

**ZERA S. FINK (1902-1979) PAPERS, 1944-1980**

**Series 11/3/11/6**

**Boxes 1-2**

**Biography**

Zera Silver Fink was born August 8, 1902 in Holdrege, Nebraska, the eldest son of Daniel J. Fink and Nellie M. (Silver) Fink. He was educated at Holdrege High School from 1916 to 1920; Hastings College from 1920 to 1921; and Grinnell College, from which he received his B.A., from 1921 to 1924. After graduating from Grinnell he served as an English teacher at Grand Island (Nebraska) High School then as an Instructor in English at Grinnell from 1925 to 1927.

Fink took his M.A. in 1928 and his Ph.D. in 1931, both from Northwestern University. At Northwestern he served as an Assistant in English from 1927 to 1928 and as an Instructor from 1928 to 1930 and from 1931 to 1934. Fink became Assistant Professor of English in 1934. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1940 and to Professor in 1944. He retired from the faculty in 1970 and became Professor Emeritus. While at Northwestern, Fink served as Acting Chairman of the Department of English in 1954, 1957, and in the summers of 1958, 1965 and 1966. He was a member of the Administrative Board of the Graduate School.

Fink's academic specialties included Milton, seventeenth century English literature and Romantic literature. He published two books including *The Classical Republicans* (Northwestern University Press, 1945; second edition 1962), a seminal study of the relations between literature and politics in seventeenth century England; and *The Early Wordsworthian Milieu* (Clarendon Press, 1958), a notebook of Christopher Wordsworth which he edited. Fink also wrote numerous scholarly articles and reviews. He received a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies for 1959-1960.

Fink served as Chairman of the 1952 Newberry Library Renaissance Conference and was a member of the Modern Language Association of America, the Milton Association of America, the Modern Humanities Association, the International Association of University Professors of English, the Conference on British Studies and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the University Club of Evanston.

Fink married Lucille Ethel McDannell on March 12, 1927. They had one daughter, Carlotta L. Fink (Mrs. R. H. Bogart). Fink died October 1, 1979, in Tucson, Arizona.

**Description of the Series**

The Zera S. Fink Papers, comprising two boxes, are arranged into four groups: general correspondence, course materials, published works and research materials.

The series includes a small amount of general correspondence, which is arranged chronologically in nine folders. Fink's correspondence is largely administrative and professional and spans the years from 1944 to 1978; although the bulk of the correspondence is from 1956 to 1959 and largely concerns the printing and publication of his book, *The Early Wordsworthian Milieu*.

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Other correspondence pertains to his other book, *The Classical Republicans*; reflects his interest in Northwestern's retirement annuity program (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America and College Retirement Equities Fund); and concerns the administration of the English Department. The folder for 1970 contains a few letters congratulating Fink upon his retirement from the Northwestern faculty. The Papers also contain a few letters written by Lucille Fink in 1980.

The course materials include examinations, syllabi, bibliographies and notes for some of the courses Fink taught. The folders are arranged by course number. Also included are two folders containing M.A. and Ph.D. examinations. The bulk of the course materials and examinations falls within the 1960s.

Fink's published works include books, articles and reviews. The series includes one folder of reviews, advertisements and references to his first book, *The Classical Republicans* as well as a typeset and proof (both fragmentary), reviews, references and advertisements for *The Early Wordsworthian Milieu*. The papers also include drafts of articles, a lecture and offprints of articles and book reviews by Fink.

The research materials included in the series are mainly notes and references maintained by Fink on small index cards or slips of paper. The research materials concern aspects of Romanticism and Romantic authors. Also among the research materials are a folder of photostats and transcriptions of Christopher Wordsworth's notebook including Fink's notes and a folder of photostatic samples of Christopher and William Wordsworth's handwriting. The folder of handwriting samples contains some correspondence from handwriting analysts pertaining to ascription of the samples.

**Provenance:** The Archives acquired the Zera S. Fink papers in two accessions. One was transferred from Special Collections on June 21, 1978 (Acc. No. 78-24). The other was donated by Mrs. Lucille Fink on July 11, 1980 (Acc. No. 80-107).

**Restrictions:** None.

**Separations:** Two photographs have been removed to the Zera S. Fink folder in the Archives Photographic Collection. One cassette tape recording of Fink reciting from Milton's *Paradise Lost* has been removed to the Audio Collection in room 107. One set of University Senate Minutes has been placed in the Archives files for that body. Two pamphlets have been sent to Gifts and Exchange.

**Processor:** Kevin Barry Leonard; July 1980.

**Scanned and Reformatted by:** Rachel C. Teuer; August 17, 2004.

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**Container List**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1	1	Biographical Materials	
<b>GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE</b>			
	2	Correspondence	1944, 1948, 1954
	3	Correspondence	1956
	4	Correspondence	1957
	5	Correspondence	1958
	6	Correspondence	1959
	7	Correspondence	1960, 1962, 1964-1966, 1968
	8	Correspondence	1970
	9	Correspondence	1971-1976, 1978, n.d.
	10	Correspondence	1980
<b>COURSE MATERIALS</b>			
	11	English C38: English Literature of the Romantic Period - Final Exams	1955, 1967
	12	English D15: Studies in Romantic Literature - Final Exam	1964
	13	English D29: Studies in Romantic Literature - Syllabus and Bibliography	1968
	14	English E16: Studies in Romantic Literature (Coleridge Seminar) - Notes and Bibliographies	1962-1963, 1965, 1969, n.d.
	15	English E24: Studies in Milton - Notes and Bibliography	1966, 1967
	16	English E29: Studies in Romantic Literature - Subjects for Term Papers and Bibliographies	1962-1963, 1965, n.d.
	17	English E29: Studies in Romantic Literature - Notes	1966, 1967, n.d.
	18	M.A. Examinations	1967, 1970
	19	Preliminary Examinations for Ph.D. Degrees	1965, 1966, 1969, n.d.
<b>PUBLISHED WORKS</b>			
	20	<i>The Classical Republicans</i> : Reviews, Advertisements and References to <i>The Early Wordsworthian Milieu</i>	
	21	<i>The Early Wordsworthian Milieu</i> : Fragmentary Proof	

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	22	<i>The Early Wordsworthian Milieu</i> : Fragmentary Typescript	
	23	<i>The Early Wordsworthian Milieu</i> : Reviews and References	
	24	<i>The Early Wordsworthian Milieu</i> : Advertisements	
	25	Wordsworth Papers at Northwestern University Library	
 ARTICLES			
	26	"The Illustrations of Milton's Paradise Lost"	
	27	"King and Doge: A Chapter in Anglo-Venetian Political and Literary Relations"	
2	1	"Questions for Joycians"	
	2	"Shakespeare's England" (Lecture)	
	3	"The Theory of Mixed Government and Recent Historical Scholarship"	
	4	Offprints of Articles by Fink	
	5	Book Reviews by Fink	
 RESEARCH MATERIALS			
	6	Coleridge: Notes and References	
	7	Ideas for Articles	
	8	Miscellaneous Seminar and Research Notes	
	9	References in Books and Journals to Fink's Scholarship	
	10	Romanticism: Notes and References	
	11	Shelley: Bibliography, 1954	
	12	Shelley: Seminar	
	13	Venice: Notes and References	
	14	Christopher Wordsworth's Notebook:- Photostats and Transcriptions (Including Fink's Notes)	
	15	Wordsworth Handwriting Samples	
	16	Zuccarelli: Notes and References	