

Ryan Perry
IST 681: Assignment 2 - February 22, 2015

Reflection:

For this assignment I chose Option 2, which required that I encode an EAD finding aid in XML. I appreciated the opportunity to work with EAD, especially since I hope to someday work in an archive. As per your recommendations, I used the California Institute of Technology web-based template and subsequently cleaned the file up in Oxygen. I found that the template guide and your demo video resolved most of the questions that I had along the way, but some ambiguities required that I use other resources to determine the correct values. Overall, I found that EAD had fewer ambiguities than Dublin Core—likely due to its narrower focus and specific application in the creation of finding aids.

One such ambiguity remained in the use of subject headings. Since I had not compiled the content of the finding aid, it was difficult to determine the nature of certain terms—were the included names offered as subjects or creators? I had to assume that the content author had used LCSH form, but that was just an assumption. It seems as though it would be easier to have written the content directly into the EAD format, rather than having the MS Word document intermediate.

Beyond having to change all mentions of CIT from the outputted XML file, another downside of using the template resulted from the lack of complete control over the hierarchy in the Major Subdivisions Form. Since the finding aid had more file level entries than the form had fields, I had to enter those in Oxygen. Similarly, the finding aid had sub-series divisions, requiring me to add another level (<c03>) to the hierarchy in certain places to make up for the omission of that level within the template.

Encoding in EAD introduced some issues that I had not otherwise considered. When constructing a hierarchy of contents, a single series could be contained within a single box or split between separate boxes. This introduced some issues for where I drew the divisions between series, because it was not consistently one or the other. In all, I'm intrigued by EAD and hope to explore it further in the future.

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        <titleproper type="filing">Papers of William Fonds (Provenance)</titleproper>
        <author>B.W. Moos</author>
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      <publicationstmt>
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        <address>
          <addressline>Frostbite Falls, MN 55999</addressline>
        </address>
        <date>&#x00A9; 2013</date>
        <p>Cupcake Corners Historical Society. All rights reserved.</p>
      </publicationstmt>
    </filedesc>
    <profiledesc>
      <creation>Machine-readable finding aid created by Ryan Perry. Date of source: <date
normal="20150220">February 20, 2015.</date></creation>
      <language>Finding aid written in:
        <language langcode="eng" scriptcode="latn">English</language>
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        <title render="italic">Describing Archives: a Content Standard</title>
      </descrules>
    </profiledesc>
  </eadheader>
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      <num>Collection number: Mss 2 A</num>
      <publisher>Archives
        <lb/>Cupcake Corners Historical Society
        <lb/>Frostbite Falls, Minnesota</publisher>

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          <item>B.W. Moos</item>
        </defitem>
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          <label>Date Completed:</label>
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</defitem>
    <label>Encoded by:</label>
    <item>Ryan Perry</item>
</defitem>
</list>
    <p>&#x00A9; 2013 Cupcake Corners Historical Society. All rights reserved.</p>
</titlepage>
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<archdesc level="collection">
    <did>
        <head>Descriptive Summary</head>
        <unittitle label="Title">Papers of William Fonds Provenance</unittitle>
        <unitdate type="inclusive" normal="1917/1955" label="Dates">1917-1955</unitdate>
        <unitid label="Collection number" repositorycode="" countrycode="US">Mss 2 A</unitid>
        <origination label="Creator">
            <persname source="lcnaf" rules="aacr2">Provenance, William Fonds, 1897-1956</persname>
        </origination>
        <physdesc label="Collection Size">
            <extent>1.6 cubic feet (4 boxes)</extent>
        </physdesc>
        <repository label="Repository">
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            </corpname>
            <address>
                <addressline>Frostbite Falls, MN 55999</addressline>
            </address>
        </repository>
        <abstract label="Abstract">Correspondence, diaries,and writings of an archival theorist and author
documenting his experiences in World War I, his literary endeavors, and his ideas on modern archival
theory, especially regarding the centrality of the fonds.</abstract>
        <physloc label="Physical location">Cupcake Corners Historical Society, Frostbite Falls, MN
55999</physloc>
        <langmaterial label="Languages">
            Languages represented in the collection:
            <language langcode="eng">English</language>
        </langmaterial>
    </did>
    <accessrestrict>
        <head>Restrictions on Access</head>
        <p>This collection is housed in off-site storage. Twenty-fours advance notice is required prior to
research use.</p>
    </accessrestrict>
    <userrestrict>
        <head>Restrictions on Use</head>
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<p>Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Cupcake Corners Historical Society as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher.</p>

