/96), Phinney Greek Myth VHS (2/23/96)

Articles, Interviews, and Publications

ca.1957-1994

Box 3: 1

Edward Phinney classics clipping (5/1/68), Bromery offers own reorganization plan article, USC Faculty

newsletter (9/68) Associates Award for Teaching Excellence, The Cambridge Latin Course (1-18/7/1985), Cambridge Latin Teachers' Tour Roman Britain (1-18/7/1985), Notes from the Welcoming Convocation article (1991), USC Press Release (4/29/68), Program from USC Annual Award Dinner (5/1/1968), UofO Letter from David Dougherty about graduate appointment and copy of response (4/16/1957), The Classicla Journal offprint (4-5/1996), The Classical Associaion News (12/1993), The American Classical League Newsletter (1991), Amherst Bulletin Roman holiday leaves its mark: An old-fashioned Valentine's Day by Bonnie Wells (2/11/1994), Stentor: Voice of the Michigan Classicla Conference (4/1/1977) and note by Phinney "reprint of Kirk", Mythemes by Phinney (12/1976), Stentor: Voice of the Michigan Classicla Conference (1/1/1977) and note by Phinney 'reprint of Mythemes, Pennsylvania Classical Association Bulletin (1977) and note from Phinney "reprint of mythemes"

Articles, Interviews, and Publications
1984-01-25
Box 3

22 Alive Edward Phinney Interview

Manuscript: Dissertation
1963
Box 3: 2

Apollonius Rhodius, by Phinney

Manuscript: Tales of Apollodorus: Birth of the Gods (Handwritten)
undated
Box 3: 3

Handwritten manuscript

Manuscript: Tales of Apollodorus: Birth of the Gods (Typed with Notes)
undated
Box 3: 4

Notes on Commentary, Typed manuscript

Manuscript
undated
Box 3: 5

Typed manuscript with typed and handwritten annotations

Translations: George Thaniel
ca.1977-1991
Box 4: 1

11 poems by George Thaniel translated by Edward Phinney, 11 poems by George Thaniel translated by Edward Phinney edited and annotated with greek versions, Biography of Phinney and meeting with Thaniel, Translations from george Thaniel To Marouli (6/16/77), Thaniel Biography (possibly by Phinney) (10/17/1991), Article in Greek by Thaniel (8/1987), Thaniel poems in Greek (1986-87), Thaniel from To Dendhro (2/1980) and from Tram #8 English with annotations, English Thaniel poems (1979-82), Translation notes notebook by Phinney with postcard from Thaniel, Thaniel Poems translted by phinney in Teacher's Manual for An Introduction to Greek by Allyn and Bacon (1979), Photocopy of Greek book with Greek Thaniel poems, Handwritten notes on thaniel poem (2/1980), Picture of Thaniel, note on Thaniel's work, Critiques of HOI PROKES, Photocop of letter in Greek, Thanile biography, Note of Thaniel's poems in other works

Translations: George Thaniel
undated
Box 4: 2

Handwritten notes in greek, Typed manuscript of Thaniel poems translated by Phinney

Translations: George Thaniel
ca.1983-1984
Box 4: 3

List of Thaniel's published and unpublished poems translated by Phinney, Photocopy of Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th century myrivilis by Thaniel, Photocopy of Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century papadiamantis by Thaniel, edited biography of Thaniel by Phinney, Thaniel description of program of work, thaniel poems in greek, Greek newspaper clipping (1983), letters of thanks to Thaniel for donation of Beyond the Moment (1983) , Homage to Byzantium: The Life and Work of Nikos Gabriel Pentzikis by Thaniel (1983), Seawave and Snowfall: Selected poems 1960-1982 by Thaniel (1984), 2 copies of Beyond

the Moment: Selected Poems 1960-1976 by Thaniel (1 with greek inscription 3/25/1983)

