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## Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1909-1971 (MSS 433)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 433 TWITCHELL, Jacob Paul, 1909-1971**

2 boxes. 28 folders. 961 items. 1933-1984. Originals, photocopies, printed material.

1944.14.1

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Paul Twitchell, son of Jacob and Effie (Troutman) Twitchell, was born in Paducah, Kentucky on 22 October 1909. Twitchell attended Paducah Tilghman High School; he also attended Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. After dropping out of college, Mr. Twitchell had multiple jobs including prize-fighter, college athletic trainer, fight promoter, swimming coach, track coach, and sailor. He was also the athletic director at Western Kentucky University from 1933-1935.

Twitchell began free-lance writing in 1940 while serving in the Navy. In 1942, he married his first wife, Camille Ballowe. He resigned from the Navy after V-J Day and moved to New York to pursue his writing career, but was soon assigned to Washington, D.C. in 1945 as the capital correspondent for *Our Navy* magazine.

In 1950, Paul and Camille Twitchell joined the Swami Premananda's Self-Revelation Church of Absolute Monoism, and lived on the grounds of the church in Washington, D.C. In 1955, he and his wife separated (they were divorced in 1960) and he was asked to leave the church because of misconduct. In 1955, Twitchell also began following an Indian mystic named Kirpal Singh. Singh had formed his own religion called Ruhani Satsung, and Twitchell became a follower, although he also dabbled in other occult movements. While in Seattle in the 1960s, working as a reporter for the *Post-Intelligencer*, Twitchell met his second wife, Gail Atkinson.

In 1965, the year of his marriage to Gail, Twitchell began to promote his own religious movement called Eckankar, which he described as the "ancient science of soul travel." He published numerous tracts on "ECK," but his beliefs did not achieve popularity until after Twitchell's death in 1971. In 1979, Eckankar was said to have 3 million followers.

**COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection consists chiefly of correspondence, small publications containing Twitchell prose and poetry, news clippings, pamphlets, and photographs. The correspondence includes a large number of letters written to Twitchell by his wife Camille, Box 1, Folders 8-11. Box 1 also includes correspondence from some family members, Folders 5-6; courtship letters written by

concert violinist Mariam Burroughs to Twitchell, Folder 4; and correspondence with publishers and editors, Folder 7.

Box 2 includes copies of publications which contain prose and poetry by Twitchell. This box also includes news clippings, Folder 14; loose poetry by Twitchell, Folder 15; and photographs, Folder 16.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>1938-1984</b>	<b>631 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical information	1938-1984	11 items
Folder 2	Correspondence to Mrs. Mary Moore, Librarian at the Kentucky Library (WKU) from Twitchell and others includes clippings and 1 pamphlet	1938-1945	42 items
Folder 3	Correspondence from Mrs. Moore to Paul Twitchell	1938-1941	11 items
Folder 4	Correspondence from Mariam Burroughs to Paul Twitchell	1943-1945	48 items
Folder 5	Correspondence-incoming letters to Twitchell from friends and family	1943	73 items
Folder 6	Correspondence-incoming to Paul Twitchell-from friends and family	1944-1945	68 items
Folder 7	Correspondence-incoming from publications and editors	1943-1945	55 items
Folder 8	Correspondence from Camille Twitchell to Paul Twitchell	1943-1944	87 items
Folder 9	Correspondence from Camille Twitchell to Paul Twitchell	1944	92 items
Folder 10	Correspondence from Camille Twitchell to Paul Twitchell	1944-1945	132 items
Folder 11	Correspondence to Paul and Camille Twitchell and to Camille Twitchell from friends and family	1943-1944	12 items