</userrestrict>

<prefercite>

<head>Preferred Citation</head>

<p>Papers of William Fonds Provenance. Archives, Cupcake Corners Historical Society.</p>

</prefercite>

<acqinfo>

<head>Acquisition Information</head>

<p>Acquired as a gift from Ima Gusdorf, December 17, 1952</p>

</acqinfo>

<accruals>

<head>Accruals</head>

</accruals>

<custodhist>

<head>Custodial History</head>

<p>Following his death, Provenance's papers were bequeathed to his brother Harry who attempted several times unsuccessfully to sell them to a private collector. Upon Harry's death, the papers became the property of Provenance's literary executrix and longtime companion Ima Gusdorf who donated them to the Freen University Center for the Study of the Giants of Archivy.</p>

</custodhist>

<processinfo>

<head>Processing Information</head>

<p>Collection processed and cataloged by B.W. Moos, January, 1962.</p>

</processinfo>

<bioghist>

<head>Biography / Administrative History</head>

<p>Archivist and author William Fonds Provenance was born at Last Chance, Nevada to Fred and Mary Jones Provenance on January 4, 1897. Little is known of his early life prior to serving in World War I as an ambulance driver. After graduating from Freen College in 1924 with a degree in cryptogamic biology, he first followed a career in commercial horticulture and later worked as an itinerant archivist. Provenance also had a lifelong interest in creative writing, producing both novels and poetry. He died at Frostbite Falls, Minnesota, March 15, 1956.</p>

</bioghist>

<scopecontent>

<head>Scope and Content of Collection</head>

<p>The collection consists of diaries, correspondence, manuscripts, and miscellaneous materials documenting the literary and archival career of William Fonds Provenance.</p>

<p>The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, principally with his mother, other archivists and writers. His diaries describe his experiences as an ambulance driver in France during World War I in vivid detail. It also includes manuscripts of novels, poetry, and essays on archival theory as well as the final draft of his seminal work, Quarks: The Tao of Archival Description. Many of Provenance's ideas about archival description were thought by his contemporaries to have been obscure or naive. A contemporary reexamination of his theories, however, reveals that in many respects Provenance's ideas were insightful and highly nuanced.</p>

<p>Major correspondents represented in the collection include Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Arthur Miller, H.L. Mencken, Theodore Schellenberg, Ernst Posner, and Provenance's long-time companion Ima Gusdorf.</p>

</scopecontent>

<arrangement>

<head>Description of Series</head>

<p>This section briefly describes each series in the collection. A more detailed description of the contents of each series may be found in the following section.</p>

<p>Correspondence, 1919-1955. 8 folders

Incoming letters and copies of outgoing correspondence with family, business associates, and prominent archivists and writers. Letters are arranged alphabetically by the writer's or recipient's name.</p>

<p>Diaries, 1917-1918. 32 v. in 5 folders

Daily accounts of Provenance's experiences during his military service in France during World War I, primarily documenting the daily activities of camp life, weather, military battles, and operations of the army medical service. Also contains detailed and graphic accounts of his work as an ambulance driver.</p>

<p>Novels, Poetry, and Essays, 1947-1954.

Published and unpublished writings of Provenance. All the materials are typescript, though most also include handwritten annotations. Some of text appears to have been deliberately obliterated, perhaps posthumously. The materials are organized into three groups by genre or subject matter: poetry, novels, and works relating to archival science.</p>

</arrangement>

<controlaccess>

<head>Indexing Terms</head>

<p>The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.</p>

<subject source="lcsh" rules="lcsh">Cataloging of archival materials</subject>

<subject source="lcsh" rules="lcsh">Diplomatics</subject>

<subject source="lcsh" rules="lcsh">United States -- History -- World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, American</subject>

<genreform source="lcsh" rules="lcsh">Diaries</genreform>

<genreform source="lcsh" rules="lcsh">Novels</genreform>

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<persname source="lcsh" rules="lcsh" role="subject">Fruin, Robert, 1857-1935</persname>

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<persname source="lcsh" rules="lcsh" role="subject">Posner, Ernst</persname>

