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Strawn, Robertson I., collection, 1932-1988

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Strawn, Robertson I., Collection, MS 154

Robertson I. Strawn Collection

Collection Number	MS 154
Title	The Robertson I. Strawn Collection
Name and Location of Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas
Dates	1932 – 1988
Collection Size	4 linear feet
Creator	Robertson I. Strawn. The materials were collected over several years by Gene DeGruson and the Special Collections staff.
Scope and Content	Robertson I. Strawn was a speech professor at Pittsburg State University for over forty years, as a full-time and part-time professor and lecturer. This collection contains correspondence, biographical materials, education materials, writings, publications, photographs, speeches, advertisements, clippings, records, and miscellaneous materials.
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access; some material restricted
Languages	English
Biographical Note	Robertson I. Strawn was born on March 30, 1909 in Columbus, Kansas to Wilder Irving and Maude Robertson Strawn. Strawn graduated from Columbus High School in 1927 and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in English from Pittsburg State University. He received two Master's degree, one in English and the other in Psychology, from the University of Kansas and Pittsburg State University respectively. He earned his Ph. D. in Speech from the University of Michigan. In 1946, he became the head of the Language and Literature Department at Pittsburg State University and he held this job until 1966, when he retired. He was active in workshops and part-time teaching until his death. Strawn married Dorothy Martin in 1931 in Wichita, Kansas. They had three daughters, Mary Smith, Elizabeth Erickson, and Susanne Strawn, and two sons, John Q. and Robertson Jr. Strawn was a veteran of World War II, serving at a lieutenant junior grade with the Navy on the cruiser Santa Fe in the Pacific. He was also a member of the Pittsburg Presbyterian Church, a district governor of the Lions Club, a member of the American Legion, and a member of numerous scholastic and honorary fraternities and organizations.

Strawn passed away on June 13, 1988, at the Mt. Carmel Medical Center in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Strawn, Robertson I., Collection, MS 154

Series

The largest series in this collection is Education, which includes material about college courses Strawn took while a student as well as courses he taught when he became a professor. The second largest series is publications, which allows the reader to see which publications and topics he used for his classes, and what he liked to personally read. There are 13 series in this collection: **Correspondence, Biography, Organizations, Education, Writings by Strawn, Publications, Speeches, Programs, Photographs, Advertisements, Clippings, Records, and Miscellaneous.**

The **Correspondence** series contains personal and professional letters to and from Robertson. Most of the letters are professional and tie into his job as head of the Literature Department at Pittsburg State University. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Biography** series includes faculty data sheets, a description of Strawn's job, publicity pieces, and short biographies.

The **Organizations** series consists of the organizations and associations in which Strawn was involved. Most of the organizations are professional and relate to his career field. This series is arranged alphabetically.

The **Education** series consists of two parts, the courses that Strawn took as a student and the courses that Strawn taught. Some of the materials in this series are restricted due to students grades and social security numbers.

The **Writings by Strawn** series contains Strawn's writings. A majority of these writings are articles or papers written for classes. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Publications** series has eight subseries: Journals, Research Paper, Magazines, Political, Art Guide Books, Books, Catalogues, and Articles.

The **Speeches** series contains a lecture, an acceptance speech, and commemorative speech.

The **Programs** series includes commencements, concerts, plays, graduate study programs, organizations, and conferences. This series is arranged chronologically, with the undated programs organized alphabetically.

The **Photographs** series consists of a book of photographs from World War II, slides for presentations, photographs of Strawn's navy unit, and negatives. There are a few boxes and canisters of film. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Advertisements** series includes some advertisements and materials that were sent to Strawn.

The **Clippings** series contains articles over Strawn's personal and professional life. This series is arranged chronologically.

Strawn, Robertson I., Collection, MS 154

The **Records** series consists of two copies of *Computer Speech*, a program to help those learn English by removing accents and speaking; a copy of *Sounds of Children*, a recording of the “Dedication of the Student Center on Oct. 20, 1951,” a lecture from Bill Sands and Earl Nightingale.

The **Miscellaneous** contains a copy of *British Honduras Laws*, a book about altitude and the Azimuth Table, an orientation book for a foreign exchange student program, sheets of puzzles, a Cancer Information booklet, and notes.

Folder List

Box 1

Correspondence

- f. 1 1948 – 1959
- f. 2 1960 – 1969
- f. 3 1970 – 1974
- f. 4 1975 – 1978
- f. 5 1979 – 1985; Undated

Biography

- f. 6 Faculty Data Sheets, 1960 – 1978
 - Job Description
 - Goals
- f. 7 Publicity
- f. 8 Short biographies

Organizations

- f. 9 Boy Scouts of America
 - Broadcasting
- f. 10 Kansas Higher Education Association
- f. 11 Linguistic Society of America
 - National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel
- f. 12 Seminar in Liberal Education
 - Speech Association of Eastern States
 - Theatre

Education

- f. 13 Articles for Psychology
- f. 14 Papers for Psychology
- f. 15 Psychology
- f. 16 Notes for Psychology
- f. 17 Puzzles
- f. 18 Psychology
- f. 19 Notes for Statistics
- f. 20 Notes
- f. 21 Grammar and Usage Workbook
- f. 22 Foreign Language Notes

