

TITLE: Theos Casimir Bernard collection

DATE RANGE: 1932-1987

CALL NUMBER: MS 1060

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Professor James Michael Mahar on May 30, 1989.

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PROCESSED BY: Charles Becker, Jr. under the supervision of Rose Byrne in November 1994; Finding aid transcribed by Nancy Siner, September 2015.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Theos Casimir Bernard was born in Los Angeles on December 10, 1908. Theos spent his early years in Tombstone, Arizona where his mother, Aura Georgina Crable-Bernard (later Gordon), was the first postmaster. His father left them while he was still a child.

Completing a bachelor's in Philosophy and a Degree in Law at the University of Arizona in 1934, he went on to study at Columbia University where he earned a doctorate in Anthropology and Oriental Studies in 1938. During his time at Columbia, Bernard traveled to India and Tibet to study Buddhist religion, philosophy, and customs. Bernard had been deeply interested in Buddhism since a bout of rheumatism in fall of 1931 required three months of bed rest, time that allowed him to read his mother's collection of East Asian literature.

From that period till his death Theos Bernard was a significant contributor to South East Asian religious studies. Invited to Tibet in 1936 to study the religious practices of the Lamas and monks, he was the first Caucasian man admitted to the sacred city of Lhasa, as well as the first initiated into the Tibetan-Buddhist priesthood. During his trip Bernard collected many rare wood-block books and other original materials he later donated to Yale University. Between 1937 and 1947, he wrote five books and numerous articles concerning Yoga and Buddhism. In 1947, during his second expedition to the KI Monastery in Western Tibet, he disappeared while in the remote Kulu Valley of Northern Punjab. By most accounts, Theos Bernard was shot and killed by Tibetan peasants when his caravan was mistaken for a Muslim raiding party.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection consists of biographical material collected by Professor J.M. Mahar and his research assistant, Carol Lingham, on the life of Theos Casimir Bernard, 1908-1947. Arranged in five series:

Series I: Biographical Research - The research centers on Theos Bernard's teenage experiences, college education, and adoption of Yoga and Buddhism. Contains information on his travels in India and Tibet. Includes an annotated bibliography of Bernard's works, Bernard

family tree and timeline, and J.M. Mahar's manuscript From Tombstone to Tibet: the student years of Theos C. Bernard.

Series II: Correspondence - Correspondence centering on the early to mid-1980s is primarily of J.M. Mahar and Linham's requests for information on Theos Bernard. There is much correspondence between Mahar and Dr. Viola Bernard. Several original letters of Aura Gordon-Bernard and a few copies of Theos Bernard's letters

Series III: Newspaper Clippings - Contains biographical articles and obituaries

Series IV: Interviews - Contains transcripts of interviews, gather in May of 1982 or 1983, of relatives and past acquaintances of Theos Bernard.

Series V: Miscellaneous Research and Notes - Contains notes, applications and documents related to Theos Bernard and Tibet.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Series I: Biographical Research - Timeline of Bernard family	1908-1947
	2	Bernard family tree	1847-1956
	3	Bibliography of Theos Bernard's published works; Annotated citations for <u>Penthouse of the Gods</u> , <u>Hatha Yoga</u> , <u>Heaven Lies Within Us</u> , <u>A Simplified Grammar of the Literary Tibetan Language</u> , and <u>Hindu Philosophy</u> .	undated
	4	Bernard undergraduate transcripts; Letter to Dean of University of Arizona; Correspondence with Office of the Registrar, University of Arizona	undated
	5	Bernard graduate transcripts; Correspondence with Office of the Registrar, Columbia University	1981
	6	Listing of University of Arizona Law School contemporaries of Bernard	1981
	7	Carol Lingham's Research Outline, LIS 506; Research Methods, Dr. R. Johnson.	1981
	8	Complaint for Separate Maintenance, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara (no. 38378)	July 27, 1942
	9	<u>From Tombstone to Tibet: The Student Years of Theos C. Bernard</u> Manuscript and notes for Arizona Historical Society	undated
	10	Carol Lingham's biographical notes, <u>From Tombstone to Tibet</u>	undated
	11	Biographical notes on Theos Bernard	undated
	12	Series II: Correspondence - Two letters to Division of Vital Records, State Department of Health, requesting vital records of relative of Bernard	November 15, 1983

