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### Winrod, Gerald B., collection, 1929-1981

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## Winrod, Gerald B., Collection, MS 130

### Gerald B. Winrod Collection

#### Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Unknown. This collection was transferred to Pittsburg State University from Wichita State University.
<b>Title</b>	The Gerald B. Winrod Collection
<b>Dates</b>	1929-1981
<b>Quantity</b>	.4 linear foot
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS 130
<b>Summary</b>	Correspondence, journals, pamphlets, newsletter, newspapers, photographs, books, and 78s LPs that relate to Gerald B. Winrod and the Defenders of the Christian Faith organization.
<b>Repository</b>	Pittsburg State University, Leonard H. Axe Library, Special Collections & University Archives 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	There are no restrictions and the collection is open for research. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Biographical Note</b>	<p>Gerald Burton Winrod was born March 7, 1900 in Wichita, Kansas to John Wesley and Mabel Craig Winrod. Approximately 1918 John Wesley Winrod became a preacher, and in 1925 Gerald B. Winrod's parents started the Healing Temple in Wichita, Kansas.</p> <p>Gerald B. Winrod stopped attending school in the fifth grade but was tutored in theology by revivalist Newton N. Riddell. Gerald Winrod is believed to have preached his first sermon when he was twelve years old, and by the time he was in his twenties was a full-time evangelist. In November 1925 Winrod was named the executive director of The Defenders of the Christians Faith, an organization he helped organize, and in April 1926 he began to publish a religious magazine titled <i>The Defender</i>. That same year, Winrod became the World's Christian Fundamentals Association secretary. Between 1932-1934, Winrod's beliefs transitioned into conspiratorial anti-Semitism views. When World War II began Winrod supported Adolf Hitler</p>

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and Nazi Germany, with support growing throughout the war. Because of this, he had the nickname of “the Jayhawk Hitler.”

In 1938 Winrod ran unsuccessfully for the U. S. Senate as a Kansas Republican. He would blame Jewish influence for his defeat. During the next two years, following the Nazi- Soviet Pact of 1939, Winrod worked to prevent the United States from entering into World War II, which resulted in the media presenting him as a key figure in the international fascist movement. Subscriptions for his *The Defender* publication declined.

During this time the FBI was watching Winrod, with regular surveillance starting in 1939. His personal relationships suffered. On May 27, 1940, his wife, Frances Winrod, sought legal protection, as she believed her husband to be dangerously unstable. In March 1941, under the advisement of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, Winrod was put on a list of people to detain in the event of a national emergency. In July of 1942 Winrod was indicted along with twenty-nine others under the Smith Act for conspiring to cause insubordination in the armed forces. The trial began in Washington D.C. in April 1944. The case against Winrod and the others was considered weak at best and despite the FBI’s best efforts, the trial ended in November 1944 when the judge of the case died of a sudden heart attack, and the prosecution was dropped by the government. During the years after the case and after World War II Winrod and his wife reconciled and subscriptions for *The Defender* rose to almost what they were before he ran for the senate. During the 1950’s Winrod’s health declined. He caught influenza during the 1957 epidemic. His refusal of orthodox medical practices led to his death on November 11, 1957.

### Content Description

This collection is divided into the following eight series’: **Correspondence, Journals, Pamphlets, Newsletters, Newspapers, Photographs, Books, 78’s (Records).**

### SERIES DESCRIPTION

The **Correspondence** series includes a letter to those who purchased *The Defender* from Hart R. Armstrong in 1980.

The **Journal** series contains *The Journal of the American Association of Physicians*.

The **Pamphlets** series includes three different types of pamphlets. The first pamphlet is called *The So-called Sedition Case and Other Matters of Grave Importance*, a collection of speeches by Congressmen Hoffman, Fish, Rich, and Weichel and a sermonette by Rev. Henry Grube. The second set of pamphlets is *The Defender*, published bi-monthly until January of 1980, after which it was published monthly. They were published by the Defenders of the Christian Faith, Inc. The third pamphlet is called *The Golden Circle*, a collection of names of people for a prayer circle, who supported the “Defenders of the Christian Faith” during 1965. It was published by The Defenders of the Christian Faith, Inc.

The **Newsletter** series includes a 1941 newsletter, *An Open Letter to the People of Kansas: Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies*, written by Gerald B. Winrod and addressed to all Kansans.

The **Newspaper** series includes a newspaper, *Christ for Crisis Western Voice from Out of the Rockies*, volume 7, issue 5, March 11, 1943.

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The **Photographs** series includes 20 image cards of different subjects related to faith. These subjects were selected and presented by the Defenders of the Christian Faith of Wichita, Kansas.

The **Books** series contains the book *World-Wide Christian Courier 1929*.

The **78s (LP records)** series contains three sets of lectures by Gerald B. Winrod. The three lecture sets are "The Incomparable Christ," "The Broken Hearted Christ," and "The Majesty of God/What is Christianity."

### FOLDER LIST

#### Correspondence

F. 1 Letter from Hart R. Armstrong 1980

#### Journal

F. 2 *The Journal of the American Association of Physicians* 1951

#### Pamphlets

F. 3 The So-Called Sedition Case and other matters of grave importance 1945  
F. 4 *The Defender* May- June 1979  
F. 5 *The Defender* July- August 1979  
F. 6 *The Defender* September- October 1979  
F. 7 *The Defender* November- December 1979  
F. 8 *The Defender* January 1980  
F. 9 *The Defender* February 1980  
F. 10 *The Defender* March 1980  
F. 11 *The Defender* April 1980  
F. 12 *The Defender* May 1980  
F. 13 *The Defender* June 1980  
F. 14 *The Defender* July 1980  
F. 15 *The Defender* August 1980  
F. 16 *The Defender* September 1980  
F. 17 *The Defender* October 1980  
F. 18 *The Defender* November 1980  
F. 19 *The Defender* December 1980  
F. 20 *The Defender* January 1981  
F. 21 *The Defender* February 1981  
F. 22 *The Defender* March 1981  
F. 23 *The Defender* April 1981  
F. 24 *Golden Circle* Undated

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**Newsletter**

- F. 25 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 26 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 27 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 28 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 29 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 30 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 31 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 32 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 33 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941
- F. 34 *Unmasking a Conspiracy of Lies* 1941

**Newspaper**

- F. 35 *Western Voice from out of the Rockies* 1943
- F. 36 *Western Voice from out of the Rockies* 1943

**Photographs**

- F. 37 Undated

**Books**

- F. 38 *World-Wide Christian Courier* 1929

**78s (LP Records)**

- F. 39 *Defender* Records