J. Ridley Stroop Papers, 1859-2002

John Ridley Stroop

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Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [file or folder name], John Ridley Stroop Papers, 1859-2002. Center for Restoration Studies MS #83. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

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About this collection

Title: John Ridley Stroop Papers

Creator: John Ridley Stroop, (1897-1973)

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #83

Physical Description: 9 linear feet (4 boxes)

Dates (Inclusive): 1859-2002

Dates (Bulk): 1926-1988

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: This collection contains the personal and professional papers of J. Ridley Stroop; newsprint articles detailing his life as researcher, professor, preacher, and author; correspondence; photos; many of his books and publications; personal books; publications that reference his work and the "Stroop Test;" syllabi from his classes; notes and outlines for his classes, sermons, and books; and financial papers. The collection also contains some of the personal papers and objects of his wife and children.

Also, because of his family connection with David and Margaret Lipscomb, the collection also contains artifacts from their lives: correspondence; photos; physical objects; and books, newsprint, and magazine articles detailing their personal history.

The collection is housed in 4 boxes. Box 4 is housed separately in oversized storage because of its large size. It also includes a selection of books, both authored by J. Ridley Stroop and from his personal library. These have been added to the larger library collection and can be found in the catalog; each record includes a note that indicates the item is part of the J. Ridley Stroop collection and its location.

Biographical Note: John Ridley Stroop (1897-1973) was a man of many talents: renowned psychologist, Bible scholar, preacher and author. He was born in Murfreesboro, Tenn. on March 21, 1897. He began his academic career at David Lipscomb College, where he graduated as valedictorian in 1921. He married his wife, Zelma Dunn, great-niece of David and Margaret Lipscomb, in December of that same year. After their marriage, they lived with Margaret until her death in 1926. He received his PhD in Experimental Psychology from Peabody College, now a part of Vanderbilt University, in 1933. His most lasting contribution to the field has been “The Stroop Test,” which studies how interference affects mental processing speeds and attention. The test has been cited in scholarly publications well over 2,000 times since its initial publication and is still a foundational study in the field of cognitive psychology. However, shortly after its
publication, Dr. Stroop chose to switch his focus, and he began a diligent career in biblical study, preaching, and teaching.

He served at David Lipscomb College in various roles—registrar, professor, and department chair—for 45 years, until his retirement in 1967, at age 70. During this time, he also published seven major works, as well as many pamphlets and booklets, which discuss Christianity, the Bible, the Church, and the Restoration Movement. He was an active biblical scholar and preacher until his death in 1973.

Administrative Information
Immediate Source of Acquisition: Katherine Rall, granddaughter of John Ridley Stroop
Date of Acquisition: July 2013 and 2017
Accession Number: R2013.035 and R2017.072
Date of Accession: 22 October 2013 and 24 October 2017
Accessioned by: Kayla Sanderson and Mac Ice
Processor and Date of Processing: Kayla Sanderson and Mac Ice, 31 March 2014
Finding Aid Creator and Date: Kayla Sanderson, 31 March 2014
Finding Aid Update: Mac Ice and Amanda Dietz, 3 October 2022
Using this collection
Processing Status: Processed

Conditions Governing Access: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

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Arrangement of Materials: The processors retained the original order as received.

Separated Materials: Some books separated for cataloging.

Subjects and Keywords
Churches of Christ -- History -- 20th century
Churches of Christ -- Texas
Psychology
Manuscripts
Inventory

Box 1
[First Folder] Finding Aid
Personal History
Personal History- The Suburban News- June 3, 1981- Told by Zelma Dunn Stroop
Correspondence
Margaret Zellner Lipscomb Death Memorial- Gospel Advocate- Volume LXVII, No. 16- April 22, 1926
Papers and Newsprint Articles Regarding Avalon
Personal History
Death Announcements- 1973
Correspondence
Published Newsprint Articles
Is the Judgment of the Group Better than that of the Average Member of the Group- Journal of Experimental Psychology, Volume XV, Number 5- December 1932
Notes and Discussion: The Basics of Ligon’s Theory”- The American Journal of Psychology, Volume XLVII- July 1935
Experimental Materials- Inhibition Test Charts for Laboratory Use- 1932
Graduation Announcement- PHD- Peabody College- 1933
Curriculum Vitae- ca. 1936
Correspondence- General
Correspondence- M. Carr Payne- Georgia Institute of Technology, 1987-1988
Correspondence- Colin M. Macleod- University of Toronto, 1987-1991
Commencement Address- Peabody College- Vanderbilt University- William E. Maclean, 1993
Stroopfest- Vanderbilt University, 2002
Professional Publications and Citations of the Stroop Test
Newspaper Articles- The Stroop Test
Syllabus on Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans
Syllabus on Paul’s Briefer Epistles and the General Epistles
Syllabus on Later Hebrew History
Study Questions on the Book of Numbers
Study Questions on the Harmony of the Gospels by William A. Stevens and Earnest D. Burton
Study Questions on the Acts of the Apostles
Study Questions on Paul’s Epistles
Study Questions on James, I Peter, and I John
Notes on Lipscomb Training Class
Class Roles and Exams
Correspondence
David Lipscomb College 75th Anniversary Edition- The Nashville Tennessean, October 9, 1966
Newsprint Articles
Notes- General
Notes- Eternal Life
Notes- Love
Notes- The Church
Notes- The Restoration Movement
Notes- Elders and Church Organization
Pamphlets- Faith
Speaking Engagements- Preaching
Speaking Events- Non Preaching
Speaking Engagements- WDKN Radio, 1964
Correspondence
Financial Papers- Book Sales and Invoices
Newsprint Articles- Book Releases
Newsprint Articles- Book Reviews
Thomas Franklin Dunn Papers
Zelma Dunn Stroop- Mark Twain’s Scrapbook
Zelma Dunn Stroop- Correspondence
Zelma Dunn Stroop- Newsprint Articles
Zelma Dunn Stroop- Death Announcement- The Lipscomb News, March 1988
John Ridley Stroop Jr. Papers
Albert and Frances Stroop Papers

Box 2
[Wooden Blocks]
[Plate]
[Fabric]
[Wood]
Memorial Book
[Journal]
[3 Cassette Tapes]
[Printing Blocks]

Box 3
[3 Fans]

Box 4
[Photos of Stroop and Others]
[Margaret Zellner’s Diploma from Columbia Athenaeum]