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**Archives of the History of American Psychology
University Libraries, The University of Akron**

Fred Attneave, Papers

COLLECTION DATES, 1949-1991

VOLUME: 14. 85 linear feet, (boxes M3487-M3531)

ACCESS: This collection is open for research

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth Mazzola & Vince Vales, May 2007

Biographical Note

Fred Attneave was born on March 25, 1919 in Greenwood, Mississippi. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1942 with a double major in Psychology and English. Attneave was drafted into the army and served as an officer in the Army Signal Corps for three years in the Pacific theatre working on radio and teletype installations. After the Army, he entered graduate school at Stanford University and received his Ph.D. in Psychology in 1949. He returned to Mississippi and spent two years teaching in the psychology department at the University of Mississippi. Attneave then moved to San Antonio to do full-time research in the Air Force Personnel Training and Research Center, an organization that gave him considerable freedom to develop his own ideas.

After one year (1956-1957) as a Fellow at the Center of Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and one year as a Visiting Associate Professor (1957-1958) at the University of California at Berkeley he came to the University of Oregon. At Oregon, he published a series of papers, chapters, and a book on the applications of information theory to psychology that brought him an international reputation. He established Oregon as a center for perceptual research. Attneave retired from the psychology department in 1985. He died at his home on December 24th from complications of pneumonia at the age of 72.

Scope and Content

The Fred Attneave papers consist largely of research notes for various studies conducted that focus mainly on visual perception. The studies begin with the work he did in the Air Force through his professorial career at the University of Oregon. The subjects included in the research notes are largely comprised of memory, shape recognition, and shape similarities. The collection also contains published and unpublished works by Attneave. Additionally, within the collection are the many professional psychological associations that Attneave was involved in and mainly include conference and symposium

information for many psychology events. The focal point of these organizations is the Society of Experimental Psychologists. The collection also encompasses Attneave's personal and professional correspondence and technical reports from his colleagues on numerous psychological subject areas.

Correspondence and organizations series are arranged chronologically; written works are arranged alphabetically by title, and technical reports are arranged alphabetically by author.

The Fred Attneave papers are organized into the following series and subseries:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials
- Series 2: Awards
- Series 3: Correspondence
- Series 4: Written Works
 - Subseries: by Attneave
 - Subseries: by other authors
- Series 5: Research Materials
 - Subseries: Visual Perception
- Series 6: Symposiums
- Series 7: Newsletters
- Series 8: Organizations
- Series 9: Subject Files
- Series 10: Technical Reports
- Series 11: Oversized Materials

Inventory

Box 1: [M3487]

Folder-Contents

Series 1: Biographical Materials

1. Biography and Resume
2. Passports and Wallet
3. Chris Attneave
4. Memorial letters, articles, and pictures [1992]

Box 2: [M3488]

Folder-Contents

Series 1: Biographical Materials

1. Ole Miss Yearbook [1941]
2. Ole Miss Yearbook [1942]

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Series 1: Biographical Materials

1. Army Certificates and Records
2. Army Orders [1942-1944]
3. Army Special Orders
4. Theory and Operation of Multiplex Distributor Tables Manual [June 1, 1945]

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Series 2: Awards

1. Psychology Awards
2. National Institute of Health Award Bull Statue [1976]

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Series 3: Correspondence

1. Personal [1954-1957]
2. Personal [1958-1959]
3. Personal [1960-1961]
4. Personal [1963-1969]
5. Personal [1970-1979]
6. Personal [1980-1989]
7. Personal [1990-1992]
8. Personal [no date]
9. Personal [no date]

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Series 3: Correspondence

1. Professional [1943-1946]
2. Professional [1950-1951]
3. Professional [1953]

4. Professional [1954]
5. Professional [1955]
6. Professional [Jan-Apr 1956]
7. Professional [May-June 1956]
8. Professional [Aug-Dec 1956]

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Series 3: Correspondence

1. Professional [1957]
2. Professional [1958-1959]
3. Professional [1960-1965]
4. Professional [1966-1969]
5. Professional [1970-1971]
6. Professional [1972]
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Series 3: Correspondence

1. Professional [1978]
2. Professional [1979]
3. Professional [1980]
4. Professional [1981-1982]
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6. Professional [1985-1988]
7. Professional [1991]
8. Professional [no date]

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Series 4: Written Works by Attneave

1. Reprints [A-C]
2. Reprints [D-L]
3. Reprints [P-R]
4. Reprints [Q-V]

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Series 4: Written Works by Attneave

1. Publications
2. Unpublished Papers [A]
3. Unpublished Papers [C,D,E]
4. Unpublished Papers [I,L,M]
5. Unpublished Papers [Perception]
6. Unpublished Papers [P]
7. Unpublished Papers [Pr,Q,R]

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Series 4: Written Works by Attneave

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2. Unpublished Papers [Spatial]
3. Unpublished Papers [Sy-Ti]
4. Unpublished Papers [Tr-V]

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Series 4: Written Works by other authors

1. Reprints [A-G]
2. Reprints [H-J]
3. Reprints [K]
4. Reprints [Ko-N]
5. Reprints [O-P]
6. Reprints [R-S]
7. Foreign Reprints [B-H]
8. Foreign Reprints [M-Z]

