FINDING AID TO
THE THOMAS B. ROBERTS PAPERS,
1967-2006

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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, September 2011
Descriptive Summary

Creator Information  Roberts, Thomas B.

Title  Thomas B. Roberts papers

Collection Identifier  MSP 71

Date Span  1967-2006, predominant 1967-2005

Abstract  The Thomas B. Roberts papers (1973-2005; 0.5 cubic feet) documents his research in psychoactive substances through articles, clippings, correspondence, conference materials, and a course syllabus.

Extent  0.5 cubic feet (1 box)

Finding Aid Author  Kristin Leaman, 2011

Languages  English and Spanish; Castilian

Repository  Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:  ASC

Access Restrictions:  Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information:  December 29, 2008; Thomas B. Roberts; Donation

Accession Number:  20081229, 20081230, 20091001

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Subjects and Genres

Person

Roberts, Thomas B.

Topics

Psychedelic drugs
Ecstasy (Drug)
Hallucinogenic drugs and religious experience--Cross-cultural studies
Education

Form and Genre Types

Articles
Correspondence
Flier (printed matter)
Manuscript for publication
Manuscript (handwriting)
Program (document)
Reprints
Syllabus

Occupations

Psychology
Psychiatry
Professor
Biography of Thomas B. Roberts

Thomas B. Roberts graduated with an AB from Hamilton College, an MA from the University of Connecticut, and a PhD from Stanford University. He is Professor Emeritus at Northern Illinois University, where he has taught courses on Psychedelic Studies since 1981. Roberts planned the First Conference on Transpersonal Psychology Applied to Education in 1973 and is a founding member of both the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies and the International Transpersonal Association, as well as a co-founder of the Council on Spiritual Practices. A specialist in psychedelics, Roberts has published works such as *Psychedelic Medicine: New Evidence for Hallucinogenic Substances as Treatments; Psychedelic Horizons: Snow White, Immune System, Multistate, Enlarging Learning,* and *Psychoactive Sacramentals: Essays on Entheogens and Religion.*

Sources:

“LEPF Faculty.” *Northern Illinois University College of Education Leadership, Educational Psychology & Foundations.*
http://www.cedu.niu.edu/lepf/edpsych/faculty/roberts/index_roberts.html

Collection Description

Scope

The Thomas B. Roberts papers (1973-2005; 0.5 cubic feet) documents Roberts’ research and educational activities pertaining to psychoactive substances.


Processing Information

Materials have been housed in acid-free folders and inserts within an acid-free box. The collection has been arranged into correspondence, conference materials, writings, course materials, published materials and correspondence, and articles and correspondence.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box  Thomas B. Roberts papers, 1967-2006

Folder
1.  Partial Correspondence, 1977-2005
   Partial Correspondence [D-F]
   Partial Correspondence [G]
   Partial Correspondence [H-J]
   Partial Correspondence [K-L]

2.  Psychoactive Sacraments Conference, 1995
   Conference program, 1995
   Conference flier, 1995
   Conference registration confirmation, 1995
   Map to the conference, 1995
   Conference registration form, 1995
   Rough draft of invitation to the conference, unknown

3.  1st Conference on Transpersonal Psychology Applied to Education, 1973
   Conference itinerary, 1973
   Conference program; letter to Stanislav Grof, Joan Halifax-Grof, Paul H.
   Levine, Barry McWaters, Buryl Payne, Benjamin S. Westheimer, James
   Fadiman, Frances Clark; letter to Thomas B. Roberts from Hartley
   Productions, Inc. concerning preview prints; letter to Thomas B. Roberts from
   Robert J. Maple awarding $2, 450 to Thomas Roberts for the conference, 1973
   Receipts from the conference, 1973
   Hand-written notes on anticipated costs of conference, 1973
   Letters from Thomas B. Roberts to conference participants, 1973
Correspondence and receipts from the conference, 1973

Hand-written notes on anticipated costs of conference, 1973

Correspondence, 1973

4. Transpersonal Conference, Esalen Institute, 2000

Letter from John Buchanan to Thomas Roberts concerning the conference, 2000

Letter from Stanislav Grof to Thomas Roberts concerning the conference, 2000

Conference itinerary, 2000

Conference participant contact information, 2000

An Exploration of the Quantum/Vacuum Interaction (QVI) Hypothesis by Ervin Laszlo, unknown

Photocopy of “Humanistic psychologists look to revamp their image” by Lisa Rabasca in the APA Monitor, 2000

Psychoactive Sacraments, A Book of Questions by Thomas B. Roberts, 2000


The Consciousness Research of Stanislav Grof and the Modern Study of Mysticism: A Participatory Perspective by Jorge N. Ferrer, 2000

Addiction, Despair, and the Soul: Successful Psychedelic Psychotherapy, A Case Study by Richard Yensen and Donna Dryer, unknown


New Vocation for the Age-Old Market by Mike Arons, unknown

Perinatal Energies in Hitler’s Rise and Fall by Thomas Jenden Riedlinger, 2000

5. Writings, 1964-1996

Course syllabus for Psychedelic Research at Northern Illinois University for Summer 1981

Letter given to Thomas Roberts from Sue Burch. Written by Diane Kling, R.N. warning parents about stickers and tattoo transfers for children containing LSD and telling parents to monitor their children's Halloween treats, 1981

Flier advertising event for the 50th anniversary of Albert Hofmann’s Bicycle Ride, 1993

7. Published materials and correspondence, 1984-2008

Thomas B. Roberts' letter to the DEA concerning MDMA research, 1984


Resolution to National (MHA) regarding the assessment of less conventional approaches to treatment of severely mentally ill persons, 1980

Thomas B. Roberts’ review of Bridget Murphy’s article “Why aren’t antidrug programs working?” in the APA Monitor, 1997

“Psychedelics: A First Amendment Right” by a Psychedelicist, 1993

“The MDMA Question” by Thomas B. Roberts, 1986

“Ayahuasca-like effects obtained with Italian plants” by Francesco Festi and Giorgio Samorini, 1994

“When the Drug War Hits the Fan” by Thomas B. Roberts, 1991

“The Economics of Legalizing Drugs” by Richard J. Dennis, 1990

“First Word” by Kurt L. Schmoke, 1989

“Scenes From a Post War America” by Richard J. Dennis, 1992

8. Articles and Correspondence, 1998-2007


Letter from Jeffrey J. Kripal to Thomas B. Roberts thanking him for sending a copy of Psychoactive Sacramentals, 2007

From Emerson to Esalen: America’s Religion of No Religion by Jeffrey J. Kripal, 2007