Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1908?-1971 (MSS 433)

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**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Paul Twitchell, son of Jacob and Effie Twitchell, was born in Paducah, Kentucky on 22 October; sources differ as to his birth year, but it was probably 1908. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>1938-1984</th>
<th>631 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and biographical information</td>
<td>1938-1984</td>
<td>11 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence to Mrs. Mary Moore-Librarian at the Kentucky Library (WKU) from Twitchell and others includes clippings and 1 pamphlet</td>
<td>1938-1945</td>
<td>42 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence from Mrs. Moore to Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1938-1941</td>
<td>11 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence from Mariam Burroughs to Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
<td>48 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence-incoming letters to Twitchell from friends and family</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>73 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence-incoming to Paul Twitchell from friends and family</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>68 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence-incoming from publications and editors</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
<td>55 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence from Camille Twitchell to Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>87 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence from Camille Twitchell to Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>92 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence from Camille Twitchell to Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>132 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Correspondence to Paul and Camille Twitchell and to Camille Twitchell from friends and family</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>12 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Publications including Twitchell material</td>
<td>1933-1944</td>
<td>328 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Issues of <em>Athletic Magazine</em> containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1933-1935</td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Poetry Anthologies containing works by Paul Twitchell, 1 booklet by Tony Ruff-pseud. for Twitchell</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Issues of various magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1939-1943</td>
<td>16 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Issues of various magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1939-1944</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Issues of various magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1940-1942</td>
<td>12 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Issues of <em>Our Navy</em> containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1940-1943</td>
<td>17 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Issues of the <em>Kansas City Courier</em> containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Issues of <em>Fireside Chatter</em> containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1941-1944</td>
<td>13 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Catholic magazines containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>6 items</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Issues of <em>The Voice of Saint Jude</em> containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Issues of <em>The Little Flower</em> magazine containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1942-1944</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Issues of <em>The Rosary</em> containing articles by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Printed items</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>30 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>53 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Poetry written by Paul Twitchell</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>26 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>114 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 17 Three Eck Mata Journals, one Eckankar pamphlet, two oversized issues of *Eckankar News of Great Lost Angeles*

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**MSS** TWITCHELL, Jacob Paul, 1933-1984

**433** 1908?-1971

Correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and publications including prose and poetry of Jacob Paul Twitchell, a native of Paducah. Includes World War II correspondence with his wife, Camille, and letters to family, friends, as well as with 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
- Berkley, Alben Williams, 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, Mamye 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 N. (father) B1,F5-6,11
Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1908?-1971 – Correspondence B1,F2
Twitchell, Jacob Paul, 1908?-1971 – Photos B1,F16
U.S. Navy – Photos 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