

Flora Armitage T. E. Lawrence collection

Finding aid prepared by Megan North

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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University Archives, Texas State University

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Alkek Library Room 580

601 University Drive

San Marcos, Texas, 78666

UnivArchives@txstate.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	University Archives, Texas State University
Title	Flora Armitage T. E. Lawrence collection
Date [inclusive]	1944-1968
Extent	0.25 Linear feet
Location note	Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice may be required for use.
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

[Item name, date] Series 90.400.Friends.Floria Armitage T.E. Lawrence Collection. University Archives, Texas State University.

Biographical/Historical note

Flora Armitage was born in Yorkshire, England on October 21, 1911. She immigrated to the United States as a teenager, living in Texas with her family. She moved to New York City in 1945, and began working for the British Information Services. Miss Armitage worked for the British Information Services until her retirement. She died in Webster, Texas on February 6, 1995.

Miss Armitage published three novels: *Sebastian* in 1946, *The Five Deceivers* in 1963, and *The Transformation of Mrs. Arthur* in 1966. She also published a biography in 1955, "*The Desert and the Stars: a Biography of Lawrence of Arabia.*" Miss Armitage was also known for her short fiction and essays published in the United Kingdom. She wrote, but did not publish, four other novels, some poetry, and a series of short stories. At the time of her death, she was working on a biography of William Henry Hudson.

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, published literary journals, printed material, and book covers (1 box), from 1944 to 1969, related to the life of T. E. Lawrence and Flora Armitage's biography, *The Desert and the Stars*. The Special Collections at Texas State has one copy of *The Desert and the Stars*.

The collection is arranged into seven main series, Correspondence, Writings by Flora Armitage, Writings by Others, Research and Field Notes, Photographs, Memorabilia, and Journals. Original order was partially maintained. Correspondence not related to newspaper articles were arranged alphabetically by author by the archivist. The creator's folder titles were not all used. The collection is small, and has some research material pertaining to *The Desert and the Stars*, but it contains mostly letters and newspaper clippings about T. E. Lawrence written after Miss Armitage's book was published.

Arrangement note

This accession is arranged into seven series by type of material. Series I: Correspondence; Series II: Writings by Armitage; Series III: Writing by Others; Series IV: Research and field notes; Series V: Photographs; Series VI: Memorabilia; Series VII: Journals.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives, Texas State University April 12, 2005

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers without restriction.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Materials donated by Flora Armitage in 1967.

Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Correspondence 1944-1968	Box	Folder
	1	1-3
Scope and Contents note		
<p>The Correspondence Series is divided into three subseries, Letters Concerning The Sunday Times Article, Letters Concerning The Sunday Times Series, and Letters to Armitage Arranged Alphabetically. The Letters concerning The Sunday Times article subseries contains newspaper clippings from The Sunday Times of April 1951 and correspondence related to these clippings. The first clipping is an article by W. E. Johns entitled "How Lawrence joined the R. A. F." which appeared in The Sunday Times on April 8. The other clippings are letters to the editor published in response to Johns' article, one of which was written by John F. Chalkley. The correspondence is between Armitage, Colonel S. F. Newcombe, and John F. Chalkley.</p>		
<p>The Letters Concerning The Sunday Times Series subseries contains Part 1 through 4 of The Sunday Times Weekly Review series entitled "The Secret Life of Lawrence of Arabia," by Colin Simpson and Philip Knightley. The correspondence in this subseries is between Flora Armitage and Colin Simpson, and is related to the newspaper series.</p>		
<p>The Letters to Armitage Arranged Alphabetically subseries contains letters written to Armitage regarding the life of T. E. Lawrence and her book The Desert and the Stars. They range in date from 1944 to 1958.</p>		
Letters concerning The Sunday Times article "How Lawrence joined the R. A. F." by W. E. Johns 1951	1	1

Writings by Armitage

Letters concerning The Sunday Times series "The Secret Life of Lawrence of Arabia," by Colin Simpson and Philip Knightley 1968	1	2
Letters to Armitage arranged alphabetically 1944-1958	1	3
Writings by Armitage undated	Box	Folder
	1	4
Scope and Contents note		
The Writings by Armitage series contains commentary on "Lawrence of Arabia," a play by John Huntington. This nine-page long, typed commentary also contains handwritten notes by Armitage in the margins.		
Writings by others 1954-1955	Box	Folder
	1	5
Scope and Contents note		
The Writings by Others series contains "Aldington's Back- View of Lawrence: His Charges and Treatment of the Evidence," by B. H. Liddell Hart written in 1955, and pages 44-60 "T. E. Lawrence – Security Risk" by A. J. Neame in July 1954, torn from The European.		
Research and field notes 1947-1953	Box	Folder
	1	6
Scope and Contents note		
This series contains typed notes written by Armitage concerning her June 22, 1947 meeting with Colonel Newcombe, and her January 30, 1948 meeting with Colonel Isham. Both of these meetings were related to Armitage's research on T. E. Lawrence. The series contains a copy of typed notes written by Colonel Newcombe concerning Richard Aldington's 1954 biography, "Lawrence of Arabia: a Biographical Inquiry." This series also contains extracts from the T. E. Shaw – Charlotte Shaw Correspondence in		

Photographs

the British Museum. Also included is correspondence from 1951 to 1959, concerning T. E. Lawrence's "Who's Who" entry.

Photographs 1917-1963	Oversize	Box	Folder
	1	1	7

Scope and Contents note

This series contains 37 photographs taken between 1917 and 1963. These photographs are of Lawrence in Arabian attire, western attire, his homes at Clouds Hill in England and Azrak and Yenbo, and his tomb in Dorset, England. 3 oversized, mounted photographs have been separated and placed in the repository map case EZ File.

Memorabilia	Box	Folder
	1	8

Scope and Contents note

This series contains items collected by Flora Armitage related to T. E. Lawrence. The series contains book covers from Lawrence's translation of "The Odyssey," and "T. E. Lawrence to his Biographers" by Robert Graves and Liddell Hart. This series also contains photocopies and original newspaper clippings pertaining to the life and death of T. E. Lawrence

Journals 1962, 1969	Box	Folder
	1	9

Scope and Contents note

This series contains two journals: Texas Quarterly, Autumn 1962, Volume V, Number 3, and The American Journal of Psychiatry, February 1969, Volume 125, Number 8. Texas Quarterly contains three articles about T. E. Lawrence: "T. E. Lawrence as a Writer" by Gordon Mills, page 35, "Lawrence of Arabia and the Seven Pillars of Wisdom" by Bertram Rota,

Journals

page 47, and “The T. E. Lawrence Collection at The University of Texas” by Anne Bowen, page 54.