

C Neihardt, John G. (1881-1973), Papers, 1908-1974
3778 1.4 linear feet

RESTRICTED

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Correspondence and miscellaneous material of poet John G. Neihardt. Neihardt was most famous for his epic, *A Cycle of the West*, and *Black Elk Speaks*. He was poet laureate of Nebraska, literary editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1929-1938, and an instructor at the University of Missouri, 1949-1965.

RESTRICTIONS

Consult with the reference staff about the restrictions on this collection.

DONOR INFORMATION

The John G. Neihardt Papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Hilda Neihardt Petri on 11 January 1988 (Accession No. 4824)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Gneisenau Neihardt was born near Sharpsburg, Illinois, on 8 January 1881, third child of Nicholas Nathan Neihardt and Alice Culler Neihardt. In 1886 the family moved to a sod house in northwestern Kansas, moving from there to Kansas City in 1888. In 1891 he moved with his mother and sisters to Wayne, Nebraska, where he attended the Nebraska Normal College (now Wayne State College), graduating with a bachelor of science degree at age 16. His first book, *The Divine Enchantment*, was finished at the age of 16 and published.

After teaching at a country school for two terms, he moved to Bancroft, Nebraska, where he worked with an Indian trader among the Omaha Indians. Later he edited a country weekly, the *Bancroft Blade*, for several years. After that he devoted his time to writing fiction and lyric verse with rapidly increasing national success.

In 1912, at the age of 31, Neihardt began writing his major work, *A Cycle of the West*, to which he devoted eighteen years. He was made poet laureate of Nebraska by legislative enactment in 1921. He was literary editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* from 1926 to 1938, worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1942 to 1945, and served as lecturer in English and poet in residence at the University of Missouri from 1949 to 1965.

Neihardt was married in 1908 to Mona Martinsen, sculptor and a student of Rodin, the daughter of Rudolph Vincent and Ada Martinsen. The Neihardts had four children: Enid, Sigurd, Hilda, and Alice.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of two sections: Correspondence and Miscellaneous. The correspondence dates primarily from Neihardt's latter years. Family correspondence from the period 1910 to 1955 consists of letters of Mona M. Neihardt to her children and grandchildren, the majority to Enid Neihardt Fink in St. Louis, Missouri. Letters from Mona's mother, Ada

Martinsen, to her grandchildren are also included. Correspondence from 1956 through 1974 comprises the bulk of the series and consists primarily of letters from former students and admirers of John Neihardt. It concerns appeals for advice and congratulations on such events as Neihardt's appearance on the Dick Cavett television show in April 1971, and the publication of his autobiography, *All Is But A Beginning* in September 1972.

The miscellaneous series includes genealogical material concerning John Neihardt's father, Nicholas; newspaper clippings, 1908-1968; photographs from the 1920s through 1968, including a postcard picture of Neihardt's study at Bancroft, Nebraska, where he did much of his work, a color slide of Skyrim farm in Columbia, Missouri, and portraits of Hilda and Enid Neihardt in the 1920s; *The Storming of Bancroft*, a reminiscence by Neihardt about camping with his father's regiment; poetry of students and admirers; and a transcript of seances held shortly after Mona Neihardt's death in 1955.

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence

f. 1-8	1910-1955
f. 9-12	1956-1966
f. 13-23	1967
f. 24-34	1968
f. 35-41	1969
f. 42-46	1970
f. 47-55	1971
f. 56-66	1972
f. 67-74	1973
f. 75	1973-1974
f. 76	n.d.

Miscellaneous

f. 77	Neihardt genealogy
f. 78	Newspaper clippings, 1908-1968
f. 79	Photographs, 1920s-1968
f. 80	"The Storming of Bancroft"
f. 81	Poetry
f. 82	Seance transcripts

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Image
Aly, Lucile Folse (1913-1990)	9-11,14,15,20	
Bennett, Mildred R.	14,17,21,24	
Cavett, Dick (1937-)	64,65	
Childbirth	3	
Davis, Robert Hobart "Bob" (1869-1942)	1	
Gray, Sanford	31, 36, 62, 73	
Kendrick, M. Slade (1894-)	9, 12, 14, 21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 36, 38-44, 46-49, 52, 54, 56, 59, 61, 64, 69, 70, 74	
LaFlesche, Susette (1854-1903)	45	
Latham, Harold Strong (1887-1969)	3	
Michener, James A. (1907-)	11	
Neihardt, Enid Volnia	79	y
Neihardt, Enid Volnia (1909-1996)	79	y

Subject	Folders	Image
Neihardt, Hilda (1916-2004)	79	y
Neihardt, John Gneisenau (1881-1973)	1-82	
Neihardt, John Gneisenau (1881-1973), Study, Bancroft, Nebraska	79	y
Neihardt, Mona Martinsen (1884-1958)	1-8, 76	y
Nixon, Richard Milhous (1913-1994)	56	
Rhine, Joseph Banks	13, 14, 21, 29, 31, 36, 37, 49, 64	
Seances	82	
Skyrim Farm, Columbia, Missouri	79	y
Smith, Stanley C. (1928-1999)	10, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24	
Vinsonhaler, Duncan M.	1, 2	
Vogt, Evelyn R.	14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 28	
Whittaker, James	8	
Young, Julius D.	15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 29, 37	
Young, Myrtle	16-24, 28-30, 37, 42, 43	