13	Letter to Viola Bernard thanks her for enclosed 8x10 original photographs of Bernard	February 8, 1982
14	Letter from Theos Bernard to Professor Schneider, Columbia	August 9, 1932
15	Correspondence with Yale University Library requesting contents of Theos Bernard Collection; Contents of Theos Bernard Collection	1981
16	Correspondence of Glenn and Viola Bernard	May-October 1937
17	Correspondence of Viola Vernard and J.M. Mahar. Interview by J.M. Mahar	1981-1984
18	Letter of Carl Chafin, <u>Tombstone Weekly Nugget</u> , to <u>J.M. Mahar</u>	April 26, 1986
19	Correspondence of Dalai Lama and J.M. Mahar	July-August 1981
20	Original correspondence of Aura Gordon; Aura Gordon obituary, <u>Arizona Daily Star</u>	1935-1937; October 21, 1940
21	Letter of Carol Lingham to Viola Vernard	March 30, 1984
22	Original correspondence of Theos Bernard's stepbrother Ian Gordon	1936
23	Correspondence of Jane Mock, Paramount Picture Corporation, and Carol Lingham; Contains letters between Theos Bernard and Jane Mock	1984; undated
24	State Department letter to LTC Marvene Gordon regarding Theo Bernard's death	October 6, 1986
25	Letter of J.M. Mahar, in Dehli, to Jane Lingham	April 30, 1984
26	Letter of J.M. Mahar to Dagobert Runes and reply of death	December 1982
27	Letter of Carol Lingham to Eleanor Murray	July-November 1983
28	Letter of Emily Brown giving advice on contacts concerning Theos Bernard	undated
29	Correspondence of J.M. Mahar to Circumnavigator's Club	August 1982
30	Series III: Newspaper Clippings - Articles and newspaper clippings from <u>New York Times</u> , <u>Arizona Daily Star</u> , and <u>Family Circle</u> ; Ganna Walska's <u>Always Room at the Top</u> ; Bernard's visit to India; Lawsuits against Bernard; Bernard's obituaries	1936-1947
31	Newspaper clippings from <u>Arizona Daily Star</u> and <u>Tucson Daily Citizen</u> ; Short biographical essays on the Bernard family	1926-1965
32	<u>Newsweek</u> article on Pierre Bernard	July 1, 1933
33	<u>Arizona Daily Star</u> obituary of Jonathan Gordon, Mining Consultant	June 18, 1956
34	Series IV: Interviews - Interview with Thomas Tormey, research he has compiled on Bernard	March 9, 1981
35	Interview with Dugold Fordon, photographs Gordon boys at San Juan Mine,Dragoons	May 26, 1982
36	Interview with Daniel Hughes	May 22, 1983

	37	Interview with Mary Price, some notes and correspondence	May 10, 1983
	38	Interviews with Tombstone residents; Notes and a few letters from residents	May-June 1983
	39	Interview with Dr. William Wharton	May 14, 1982
	40	Series V: Miscellaneous Research, Documents and Notes - Carol Lingham's application for Library Service Fellowship; Includes research outline, "Theos Bernard, 1908-1947" for LIX 506	1981
	41	William D. Carlsen's <u>Tibet in Search of a Miracle</u> (New York: Nyack College, 1985); J.L. Dees' <u>Tangore and America</u> (United States Information Service); Newspaper clipping from The Kurode Institute; General literature on Tibet and Buddhism	1985-1987
	42	Notes listing possible contacts for oral biographies of Theos Bernard and family	undated
	43	Photographs, Tombstone	May 26, 1982