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Guide to the William G. Robbins Papers, 1886-2004

Title

William G. Robbins Papers

Dates

1886-2004 (inclusive)
1966-1999 (bulk)

Creator

Robbins, William G., 1935-

Summary

The William G. Robbins Papers document his teaching, research and publishing activities and include correspondence, course syllabi and lecture notes, articles and book reviews, and extensive research and reference materials created and assembled by Robbins. A scholar of the environmental history of North America and a noted author, Robbins was a faculty member in the Oregon State University History Department from 1971 until his retirement in 1999.

Quantity

14 cubic feet (14 archives boxes)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
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Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
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Finding aid prepared by Jodi Allison-Bunnell, 2007.

Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

William Robbins served as a faculty member in the Oregon State University History Department from 1971 until his retirement in 1999 as Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History. Robbins earned his B.S. from Western Connecticut State College and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Oregon. Robbins was named a Distinguished Professor at OSU in 1997.

Specializing in the history of the western United States from an economic and environmental perspective, Robbins has written extensively on the history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. His books include: *Landscapes of Promise: The Oregon Story, 1800-1940* (1997); *Landscapes of Conflict: The Oregon Story, 1940-2000* (2004); *Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon, 1850-1896* (1988); *Colony and Empire: The Capitalist Transformation of the American West* (1994); and *The Great Northwest: The Search for Regional Identity* (2001). His 2005 book, *Oregon: This Storied Land* was a finalist for the 2006 Oregon Book Award in general non-fiction.

Content Description

The William G. Robbins Papers consist of materials generated and assembled by Robbins for teaching, research, and writing. The papers consist of correspondence (arranged chronologically), annual activity summary files, article and book reviews written by Robbins, conference papers and speeches, teaching materials, class notes and papers from his graduate education, and extensive research and reference materials. The papers also include newspaper clippings; publications and reports; and a few photographs.

The correspondence pertains to the publication of his research, search for employment as a university instructor, and Robbins' teaching post in the Oregon State University History Department and document Robbins' interaction with colleagues, journal editors, and university administrators. The teaching materials includes course syllabi, lecture and research notes, graduate student files, and reference materials assembled for a series of courses on Native American historical topics. The graduate student files reflect Robbins' role as an advisor and contain correspondence, meeting notices, essays, and thesis proposals.

The research and reference materials were assembled by Robbins in the course of his research and writing and include photocopies from a variety of archives and primary source repositories.

Preferred Citation

William G. Robbins Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary container list available online.](#)

Related Material

The [Oregon Multicultural Archives](#) includes other collections pertaining to Native Americans. The Archives' collections include many collections documenting the history of forestry and the forest products in the Northwest including the [College of Forestry Records \(RG 139\)](#); the [Spotted Owl Management, Research, and Policy Collection](#); and the [Mater Engineering Tribal Consultation Files](#).

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Organizations

United States. Forest Service--History.

Topics

Forest policy--United States--History.

Forests and forestry--Minnesota.

Forests and forestry--Northwest, Pacific.

History--Study and teaching (Higher)--Oregon--Corvallis.

Indians of North America--Study and teaching (Higher)--Oregon--Corvallis.

Geographical Names

Northwest, Pacific--History--Sources.

Oregon--Environmental conditions--History.

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Photographs.