<b>Box 2</b>	<b>Publications containing Twitchell writings</b>	<b>1933-1944</b>	<b>328 items</b>
Folder 1	Issues of <i>Athletic Magazine</i> containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1933-1935	4 items
Folder 2	Poetry Anthologies containing works by Paul Twitchell, 1 booklet by Tony Ruff-pseud. for Twitchell	1938-1939	4 items
Folder 3	Issues of various magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1939-1943	15 items
Folder 4	Issues of various magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1939-1944	8 items
Folder 5	Issues of various magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1940-1942	12 items
Folder 6	Issues of <i>Our Navy</i> containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1940-1943	17 items
Folder 7	Issues of the <i>Kansas City Courier</i> containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1941-1942	5 items
Folder 8	Issues of <i>Fireside Chatter</i> containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1941-1944	13 items
Folder 9	Catholic magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1942-1943	6 items
Folder 10	Issues of <i>The Voice of Saint Jude</i> containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1942-1943	7 items
Folder 11	Issues of <i>The Little Flower</i> magazine containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1942-1944	6 items
Folder 12	Issues of <i>The Rosary</i> containing articles by Paul Twitchell	1943	4 items
Folder 13	Printed items	n.d.	30 items
Folder 14	Newspaper clippings	n.d.	53 items
Folder 15	Poetry written by Paul Twitchell	n.d.	26 items
Folder 16	Photographs	n.d.	114 items

Folder 17    Three Eck Mata Journals, one Eckankar    n.d.    4 items  
                  pamphlet, two oversized issues of  
                  *Eckankar News of Great Lost Angeles*

### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS    TWITCHELL, Jacob Paul,                    1933-1984  
 433                    1909-1971

Correspondence, news clippings, photographs  
 and publications, including prose and poetry of Jacob  
 Paul Twitchell, a native of Paducah, Kentucky. Includes  
 World War II correspondence with his wife, Camille, and  
 letters to family, friends, editors and publishers.

2 boxes. 28 folder. 961 items.

Originals, photocopies, and printed material.

1944.14.1

### **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

#### Authors

Berea College – Comments about, 1943    B1,F5  
 Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956    B1,F5  
 Bouland, Paul T.  
 Breckinridge, Tennie    B1,F5  
 Burroughs, Mariam M.    B1,F4  
 Caldwell, Erskine – Mentioned    B1,F7  
 Chandler, Albert Benjamin, 1898-1991    B1,F6  
 Cobb, Irvin Shrewsbury, 1876-1944    B1,F6  
 Courtship    B1,F4  
 Creason, Joe, 1918-1974    B1,F11  
 Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011    B1,F5  
*Eckankar News of Great Lost Angeles* (newspaper)    B2,F17  
 Eckankar – Relating to    B2,F17  
 Farris, Norburn Allen    B1,F5  
 Freisinger, Shirley    B1,F7  
 Gruenebaum, Mamy Dryfuss    B1,F5  
 Harris, Marguerite Tjader    B1,F5-7  
 Herschede, Frank A.    B1,F5-6  
 King, Margaret Isadora, 1879-1966    B1,F5  
 Letterheads – Hunt's Athletic Goods Company – Mayfield    B1,F5  
 Letterheads – Louisville Baseball Club    B1,F5  
 Martin, Nancy    B1,F6

Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 – Letters to      B1,F2  
 Music and musicians – Relating to      B1,F4  
 Paxton, Edwin J.      B1,F5-6,11  
 Pearce, Charles A.      B1,F7  
 Poetry      B2,F15  
 Rector, Margaret L.      B1,F6  
 Roosevelt, Anna Eleanor, 1884-1962 – Relating to      B1,F5  
 Sherman, Elizabeth M.      B1,F5  
 Thompson, Malvina C.      B1,F5  
 Twitchell, Camille (Ballowe)      B1,F8-11  
 Twitchell, Camille (Ballowe) – Photos      B1,F16  
 Twitchell, Jacob Noah, 1879-1961      B1,F5-6,11  
 Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1909-1971 – Correspondence      B1,F2  
 Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1909-1971 – Photographs      B1,F16  
 U.S. Navy – Photographs      B1,F16  
 U.S. Navy – Relating to      B1,F7  
 United Services Organization – Relating to      B1,F4  
 Wallenstein, H. L.      B1,F5-6  
 Watson, Paul R.      B1,F7  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Relating to      B1,F2,4-5

**SEE or SEE ALSO**

Snyder, Carl B.  
     See also:  
         Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1908?-1971

Sledge/Jeffrey 11/08/2012