Translations: George Thaniel
ca.1969-1988
Box 4: 4

Photocopy of book in Greek with handwritten greek note, Typed paper with bibliography in greek (1976), Handwritten review of O Lepidopterloghos tis Agonias: Nikos Kaktitsis (Thaniel) by Phinney, Typed review of O Lepidopterloghos tis Agonias: Nikos Kaktitsis (Thaniel) by Phinney, Photocopy of Linda S. Myrsiades Theatre and Society: Social Content and Effect in the Karaghiozis Performance (1982), 2 greek poems, Thaniel A modern Greek View of Homer (1978), Photocopy of greek poems by Thaniel, Various Poems by Thaniel in English (1979-82), Review of poems including Thaniel by Dinos Siotis and John Chioles (1979), Review of Nikos Spanias by Thaniel (1981), 2 handwritten notes in Greek, Notice of Public Lecture by Thaniel (3/5/1987) English translation of Santorini by Thaniel with English and Greek version of Oracular Handshake (12/1987), Photo in church, The Reader's Encyclopedia of World Drama, Photocopy of book in greek. photocopy of book in greek (1986), photocopy of book in greek (1986), photocopy of Χάρτης 21-23 (1986), Photocopy of book in greek by Allen Ginsberg, Letter from Thaniel about grant application with cv and edited letter of recommendation from Phinney (11/12/1984), Ευθύνη #130 (1982), Poems by Thaniel (1987), 5 Articles in Greek (1984), Greek and English poems by Thaniel (1987-88), Studies in the Humanities 14,2 (1987) A Mediterranean Encounter: George Seferis and Henry Miller by George Thaniel, Thaniel Poems in Greek (1987-88), Πάροδος 5 (1988), ΠΛΑΝΟΔΙΟΝ 7 (1988), Greek poems by Thaniel with translation (1988), Photocopy of articles in Greek (1987-88), The Linchpin 10 poems [1964-1967] by Thaniel (1969), George Seferis' Hrush and the Poetry of Ezra Pound by Thaniel in a reprint from the Comparative Literature Studies Vol XI No. 4 (12/1974), Virgil's Leaf- and Bird-Similes of Ghosts by Thaniel from Phoenix The Classical Association of Canada (1973), Libitina by Thaniel from Les Etudes Classiques Vol XLI No 1 (1973), ECCE...PALINURUS by Thaniel

Translations: Basic Word List
1977
Box 4: 5

Classical Greek Basic Word List by Thomas Meyer and Hermann Steinthal translated by Edward Phinney (1977)

Research and Personal Materials
undated
Box 6: 6

BYZANTINOS ΠΕΡΙΠΑΤΟΣ script, Greek sheet music (1962)

Research and Personal Materials
undated
Box 5: Oversize

To Edward Phinney from National Latin Exam VHS, Rain,Thunder,Crickets Cassette , Greek Sheet music (1960)

Awards and Degrees
1957-1996
Box 6

Bachelors in Arts with Honors from the University of Oregon (6/9/1957), Masters in Arts with Honors from the University of Oregon (6/14/1959), Gavel for Phinney as President of the Classical Association of Massachusetts (1979-1981), The California Association Southern Section Distinguished Service Award to Phinney plaque (1969) (metal adhesive no longer sticks), Massachusetts Foreign Language Association Board of Directors plaque (1980-1982), Degree of Doctor of philosophy from The University of California Berkeley (1963), Honorary Distinguished Teaching Award Plaque (5/15/1996), Massachusetts Foreign Language Association Distinguished Service Award plaque (11/7/1986), University of Southern California Associates Award for Teaching Excellence (5/1968), UMass Amherst Distinguished Teacher of the Year (1977),

Awards and Degrees: Tributes to Ed Phinney, 1993)
1993-04-16
Box 6: 1

Tributes to Ed Phinney

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Mary Catherine Phinney, May 2008.

Processing Information

Processed by Percy Phelan, 2025.

Language:

English

Language:

Greek, Modern (1453-)

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Search terms

Contributors

- Phinney, Edward [main entry]
- Phinney, Edward
- Phinney, Mary Catherine
- Thaniel, George

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