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<corpname source="lcsh" rules="lcsh" role="subject">Freen University. Center for the Study of the Giants of Archivy</corpname>

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    <corpname source="lcsh" rules="lcsh" role="subject">United States. Army--Transport of sick and
wounded.</corpname>
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    <title source="lcsh" rules="lcsh">Quarks: The Tao of Archival Descripton</title>
</controlaccess>
<otherfindaid>
    <head>Other Finding Aids</head>
    <p>A partial index to Fond's correspondence, prepared by Ima Gusdorf, is available at the
Cupcakes Corners Historical Society.</p>
</otherfindaid>
<relatedmaterial>
    <head>Related Material</head>
    <p>The papers of Ima Gusdorf are located in the Freen University archives.</p>
    <p>The James Joyce Collection at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of
Texas-Austin, contains correspondence from Provenance to various French literary publications regarding
Joyce.</p>
</relatedmaterial>
<separatedmaterial>
    <head>Preferred Citation</head>
    <p>Cite as: Cupcake Corners Historical Society, Frostbite Falls, Minnesota. William Fonds
Provenance Papers. Mss. 2 A.</p>
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            </origination>
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        </did>
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            <head>Series Scope and Content Summary</head>
            <p>Incoming letters and copies of outgoing correspondence with family, business associates,
and prominent archivists and writers. Letters are arranged alphabetically by the writer's or recipient's
name.</p>
        </scopecontent>
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                <unitdate type="inclusive" normal="1919/1955">1919-1955</unitdate>
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<persname>Provenance, Mary Jones</persname>

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<unittitle>Diaries</unittitle>


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  <p>Daily accounts of Provenance's experiences during his military service in France during
World War I, primarily documenting the daily activities of camp life, weather, military battles, and
operations of the army medical service. Also contains detailed and graphic accounts of his work as an
ambulance driver.</p>
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    <container type="box-folder" label="Box-Folder:">3 : 6</container>
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    <unittitle>Novels, Poetry, and Essays</unittitle>
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  <head>Series Scope and Content Summary</head>
  <p>Published and unpublished writings of Provenance. All the materials are typescript, though
most also include handwritten annotations. Some of text appears to have been deliberately obliterated,
perhaps posthumously. The materials are organized into three groups by genre or subject matter: poetry,
novels, and works relating to archival science.</p>
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    <unittitle>Poetry</unittitle>
    <unitdate type="inclusive" normal="1948/1952">1948-1952</unitdate>
    <container type="box-folder" label="Box-Folder:">3 : 6</container>
    <physdesc><extent>1 Folder</extent></physdesc>
  </did>
  <scopecontent>
    <head>Subseries Scope and Content Summary</head>
    <p>Verse in various forms, principally sonnets and limericks. The sonnets contain detailed
dedications either to Provenance's mother or to an unnamed "dark lady." Many of the limericks are ribald
in their subject matter.</p>
  </scopecontent>

  <!-- Insert container list here -->

<c03 level="file">
  <did>
    <unittitle>Poetry</unittitle>
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</c03>
</c02>
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  <scopecontent>
    <head>Subseries Scope and Content Summary</head>

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<p>Manuscripts of three unfinished novels, each apparently written in the style of an author Provenance admired.</p>

</scopecontent>

<!-- Insert container list here -->

<c03 level="file">

<did>

<unittitle>For Whom the Chimes Toll, in the style of Ernest Hemingway</unittitle>

<unitdate type="inclusive" normal="1952">1952</unitdate>

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</c03>

<c03 level="file">

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</c03>

<c03 level="file">

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</c03>

</c02>

<c02 level="subseries">

<did>

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</did>

<scopecontent>

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<head>Subseries Scope and Content Summary</head>
<p>Two unpublished essays and the complete manuscript of his book-length work, Quarks:
the Tao of Archival Description. Internal evidence within the collection suggests that this work may have
been self-published though no copy of such an edition has been found in his papers.</p>
</scopecontent>
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<!-- Insert container list here -->
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<c03 level="file">
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<!-- Insert container list here -->
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<c03 level="file">
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    <container type="box-folder" label="Box-Folder:">4 : 4</container>
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<!-- Insert container list here -->
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</c03>
</c02>
</c01>
</dsc>

</archdesc>
</ead>
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