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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

MILTON, JOHN R.

Papers 1963-1995

(bulk dates 1970-1992)

Quantity: .5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated to the University of South Dakota in July 2005 by Dr. Emily Haddad, Chair of English Department at the University of South Dakota. John R. Milton was a professor of English at USD from 1963-1995.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

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PROCESSED BY: Gayla Koerting, September 2005

Accession No.: RC2005.09

## History

John Ronald Milton was born on May 24, 1924, in Anoka, Minnesota. He grew up around the St. Paul area and served in the Army Signal Corps from 1943-1946. Milton received his BA (1948) and MA (1951) from the University of Minnesota and received his doctorate in American literature and creative writing (1961) from the University of Denver. He taught at Augsburg College in Minneapolis from 1949-1956 and was chair of the English Department at Jamestown College in North Dakota for the next six years. In 1963 he became a professor of English at the University of South Dakota. Milton then began editing a literary magazine that eventually earned national recognition, *South Dakota Review*. His publications included "This Lonely House," "The Novel of the American West," "The Literature of South Dakota," and "South Dakota." Milton would write over 200 publications and scholarly/editorial reviews. One of his short stories, "The Inheritance of Emmy One Horse" won the "Best American Short Story" honor in 1969. Milton's reading of "The Legacy" at the dedication ceremony of the Fighting Stallions memorial in Pierre to honor South Dakota Governor George Mickelson after his 1993 death in a plane crash earned Milton additional accolades. He married Lynn Hinderlie on August 3, 1946 and the couple had one daughter, Nanci. He died on January 28, 1995, after suffering a heart attack.

## Scope and Content Note

The John R. Milton papers are organized into four series, **Correspondence**, **Photographs**, **Printed Materials**, and **Misc**. The **Correspondence** series comprises professional correspondence related to Milton as a professor of English and editor of *South Dakota Review* at the University of South Dakota from 1963-1995. General correspondence is contained in folders entitled, "A," "B," "C," etc. Incoming and outgoing correspondence for a person or organization with more than 2 letters are contained in one folder; these are listed directly after "General" files. The **Photographs** series consist of 2 folders, one that includes black and white images and one that include an image in color. The **Printed Materials** series consist of the following folders: 1) Newspaper Clippings and Articles; 2) Statement of Goals/Instructional Improvement Program; 3) John Milton Creative Writing Endowment; and 4) Vita. The **Misc. Materials** series consists of one folder containing memos and notes.

## Further Reading:

Milton, John R. *The Literature of South Dakota*. Vermillion, SD: Dakota Press, 1976.

Call No.: PS571 .S8 L56; Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Milton, John R. *This Lonely House*. Minneapolis, MN: J. D. Thueson, 1968.

Call No.: PS3525 .I6772 T5; Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Milton, John R. *The Loving Hawk*. Fargo ND: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1962. Call No.: PS3525 .I6772 L68; Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Milton, John R. *The Novel of the American West*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1980. Call No.: PS3653 .I454 N68; Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Milton, John R. *Western Plains*. Provincetown, Mass.: Poet's Gallery, 1964.

Call No.: PS3525 .I6772 W47; Location: Chilson Collection, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Milton, John R. *South Dakota: A Bicentennial History*. New York: Norton, 1977.

Call No.: F651 .M5; Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**Related Subjects:**

Authors, American--20<sup>th</sup> century  
Milton, John R., 1924-1995  
University of South Dakota--Alumni and Faculty  
South Dakota authors

**BOX 1**

**CORRESPONDENCE (21 folders)**

General "A" (1 folder)

Atlantic Monthly Press

1967 January 17

General "B" (1 folder)

Baumeister, Robert

1969 January 31

Basile, Joseph-Chair of USD English Dept. (1 folder)

1979 February 14

1979 February 15

Block, Raphael-Chair of USD English Dept. (1 folder)

1977 October 17

1977 November 3

1977 December 21

Bowen, Richard L-President of USD (1 folder)

1972 January 5

1972 January 7

1973 November 8

General "C" (1 folder)

Cash, Joseph H.-Dean, USD College of Arts and Sciences (1 folder)

1976 July 11

Coker, Howard-Director of USD Office of Research (1 folder)

1985 February 27

General "D" (1 folder)

Donohue, William R.-USD VP for Student Life

1988 May 2

General "G" (1 folder)

Gray, Sanford et. al.

1966 December 2

Gasque, Thomas, "Tom," Chair of USD English Dept. (1 folder)

n.d.

1974 May 15

1975 March 5

1975 March 11

Gerber, Philip L. (1 folder)

n.d.

