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### 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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**John Ridley Stroop  
Papers, (1859-2002)**

Center for Restoration Studies  
Manuscripts #83

Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives  
Brown Library  
Abilene Christian University  
Abilene, TX 79699-9208

3 October 2022

## **About this collection**

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**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**

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**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 -- 20<sup>th</sup> century

Churches of Christ -- Texas

Psychology

Manuscripts

## **Inventory**

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### **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

Studies of Interference in Serial Verbal Reactions- Journal of Experimental Psychology. Volume  
XVIII, Number 6- December 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]