

**John Fernald (1906-1985)
Papers, 1953-1971
Accession Number 5944
1 document box.**

John Fernald was born in San Francisco in 1906. He attended school at Marlborough College and Trinity College at the University of Oxford. In 1928 he started his career as a journalist and actor. Between 1929 and 1940 he changed to stage management and directing. His career was interrupted by World War Two during which Fernald served from 1940-1945 in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He retired from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. From 1940-1949 Fernald was the Artistic Director of the Liverpool Playhouse. In 1948-1949 he became Shute Lecturer in the Art of Theatre at Liverpool University, and from 1955-1965 he was the Principal of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Fernald was appointed the director of "The John Fernald Company of the Meadow Brook Theatre" at Rochester, Michigan, in 1966. During his career Fernald directed plays throughout Great Britain, including several West End productions, as well as in the United States. Fernald wrote articles and books including "The Play Produced" a manual of play direction (1933), "Destroyer from America" (1942), "Sense of Direction" (1968), and a 1974 article on "Directing" in the Encyclopedia Britannica. John Fernald died in London in 1985.

The collection consists of an article about directing written by John Fernald for the Encyclopedia Britannica, a manuscript of his book "Sense of Direction," a letter, newspaper clippings and pamphlets from the Meadow Brook Theatre Company, newspaper articles both by and about John Fernald, two programs from the Shakespeare on the Desert project, and a telegram from Alec McCowen. The folders are arranged in alphabetical order.

The John Fernald Papers were donated to the American Heritage Center by John Fernald in June 1965 and by Karin Fernald, John Fernald's daughter, in October 1997.

Folder List

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Article - "Directing," in Encyclopedia Britannica	no dates
2-4	Manuscript - "Sense of Direction"	no dates
5	Meadow Brook Theatre - The John Fernald Company	1953-1971, no dates
6	Newspaper Articles	1961-1969
7	Newspaper Articles - "The Listener"	1961
8	Programs - Shakespeare on the Desert	no dates
9	Telegram	1960

Prepared by Kim Winters
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