1965 October 19

1965 October 27

Habbe, Donald-Dean, USD College of Arts and Sciences (1 folder)

1969 December 1

1970 November 24

1972 January 13

1972 December 21

**BOX 1 CONT.**

**CORRESPONDENCE CONT**

Knutson, Wayne S.-Chair of USD English Dept. (1 folder)

1966 October 4

1969 January 16

1967 January 12

1967 January 12

1967 February 3

1967 February 10

1967 February 17

1970 October 28

General "L" (1 folder)

    Lein, Charles D. -President of USD (1 folder)

        1982 February 3

Manfred, Frederick (1 folder)

1967 January 13 (2 pgs.)

McFadden, Joseph M.-President of USD (1 folder)

1986 March 24

1987 October 13

Milton, John R. (1 folder)

1967 October 13

1968 September 19

1984 July 2

Milton, Lynn-wife (1 folder)

n.d.

1971 July 19

1995 February

General "N" (1 folder)

    Northwest Area Foundation

        1987 May 27

Strader, J. E (1 folder)

1967 November 13

1967 November 15 w/ encl.

General "U" (1 folder)

    University Research Committee

        1967 January 12

General "W" (1 folder)

    Wicklund, Dick

        1966 September 14 (4 pgs.)

    Wolfe, Susan J.-Chair of USD English Dept.

        1987 March 30

**PHOTGRAPHS (2 folders)**

Black and White:

    2-John R. Milton

    2-John R. Milton w/ Dr. Warren M. Lee

    1-Spirit Mound

Color:

    1-John R. Milton

PRINTED MATERIALS (4 folders)

Newspaper Clippings and Articles (Chronological Order) (1 folder)

Haslam, Gerald. "An Interview with John R. Milton," (19, no. 2) 113-124.

Reprinted from *Western American Literature*, n.d. w/ encl.

Erlandson, Jim. "Former Faculty Member Published Poetry," n.d.

Novak, Dan. "Biography Chronicles Life of Oscar Howe, Artist-in-Residence,"

*Volante* 27 March 1973

Department of English. "Saluting John R. Milton," *English Notes* 20 (November 1973) 9.

"USD Professor Publishes Two Books in 1972," *Vermillion Plain Talk* 4 January 1973.

"USD Publication Receives Top National Literary Recognition," *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* 28 August 1974, 13.

South Dakota Committee on the Humanities, "Milton to Write State History,"

*Humanities* 3 (April 1975)

"Milton to Deliver Harrington Lecture at University," *USD News* 11 February 1983

"Milton Edits 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Review," *USD Today* (Spring 1989)

"Two USD Faculty Among S.D. Hall of Fame Inductees," *USD News* 27 Sept. 1993  
w/ encl.

Olson, Connie. "John Milton, Longtime USD English Instructor Dies," *Sioux Falls*

*Argus Leader* 29 January 1995, 2 pp.

"Memorial Service for John R. Milton," *College of Arts and Sciences Update*

30 January 1995

"John Milton," February 1995, no newspaper listed

"English Professor John Milton Dies from Heart Attack," *Volante*

1 February 1995

"Services Feb. 1 for USD Prof. John R. Milton, 70," *Aviso* 1 February 1995

"John Milton" *Sioux City Journal*, obituary, n.d.

Dan O'Brien, "John R. Milton, 1924-1995," *Western American Literature*

30 (May 1995, no. 1)

PRINTED MATERIALS CONT.

Statement of Goals: 1977-1978 (1 folder)

1978-1979

Instructional Improvement Program: n.d.

John Milton Memorial Creative Writing Endowment (1 folder)

Vita & Faculty Data, John R. Milton (1 folder)

MISC. MATERIALS (1 folder)

5-Handwritten Memos

--1-Address of Milton's mother; 3-expressing sympathy to English Dept.;

1-11 Jan. 1972 meeting notes

1-Book Jacket for *This Lonely House* by John R. Milton

**Note:** See also South Dakota Review, John R. Milton Files, Richardson Collection, Box 3

**Box 3-South Dakota Review, Richardson Collection**

**“SD Review Files & John Milton ”**

**Folder**

1. Special Issue of SDR Devoted to the American Indian
2. SD Review
3. SD Review
4. Typescript of First Draft of the Novel of the American West John Milton
5. All Typed
6. Early Drafts of Published Poems and of Finished Poems
7. 1<sup>st</sup> Draft and early Versions
8. Typescript of First Draft of the Novel of the American West John Milton
9. Original Typescript of First Draft of South Dakota: A History John Milton
10. Wayne Mielke
11. My Copy of Converted page proofs Novel of the American West
12. South Dakota: A Bicentennial History first draft
13. 2<sup>nd</sup> typing of South Dakota: A Bicentennial History
14. Milton
15. 2<sup>nd</sup> typing of SD Book
16. Notes to an Odd Buffalo Milton

