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

**C. Gilbert Wrenn, Papers**

COLLECTION DATES: 1942-2002

VOLUME: 1 linear foot

ACCESS: This collection is open for research

PREPARED BY: Lizette Royer, May 2007

**Biographical Note**

C. Gilbert Wrenn was born in New Paris, Ohio on April 2, 1902. He received his bachelor of arts degree in 1926 from Willamette University and both his master's degree and doctoral degree in psychology from Stanford University in 1929 and 1932 respectively. He worked as a visiting professor during the summers of 1929 and 1931 at the University of Oregon and accepted a faculty position at Stanford in 1932 following graduation. Wrenn remained at Stanford until 1936 at which time he accepted a full-time faculty position at the University of Minnesota. During WWII Wrenn joined the Navy and served until 1945. He retired from the University of Minnesota in 1964 and accepted another teaching position at Arizona State University where he stayed until he retired permanently in 1970. Wrenn died December 28, 2001.

Wrenn is best known for his work in counseling psychology. He was elected president of the American Psychological Association's Division of Counseling and Guidance (later the Division of Counseling Psychology) in 1950. He was one of three founders of the Journal of Counseling Psychology in 1954 and served as the journal's first editor for its initial ten years of publication. He authored or edited over 400 books, book chapters, and professional articles. Throughout his career and into retirement Wrenn served as a visiting professor and guest lecturer at numerous universities including Colorado State University, the University of Chicago, William and Mary College, the University of Southern California, the University of Hawaii, the University of Nevada, The University of Denver, and North Dakota State University. He was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Willamette University in 1952 and was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in England from 1965-1966. In 1976 Wrenn and his wife Kathleen personally endowed the Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Award for "Counselor of the Year" with a \$1,000 honorarium to accompany the award.

**Scope and Content Note**

The C. Gilbert Wrenn Papers are organized into the following series:

1. Biographical Information
2. Correspondence
3. Bound Volumes.

The papers of C. Gilbert Wrenn include substantial biographical information, namely in the form of a 51 page autobiography titled, *Gilbert Wrenn's Life Story: April 2, 1902-December 28, 2001*. Also of interest is a 1984 article from the Tempe Daily News titled, *Marriage Stands as Temple of Love*. The article discusses love and marriage with both Wrenn and his wife Kathleen.

A folder of Wrenn's political correspondence includes photocopied reproductions of correspondence between Wrenn and various political figures including Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Hubert Humphrey.

The three large bound volumes contain various materials including military and personal correspondence, military memorandums, handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, military circulars, and Japanese items assumed to have been collected during WWII.

## **Series Description**

### **1. Biographical Information**

Series contains biographical information about Wrenn including a 1976 published interview by Dale Wachowiak, a newspaper clipping, Wrenn's obituary and a memorial, and a spiral bound autobiographical piece.

### **2. Political Correspondence**

Series includes photocopied reproductions of correspondence between Wrenn and various political figures including Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Hubert Humphrey. Correspondence between Wrenn and the Roosevelts is in regard to a national conference on leisure and recreation. Correspondence with Johnson and Nixon concerns the creation of an International Center for Cultural and Technical Exchange at The University of Hawaii, and correspondence with Humphrey discusses a Senate bill concerning NDEA Amendments in 1964.

### **3. Bound Volumes**

Series includes three hardbound volumes labeled as, "C. Gilbert Wrenn Reports, U.S. Navy, 1942-1946," "C. Gilbert Wrenn Correspondence, U.S. Navy, 1942-1946," and "C. Gilbert Wrenn Correspondence." Volumes include original documents and were compiled by the Arizona State Archives.

## **Inventory**

### **Box 1: [M3485]**

Folder 1: (1976-2001)  
Biographical Information

Folder 2: (1938-1970)  
Correspondence – mostly reproductions

### **Box 2: [M3486]**

Bound Volume I (1942-1946)  
“C. Gilbert Wrenn Correspondence, United States Navy, 1942-1946.” Volume includes correspondence between Wrenn and colleagues; majority of materials is related to his time and work with the military. Volume also includes newspaper clippings and military circulars as well as military memorandums.

Bound Volume II (1942-1946)  
“C. Gilbert Wrenn Reports, United States Navy, 1942-1946.” Volume contains handwritten notes, poems, short stories, cartoons, and clippings. Also includes several Japanese items assumed to have been collected during WWII including war stamps, postal savings pass books, and life insurance policies.

Bound Volume III (1967-1976)  
“C. Gilbert Wrenn Correspondence, Houghton Mifflin Company, The World of Contemporary Counselor, 1967-1976.” Volume includes correspondence between Wrenn and colleagues and publishers. Also includes several short papers and book reviews.