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Theodore Fred Abel Journals, 1930-1984

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creator

Theodore Fred Abel, 1896-1988

Title and dates

Theodore Fred Abel Journals, 1930-1984

Abstract

Typescript diaries detailing Theodore Abel's daily personal and professional life with his comments on local, national and world events.

Size

2 linear feet (4 document boxes)

Call number

MS# 0003

Location

Columbia University
Butler Library, 6th Floor
Rare Book and Manuscript Library
535 West 114th Street

New York, NY 10027

Language(s) of material

English

Biographical Note

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.

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.

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 Into 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.

Description



Typescript diaries (photocopies - Original typescript in the author's possession), 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.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

ACCESS AND USE

Access

This collection has no restrictions.

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

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ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

Provenance and Acquisition

Gift of Theodore Fred Abel, 1985.

Accrual of Records

No additions are expected.

PROCESSING AND OTHER INFORMATION

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Henry Rowen; include all students and interns. Finding aid written by Henry Rowen in October 2085.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*

Encoding

Finding aid written in English.

Preferred Citation

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

Subject Headings

These papers have been indexed in the Columbia University Library online catalog using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

Abel, Theodore Fred, 1896-1988

Theodore Abel Journals

Columbia University. Sociology Department
Diaries--20th century
Nationalsozialistische deutsche Arbeiter-Partei.
National socialism.
Sociology.
World politics--20th century.
Germany.

Box

Contents List

- 1 Journal of Thoughts and Events, July 1930-October 1936. Volumes 1-III
- 2 Journal of Thoughts and Events, October 12, 1936-June 7, 1943. Volumes IV-VIII
- 3 Journal of Thoughts and Events, June 8, 1943-May 1968. Volumes IX-XVI
- 4 Journal of Thoughts and Events, June 1968-1984. Volumes XVII-XXIII