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## Guide to the Othniel R. Chambers Papers, 1922-1951

### Title

Othniel R. Chambers Papers (MSS Chambers)

### Dates

1922-1951 (inclusive)

1934-1949 (bulk)

### Creator

Chambers, Othniel Robert, 1894-

### Summary

The Othniel R. Chambers Papers document Chambers' graduate education at Ohio State University and his teaching and research as a faculty member at Oregon State College. They include lectures and related materials for radio presentations; class notes; and publications. Chambers earned his Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State in 1926; he was professor and head of the Oregon State Psychology Department from 1929 until 1951.

### Quantity

1 cubic foot, including 1 photograph (2 boxes, including 1 oversize box)

### Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives

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Finding aid prepared by Tiah Edmunson-Morton and Elizabeth Nielsen, 2009.

## Biographical Note

Othniel Robert Chambers was a professor of psychology at Oregon State College from 1929 until his death in 1951. Born in Jasper, Indiana on April 19, 1894, Chambers received his A.B. and M.A. from Indiana University (1922) and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University (1926). He taught at Ohio State University in 1923-1926 and at the University of Texas in 1926-1929. In 1929, Chambers moved to Oregon, where he became a professor and head of Oregon State College's Department of Psychology. During the 1930s and 1940s, he gave numerous radio lectures for KOAC.

Chambers was active in numerous psychological associations throughout the region. He served as president of the Benton County Hygiene Committee (1950) and was a member of the Pacific Northwest Council of Family Relations. He was also a member of numerous social and honorary societies.

## Content Description

The Othniel R. Chambers Papers document Chambers' graduate education in psychology at Ohio State University and his teaching, research, and outreach activities at Oregon State College. The bulk of the collection consists of radio lectures and related materials for numerous radio programs that Chambers presented on KOAC in the 1930s and 1940s. These programs include *Getting Along with Others*, *The Individual Today* and *Is My Child Growing Up?*. The collection also includes 6 16-inch phonograph records with recordings of radio talks given in 1935-1936 as *Is My Child Growing Up?* programs in the Family Life Series as well as the Homemakers' Hour. The recorded talks address children's behaviors, prejudices, and capacities; attitudes toward play; and children following a leader.

The papers also include class notes from Ohio State University, class notes and lectures presented at Oregon State, publications and student papers, reprints of professional journal articles, and newspaper clippings. The student papers include an undated report by Helen Steyaert, *Medical Practices Among the Pacific Northwest Indians*, written in the 1930s or early 1940s. Documents that are identified as "book reviews" appear to be Chambers' notes and summaries of books and articles he read and studied.

The collection also includes materials assembled by Chambers' wife, Gladys Dawson, pertaining to food preparation, 4-H activities, and household management. Most of the items were published in the 1920s and many were prepared by the Ohio State University Extension Service. Materials pertaining to the Women's Club at Ohio State, of which she was a member, are also included.

The photograph is of Othniel R. Chambers and his wife.

## Preferred Citation

Othniel R. Chambers Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

## Acquisition Information

The materials were donated to the Archives by Chambers' family in 1979.

## Related Material

The Archives' collections include the papers of [Jesse F. Brumbaugh](#), a psychology professor at Oregon State from 1915 until 1939. The [Leo George and Ruth Ann Kramer Papers](#) include class materials from a psychology course taken by Leo Kramer in 1951. Additional materials about child development research are available in the Human Development and Family Sciences Department (RG 085) and [College of Home Economics and Education \(RG 141\)](#) Records. Extensive materials pertaining to KOAC radio programs are part of the [KOAC Records \(RG 015\)](#).

## 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

### **Topics**

Child development.  
Psychology--Study and teaching (Higher)--Oregon--Corvallis.  
Radio programs--Oregon.  
Radio in higher education--Oregon.

### **Forms of Materials in the Collection**

Phonograph records.  
Photographic prints.

### **Other Creators**

KOAC (Radio station : Corvallis, Or.)  
Ohio State University. Dept. of Psychology.  
Ohio State University. Extension.  
Oregon State Agricultural College. Dept. of Psychology.  
Oregon State College. Dept. of Psychology  
Steyaert, Helen Elizabeth.