

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Charles W Morris collection, circa 1930-1979
AG 116

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AG 116

Creator

Morris. W, Charles

Abstract

This collection contains photocopies of correspondence and papers, 1937-1939; 1976, of Charles W. Morris (1903-1979), instructor at New Bauhaus, American School of Design, Chicago. Included are letters from Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and others concerning the hiring of Morris as an instructor at New Bauhaus, and the proposed closing of the school in 1938. Also included in the collection are course outlines, clippings, New Bauhaus catalogs, and manuscripts.

Quantity/ Extent

Fraction of a linear foot

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Charles William Morris was born May 23, 1901. In 1922 Morris earned his B.S. at Northwestern University focusing on engineering and psychology. Shortly after obtaining his B.S Morris began his doctoral work in philosophy at the University of Chicago under the tutelage of George Herbert Mead. Morris' work at the University focused on a symbolic theory of mind, a subject that he would base his dissertation on. Morris completed his doctoral work in 1925.

After the completion of his PhD Morris began his teaching career. His first position was at Rice University where he taught philosophy from 1925-1931. After leaving Rice University Morris became an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago. Morris held this position from 1931-1947. In 1948 Morris became a lecturing professor of philosophy staying with the University of Chicago. Morris held the lecturing profession for a decade. Morris left the University of Chicago in 1958, he subsequently accepted an offer to become a Research Professor at the University of Florida. Morris would remain in this position until the time of his death in 1979.

Morris was primarily interested in the semantic branch of philosophy. Morris believed that logical positivism, behavioral empiricism, and pragmatism should be unified. While at Rice University Morris wrote *The Six Theories of Mind* which was published by the

University of Chicago. Morris followed this publication with *Signs, Language, and Behavior* a work which sought to flesh out the relationship he perceived between syntactics, semantics, and pragmatics. Both of these works attempted to refresh and unify the philosophical ecology.

In 1934 Morris began a relationship with Europe and European philosophers. Morris had taken a sabbatical from the University of Chicago and began to travel abroad. During his explorations Morris met Bertrand Russell, Rudolph Carnap, Otto Neurath and Mortiz Schlick. Morris was also introduced to the logical positivist movement and was soon enamored. While speaking at the Eighth International Congress of Philosophy Morris spoke of his desire to unify pragmatism and positivism. Morris was such a supporter of the European philosophy movement that he helped many German and Austrian philosophers emigrate to the United States. This emigration would allow Morris to work with Carnap again and they would eventually start the *Encyclopedia* publishing through the University of Chicago in American. By 1943 the *Encyclopedia* slowed down and it was only Morris securing outside funding that allowed the publication to exist until its final publication in the 1970s.

Morris met and married Gertrude E. Thompson with whom he had a daughter, Sally Morris Petrilli in 1925. Morris married his second wife, Ellen Ruth Allen, in 1925. Morris passed away on January 15th 1979.

Scope and Content Note

The collection spans one box and five folders. The collection consists of photocopies of correspondence spanning the years 1937-1939. The collection also contains correspondence from 1976. Photo copies of press clippings, course outlines, manuscripts, and New Bauhaus catalogs are also present.

Arrangement

Series 1: Photocopies of correspondence and academic materials documenting the life of William C. Morris circa 1930-1979. .25 linear feet. (5 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

Morris, Charles W. <https://lccn.loc.gov/n7905475>

New Bauhaus

Moholy-Nagy, Laszlo <https://lccn.loc.gov/n79133790>

Smith, Henry Holmes <https://lccn.loc.gov/n83187230>

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

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The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

The collection was a gift of Morris' daughter, Sandy Perilli, 1985.

Preferred Citation

Charles W Morris collection, circa 1930-1979. AG116 . Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

The materials in this collection were withdrawn from MISCELLANEOUS SMALL COLLECTIONS (AG 8, Subgroup 29) by Kristi Bradford, May 1990. The finding aid was updated by Phoenix Smithey in 2017.

Container List

Series 1: [The Charles W. Morris collection, circa 1930-1979

Box	Folder	
1	1	Photocopies of correspondence, October 1937-October 1938
	2	Photocopies of correspondence, November 1938-September 1939; 1976.
	3	Photocopies of course outlines; manuscripts
	4	Photocopies of New Bauhaus catalogs.
	5	Photocopies of clippings, 1937-1969