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Series 3: Written Works by other authors

1. Unpublished Papers [E–G]
2. Unpublished Papers [Ha]
3. Unpublished papers [Ha-Ho]
4. Unpublished Papers [J-K]
5. Unpublished Papers [Ko-L]
6. Unpublished Papers [M]

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Series 4: Written Works by other authors

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2. Unpublished Papers [Po-Pr]
3. Unpublished Papers [R-T]

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Series 5: Research Materials

Subseries: Visual Perception

1. Memory of Shapes
2. Memory of Circular Field
3. Memory of Shapes
4. Memory of Space
5. Memory of Remembering and Drawing of Patterns
6. Memory of Symbols
7. Memory (World Behind the Head)
8. Object Perception
9. Object Perception Art
10. Visual Perception Shapes

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Series 5: Research Materials

Subseries: Visual Perception

1. Shape Similarities (Colors)
2. Shape Similarities
3. Shape Similarities (Lines)
4. Shape Similarities (Complexity in Shapes)
5. Shape Similarities (Clustered)
6. Shape Similarities (Describing Shapes Verbally)
7. Shape Similarities (Squares/Triangles)
8. Shape Similarities
9. Shape Similarities (Triangles)

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Series 5: Research Materials

Subseries: Visual Perception

1. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (3 dots)
2. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Colored Dots)
3. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Elephant)
4. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Moving Spot Task Matrix)
5. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Moving Spot Task Matrix)
6. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Spatial Resolution)
7. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (MTXEQ)

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Series 5: Research Materials

Subseries: Visual Perception

1. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Transcripts of S's)
2. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Matrix Response Forms, Spring 79')
3. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices
4. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (MTXEQ 1 Degree Cell)
5. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Matrices Instruction)
6. Shape Recognition with Dots/Matrices (Redundancy)

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Series 5: Research Materials

Subseries: Visual Perception

1. Light Patterns
2. Apparent Movement
3. Lackland Air Force Base

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Series 5: Research Materials

1. Visual/Auditory Stimulation
2. Visual/Auditory Stimulation
3. Visual/Auditory Stimulation
4. Visual/Auditory Stimulation
5. Visual/Auditory Stimulation

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Series 5: Research Materials

1. Mathematics
2. Mathematics (Gans-Newton Technique)
3. Attitude Survey
4. Building Survey (Spencer Bulte Improvement Association)
5. Quantitative Concepts
6. Research Proposals [C-E]
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8. Research Proposals [S]
9. Progress Reports
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Series 5: Research Materials

1. Miscellaneous Notes
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5. Miscellaneous Notes

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Series 6: Symposiums

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2. Symposiums [P-T]

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Series 7: Newsletters

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2. Newsletters [C-M]

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Series 8: Organizations

1. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1965-1975]
2. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1975-1980]
3. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1980-1982]
4. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1983-1985]
5. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1986-1988]
6. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1988-1989]
7. Society of Experimental Psychologists [1990-1991]

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Series 8: Organizations

1. American Psychological Association
2. Western Psychological Association [1968-1972]
3. Western Psychological Association [1973]
4. Western Psychological Association [1989-1991 & unknown]

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Series 9: Subject Files

1. University of Oregon [University Information]
2. University of Oregon [Psychological Apartment Information]
3. University of Oregon [Faculty Information]
4. University of Oregon [Faculty Information]
5. University of Oregon [Student Information]
6. University of Oregon [Student Information]
7. University of Oregon [University Assembly Minutes]
8. University of Oregon [Department Head's Meeting Minutes]
9. University of Oregon [Department Faculty Minutes]

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Series 9: Subject Files

1. Interview with Fred Attneave
2. Book Reviews by Attneave
3. Book Reviews about Attneave
4. Committees
5. Richard P. Youtz's Study
6. Tetraplex Paper
7. Author's Guide for Technical Reporting
8. Travel in Hawaii
9. Random Elements
10. Random Elements
11. Random Elements
12. Random Elements
13. Random Elements

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Series 10: Technical Reports

1. Authors [A]
2. Authors [A]
3. Authors [A]
4. Authors [A]

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Series 10: Technical Reports

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2. Authors [A]
3. Authors [A]

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Series 10: Technical Reports

1. Authors [B]
2. Authors [B]
3. Authors [B]
4. Authors [B]
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8. Authors [B]

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1. Authors [C]
2. Authors [D]
3. Authors [D]

4. Authors [D]
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Series 10: Technical Reports

1. Authors [F]
2. Authors [F]
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4. Authors [F]
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1. Authors [F]
2. Authors [F]
3. Authors [F]
4. Authors [F]
5. Authors [F]
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3. Authors [G]
4. Authors [G]
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6. Authors [G]
7. Authors [G]
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Series 10: Technical Reports

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3. Authors [H]
4. Authors [H]
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6. Authors [M]
7. Authors [M]

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9. Authors [M]
10. Authors [M]

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Series 10: Technical Reports

1. Authors [N]
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Series 10: Technical Reports

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7. Authors [Z]

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Series 11: Oversized Materials

1. Award [Centrum Superiorum Studiorum In Scientiis Morum Humanorum]
2. Military Jacket