

Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Folklore and Language Archive (MUNFLA)

English 200 Collection Description

Fonds description written by Anita Best under the co-sponsorship of the Canadian Council of Archives and the Association of Newfoundland & Labrador Archives. Reformatted by Renee Lawrence.

TITLE:

English 200 Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER:

Accession Numbers:

- 63-001A to 63-002
- 64-005A/B to 64-005E/B
- 65-009 to 65-011F
- 68-038

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

16 cm of textual records
1 audio reel
664 Folklore Survey Cards (FSC)

DATES:

1962-1968

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Folklorist Herbert Halpert began teaching at Memorial University in 1962, before the establishment of the Folklore Department. For four years he taught undergraduate students introductory elements of folklore in the course, English 200, a full-year required course for undergraduate students. While

he was teaching, Halpert encouraged students to interview their relatives and friends and to submit samples of various “folklore items”. He encouraged his colleagues, with some success, to involve their students in this collecting. Halpert was instrumental in establishing the Folklore Department in 1968.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection consists of short term papers, brief responses to on-going folklore survey project on folklore survey cards and assorted brief items on slips of paper. The collection represents material gathered from English 200 students as a consequence of the teaching efforts of Herbert Halpert and his colleague Elizabeth Orsten. Subjects covered include weather, tall tales, legends, traditional medicine, Newfoundland dialectical expressions, proverbial sayings, beliefs, songs, customs, riddles and games. Orsten contributed examples of proverbial sayings on dumbness. Students obtained the information from informants or from their own experiences. Some biographical information on individual informants is available.

The folklore survey cards contain information from the student manuscripts and therefore are duplicated by some of the manuscript material. Fifty of the cards were contributed by students from other English 200 classes and by Dr. Halpert.

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS:

No restrictions on access

FINDING AID AVAILABLE:

Indexes are available under place name, personal name, folklore genre and collector. The master accession folders contain information about the physical arrangement of the material, a listing of the contents of the files and the names of most of the student contributors.

TERMS GOVERNING USE AND REPRODUCTION:

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LANGUAGE:

English

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Title based on creator and contents of fonds