Strawn, Robertson I., Collection, MS 154

- f. 23 Literary Analysis
- f. 24 Literary Analysis
- f. 25 Phonetics / Speech
- f. 26 Poetry
- f. 27 Speech
- f. 28 Speech
- f. 29 Speech
- f. 30 Speech
- f. 31 Speech
- f. 32 Exams
- f. 33 Exams

Box 2

- v. 1 Powers, David. *Situational Speech: A Workbook for a Fundamental Course*. John S. Swift Co. 1937.
- v. 2 Pike, Kenneth L. *Phonemics: A Technique for Reducing Languages to Writing*. The University of Michigan Press. 1947.
- v. 3 Van Riper, Charles G. and Dorothy Edna Smith. *An Introduction to General American Phonetics*. Harper and Brothers. 1954.
- v. 4 Long, Ralph B. *Structure Worksheets for Contemporary English To Accompany The Sentence and Its Parts: A Grammar of Contemporary English*. University of Chicago. 1961.
- v. 5 Francis, W. N. *Manual of Information to accompany A Standard Sample of Present-Day Edited American English, for Use with Digital Computers*. Brown University. 1964.
- v. 6 *A Curriculum for English: The Rhetoric of Short Units of the Composition*. University of Nebraska. 1965. 2x
- v. 7 *Grammatically and Phrase Structure Rules 1-12*. University of Oregon. 1965.
- v. 8 *Grammatically and Phrase Structure Rules 13-18*. University of Oregon. 1965.
- v. 9 Francis, W. Nelson. *The Structure of American English*. Ronald Press Company. 1966.
- v. 10 Woolbert, Charles Henry. *Teachers' Manual to accompany The Fundamentals of Speech*. Harper and Brothers.
- f. 34 Student Evaluations
- f. 35 Faculty and Students of the English Department
- f. 36 Course Requirements for English Classes
- f. 37 Miscellaneous Information

Writings by Strawn

- f. 38 1962 – 1971
- f. 39 1972 – 1982
- f. 40 Undated
- f. 41 Undated

Publications

Journals

Social Sciences (1932-1959)

Kansas Association of Teachers of English (1952-1968)

Strawn, Robertson I., Collection, MS 154

Educational Leader (1957)
Laubach Literacy Fund (1961)
The Progressive (1961)
School of Education Indiana University (1962)
American Speech (1965)
College English (1965)
The Kansas Teacher (1966)
Word Study (1966-1967)
The Linguistic Reporter (1966-1970)
Employment Clearinghouse for Linguistics (1967)
American Dialect Society (1969)
Scientific America (1969-1977)
Journal of the Linguistic Society of America (1971-1972)
Alumni Cooperator (1975-1979)
The Professional Sampler
Research Paper

- f. 42 Hunt, Kellogg W. *Differences in Grammatical Structures Written at Three Grade Levels*. Florida State University. 1964.

Magazines

Koinonia Magazine (1961-1964)
Clipper (1964)
Time Magazine (circa 1976)

Political

Campaign Manual
Ralph Nader congress Project: Citizens Look at Congress (1972)

Art Guide Books

Period Rooms in Miniature (1946)
The Parthenon (1951)
Metropolitan Museum of Art (1957)
Nelson Gallery of Art (1959)

Books

Hunt, George T. *The Wars of the Iroquois: A Study in Intertribal Trade Relations*. University of Wisconsin. 1960.

Siler, Zoe Myers. *This is our Town*. 1961.

Bowe, Richard J. *Historical Album of Kansas*. Richard J. Bowe. 1961.

Glimpses of Guam. Toppan Printing Co. 1962.

Gray, John W. and Richard G. Rea. *Parliamentary Procedure: a programmed introduction*. Scott, Foresman and Co. 1974.

Catalogues

Art and Archaeology of Native North America. Louis Collins Books. 1988.

Articles

Box 3

f. 43 1939-1979; Undated

Speeches

Strawn, Robertson I., Collection, MS 154

- f. 44 “The Interdependence of Examples and Statistics,” by Robertson Strawn
“Intellectual Biography,” by Glada N. Thrall
“50th Anniversary of Kansas State College of Pittsburg”

Programs

- f. 45 1952 – 1977
- f. 46 Undated

Photographs

- f. 47 circa 1940s – circa 1983; Undated

Box 4

Advertisements

- f. 48 Things of Science Materials
- f. 49 Things of Science Materials
- f. 50 Television Programs and Audio/Visual Materials

Clippings

- f. 51 1947 – 1972
- f. 52 1973 – 1976
- f. 53 1977 – 1980
- f. 54 1986
- f. 55 1986
- f. 56 1987
- f. 57 1987
- f. 58 Undated

Records

- Computer Speech
- “Sounds of Children”
- Pittsburg State University
- Speechs

Miscellaneous

- f. 59 British Honduras Laws
 - An orientation book
 - An Azimuth Table book
 - Puzzles
 - A Cancer Information booklet
 - Notes