

00028
Louis C. Swilley, Department of English
Personal

University of St. Thomas
Houston, Texas

Processed by
Betty Kaffenberger
Betty Fischer
and
Nancy Vesey

February 24, 2014

Size: 4 ft. 10 inches

Inclusive Date Range: 1951 - 2011

Bulk Dates: 1998 - 2009

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Professor, researcher, scholar, historian, author, poet, traveler, amateur chef, ex-naval officer, refurbisher, swimmer, tennis player – a composite of the person Lou Swilley. (borrowed from an article in The Cauldron, April 5, 1977, page 5)

Swilley was born in Houston, Texas, on December 5, 1929. His education included Annunciation Catholic School (1935-43), St. Thomas High School (1943-47), University of St. Thomas (1947-51 – the first graduating class of the school), Catholic University of America (1951-52), Rice University (1956-59), University of Houston (1960-61 – Master of Art in English). He served in the Navy as an officer from 1952 -56.

While at the University of St. Thomas, he was a student worker in the library. This carried over into the years after graduation and opened the door for a career in the field of teaching. He substituted for a former UST English professor, Fr. Edward Lee, who had become ill. As a result of this experience, teaching became his passion for 37 years – 20 years at UST and 17 years at St. Thomas High School. The year 1966 found him in England at the London Film School on a year-long sabbatical leave. In 1957, he joined the UST faculty as a professor in the English Department, subsequently becoming chair of that department (1971-77). He further served on the Library Committee and the Curriculum Committee. Louis had the ability to see beyond the classroom at the

University; he was quick to offer suggestions for improvements in various areas of the school. Evidence of this, and his dedication to the school, can be found in letters to members of the administration about those issues. Swilley retired from his faculty responsibilities in 1977. In the meantime, he became a member of the faculty of the English Department at St. Thomas High School until 1990.

Swilley's interest in the teaching profession continued until his death, writing prolifically on various aspects of the profession. He was a constant poster on the internet education sites, offering opinions and suggestions on schools and teaching, which eventually led to his producing "*A Teachers' Catechism.*" Further writings included two novels, '*Inferno*' of the Future. *A Tale of the 23rd Century and Hearts. Heart of Darkness in a Modern Ghetto*; two plays; 2 children's stories; *My Teaching Years at St. Thomas High School*. Essays and Poems on Various Subjects. 1972-1990, Edward Gregory Lee, C.S.B. Articles, Course Notes and Letters. He was an avid reader, *Ulysses* by James Joyce being a favorite, and an expert on Shakespearean literature, which involved regular visits to England.

Louis Swilley died February 14, 2011, in a local Houston hospital.

Scope and Content Note

E-mails

Articles on Teacher Education

Personal Articles on Education

Articles on Literature

Articles on Curriculum

Poems

Hemingway Short Stories

Hamlet

Shakespeare

Fitzgerald

Letters from Patricia Lamb to Swilley

Letters from Swilley to Patricia Lamb

Various Personal Writings

Personal Writings: St. Thomas High School

Personal Writings: University of St. Thomas

Acquisition Information

The files were obtained from Louis Swilley.

Physical Condition

Most of the files are in good condition. Some of the papers have a small amount of rust on them from the fasteners that were used. Others are somewhat acidic which have turned the pages brown. No conservation work is planned.

INVENTORY

Box Folder

LOUIS C. SWILLEY – PERSONAL E-MAILS

1	1	Articles on Discipline by Subject Matter	1998 – 2001
	2	Articles on Discipline by Subject Matter	1998 – 2006
	3	Articles on Discipline by Subject Matter	1999 – 2006
2	1	Articles on Literature (Box 1 of 3)	1997 – 2002
	2	Articles on Literature (Box 2 of 3)	2003 – 2005
	3	Articles on Literature (Box 3 of 3)	2005 – 2006
3	1	Poems	1951
	2	Articles on Grammar	1998 – 2006
	3	Articles on Unions and Tests	1998 – 2006
	4	Articles on Foreign Schools, History, Homeschooling, Homework, Retention	1998 – 2000
	5	Articles on Public Opinion/School Year	1999 – 2006
	6	Articles on Philosophy	1996 – 2001
	7	Articles on Religion	1998 – 2006
4	1	Correspondence and Miscellaneous Information	1996 – 2008
	2	Articles on Administration	1998 – 2009
	3	Articles on Systems (1 of 3)	1998 – 2004
	4	Articles on Systems (2 of 3)	2000 – 2005
	5	Articles on Systems (3 of 3)	1996 – 2008
5	1	Articles on Curriculum (1 of 3)	1998 – 2010
	2	Articles on Curriculum (2 of 3)	1998 – 2005
	3	Articles on Curriculum (3 of 3)	1998 – 2009
	4	Articles on Correspondence, History and Writings	1998 – 1999
	5	Articles on Education	1983 – 2009

LOUIS C. SWILLEY – PERSONAL E-MAILS (continued)

Box	Folder		
6	1	Articles on Teacher Education	1998 – 2008
	2	Articles on Teaching (1 of 4)	1998 – 2009
	3	Articles on Teaching (2 of 4)	1998 – 2009
	4	Articles on Teaching (3 of 4)	1995 – 2009
	5	Articles on Teaching (4 of 4)	1998 – 2009
	6	Articles on Teaching Media	1998 – 2006

PERSONAL ARTICLES ON EDUCATION

7	1	Personal Articles on Education	1996
	2	Personal Articles on Education	1994; 95; 97; 98
	3	Personal Articles on Education	2000
8	1	Teaching and Formal Criticism	1999 – 2009
	2	Literary Criticism and Miscellaneous	1999 – 2003

HEMINGWAY

9	1	Hemingway: Short Stories (1 of 6)	1997 – 1998
	2	Hemingway: Short Stories (2 of 6)	1998 – 2000
	3	Hemingway: Short Stories (3 of 6)	2001 – 2002
	4	Hemingway: Short Stories (4 of 6)	2002 – 2006
	5	Hemingway: Short Stories (5 of 6)	2006
	6	Hemingway: Short Stories (6 of 6)	2006
	7	Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises	1999 – 2001
	8	Hemingway: A Farewell to Arms	2001 - 2004

LITERATURE (VARIOUS)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
10	1	Conrad: Heart of Darkness	1998 – 2003
	2	Fitzgerald: Stories	1997 – 2004
	3	Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby	1998 – 1999
	4	Hamlet	1999 – 2005
	5	Shakespeare (various)	1998 – 2008

LETTERS TO/FROM SWILLEY AND LAMB

11	1	Letters to Louis Swilley from Patricia Lamb; Poems, Essays and Comments (Vol I)	1967 – 2009
	2	Letters to Louis Swilley from Patricia Lamb (Vol II)	1964 – 2011
	3	Letters from Louis Swilley to Patricia Lamb	1976 – 1981

PERSONAL WRITINGS

12	1	Personal Writings (various)	1966 – 2009
	2	Personal Writings: St. Thomas High School	1973 – 1990
	3	Personal Writings: University of St. Thomas	1996 – 2008