Dale Lowell Morgan papers, 1933-1978

Overview of the Collection

**Creator**
Morgan, Dale L. (Dale Lowell), 1914-1971

**Title**
Dale Lowell Morgan papers

**Dates**
1933-1978 (inclusive)
1933 1978

**Quantity**
2 boxes. (0.75 linear feet)

**Collection Number**
MS 0579

**Summary**
The Dale Lowell Morgan papers (1933-1978) consists of correspondence, microfilm, photocopies, histories, publication information, and other materials relating to The Mormon bibliography. Included are Morgan's introduction to the bibliography, the preface by Chad Flake, sample pages, correspondence between the Mormon Bibliography Committee and the University of Utah Press, and histories of how the bibliography evolved. Also included in the collection are photocopies of his correspondence with Bernard De Voto, materials concerning Western and Mormon history, comments on books written by De Voto and Juanita Brooks, and discussions of the fur trade. Several letters discuss differing interpretations of the mental condition of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon Church.

**Repository**
University of Utah Libraries, Special Collections.
Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library
University of Utah
295 South 1500 East
Salt Lake City, UT
84112-0860
Telephone: 801-581-8863
special@library.utah.edu

**Access Restrictions**
Twenty-four hour advanced notice encouraged. Materials must be used on-site. Access to parts of this collection may be restricted under provisions of state or federal law.

**Languages**
English

Historical Note

Dale Lowell Morgan was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1914. When he was five years old his father died, and his mother taught school to support the family. When he was fourteen, Morgan contracted meningitis, which left him totally deaf. He graduated from West High School in 1933, and went on to the University of Utah. In 1937 he earned a bachelor's degree in art, with a minor in English.

Morgan's first job was with the Utah Works Progress Administration (WPA). He wrote introductory historical essays for the Historical Records Department, and his talents were soon acknowledged. The WPA published Morgan's first monograph in 1940. In the same year, the Utah Historical Quarterly published his The State of Deseret. He was soon transferred to the writer's program of the WPA, where he edited and did most of the writing for Utah, A Guide to the State, published in 1941.

Throughout his career as historian and writer, Morgan contributed chapters and sections to books by other authors, and wrote articles and book reviews, in addition to his own projects. He worked on a project he called "The Mormons and the Far West," which entailed typing more than 2,000 pages of articles from microfilm. Since his move to Washington in 1942, Morgan compiled material for the publication which was eventually published as A Mormon Bibliography in 1978.

In 1954, Morgan took a position with the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. He remained there until his death in 1971. His bibliography was completed and published in 1978 after six years of work on behalf of a committee formed by Dr. Everett L. Cooley, Director of Special Collections at the Marriott Library at the University of Utah, and Chad Flake, Curator of Special Collections at the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University.

Content Description

The Dale Lowell Morgan papers (1933-1978) contain correspondence, microfilm, articles, histories, publication information, and other materials relating to The Mormon Bibliography. Included in the materials are Morgan's introduction to the bibliography, the preface by Chad Flake, sample pages, correspondence between the Mormon Bibliography Committee and the University of Utah Press, and histories of how the bibliography evolved. Among these materials are the notification of Dale Morgan's death in the Bancroft Library newsletter, and the list of books which were received by Brigham Young University upon Morgan's death. Related collections include Ms 560, The Dale L. Morgan papers microfilm collection.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

Collection Name, Collection Number, Box Number, Folder Number. Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, The University of Utah.

Administrative Information

Location of Originals

Dale Lowell Morgan papers, 1933-1978
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv36810
Photocopies were copied at Stanford University Library in 1972.

Originals of De Voto letters are in the Bernard De Voto Papers, Stanford University Library; Palo Alto, California.

**Acquisition Information**

Received from Stanford University at the request of Avis De Voto in 1972.

Received from T. Gerald Bleak in 1973.

**Processing Note**

Processed by Kate Kimball in 2003.

**Related Materials**

See also the microfilmed Dale L. Morgan papers from the Bancroft Library (MS 0560).

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**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**General Materials**

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<td>1-3 Bernard DeVoto, Correspondence</td>
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<td>4 Bernard DeVoto, &quot;Utah&quot;</td>
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<td>5 T. Gerald Bleak, Personal Information</td>
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<td>6-14 T. Gerald Bleak, Correspondence</td>
<td>1933-1970</td>
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<td>1 Dale L. Morgan, &quot;Introduction to the Mormon Bibliography&quot;</td>
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<td>2 Dale L. Morgan, &quot;Introduction to A Mormon Bibliography,&quot; Offprint from 1st Edition</td>
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<td>3 Chad Flake, Editor’s Preface to A Mormon Bibliography</td>
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<td>4 A Mormon Bibliography, Sample Pages</td>
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<td>5 A Mormon Bibliography, Key to Symbols and Chronical Index</td>
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<td>John James, &quot;Remembering the Mormon Biography and Dale L. Morgan&quot;</td>
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<td>Notification of Dale L. Morgan's Death in Berkeley General Library Newsletter</td>
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1          Dale L. Morgan Letters (microfilm)

Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
Fur trade--West (U.S.)

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http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv36810
Finding aid created by Kate Kimball
2003 (last modified: 2017 and 2019)

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