

**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 the 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's 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, gathered 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      | <b>Series I: Biographical Research</b> - 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       |

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|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 12 | <b>Series II: Correspondence</b> - Two letters to the Division of Vital Records, State Department of Health, requesting vital records of a 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 Bernard and J.M. Mahar. Interview by J.M. Mahar.  | 1981-1984                      |
| 18 | Letter of Carl Chafin, <u>Tombstone Weekly Nugget</u> , to J.M. Mahar   | 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;<br>October 21, 1940 |
| 21 | Letter of Carol Lingham to Viola Bernard  | 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 to Viola Bernard from Carol Lingham  | July 20, 1995                  |
| 29 | Letter to Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan from Viola Bernard  | May 1, 1992                    |
| 30 | Letter of Emily Brown giving advice on contacts concerning Theos Bernard  | undated                        |
| 31 | Correspondence of J.M. Mahar to Circumnavigator's Club  | August 1982                    |
| 32 | <b>Series III: Newspaper Clippings</b> - 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                      |
| 33 | Newspaper clippings from <u>Arizona Daily Star</u> and <u>Tucson Daily Citizen</u> ; Short biographical essays on the Bernard family  | 1926-1965                      |
| 34 | <u>Newsweek</u> article on Pierre Bernard   | July 1, 1933                   |

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| 35 | <u>Arizona Daily Star</u> obituary of Jonathan Gordon, Mining Consultant  | June 18, 1956 |
| 36 | <b>Series IV: Interviews</b> - Interview with Thomas Tormey, research he has compiled on Bernard  | March 9, 1981 |
| 37 | Interview with Dugold Fordon, photographs Gordon boys at San Juan Mine, Dragoons  | May 26, 1982  |
| 38 | Interview with Daniel Hughes  | May 22, 1983  |
| 39 | Interview with Mary Price, some notes and correspondence  | May 10, 1983  |
| 40 | Interviews with Tombstone residents; Notes and a few letters from residents   | May-June 1983 |
| 41 | Interview with Dr. William Wharton  | May 14, 1982  |
| 42 | <b>Series V: Miscellaneous Research, Documents, and Notes</b> - Carol Lingham's application for Library Service Fellowship; Includes research outline, "Theos Bernard, 1908-1947" for LIX 506   | 1981          |
| 43 | 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     |
| 44 | Notes listing possible contacts for oral biographies of Theos Bernard and family  | undated       |
| 45 | Photographs, Tombstone  | May 26, 1982  |