

C Lance, Donald M. (1931-2002), Papers, 1938-2002
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INTRODUCTION

The papers of a University of Missouri English professor, well-known for his lectures on the pronunciation of “Missouri” and other dialect research, contain extensive professional correspondence, research data, articles, presentations, teaching materials, and materials related to his work with professional organizations. Audio cassettes include interviews with Germans in Missouri and with decorated U.S. Army Special Forces veteran Byrl D. Taylor, Missouri folk musicians, and examples of English language dialects.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Donald M. Lance Papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Donald Lance on November 1, 1994 (Accession No. 5463). Additions to the papers were made by Gilbert Youmans and Frank Lance on November 7, 2002, and by Adolph and Rebecca Schroeder on January 15, 2003 and September 9, 2004.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Donald M. Lance was born in Gainesville, Texas, to Calvin and Ola Miller Lance. He received a bachelor’s degree in English education from Texas A&M in 1952. At the University of Texas at Austin, he received master’s degrees in English and Spanish in 1962 and doctorate in English language and linguistics in 1968. He taught high school English and Spanish in Corpus Christi for several years before becoming a University of Missouri English professor.

Lance taught at MU for 25 years, from 1969 to 1994. His research interests included regional dialects in Missouri and the United States, teaching English as a second language, Black English, the understanding of discourse, sex-linked language differences, bilingual speech, and toponymy (especially Missouri). He wrote and published numerous articles and contributed to and co-edited the important anthology *Language Variation in North American English* (1993) with Wayne Glowka. In 1984 and 1985, as a Fulbright exchange scholar, he taught at the University of the Saar in West Germany.

Lance retired from teaching in 1994, but remained active with several professional organizations until his death. Throughout his career, he was especially involved with the American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the Council of Geographic Names Authorities, Midwest Teachers of English as a Second Language, and the Missouri Folklore Society. He served as an officer for many of these organizations and assisted with organizing conferences and other events in Missouri.

Lance obtained some local notoriety in 1999, when police required assistance to identify “Sarah Gray,” an amnesiac with no recollection of her past. By analyzing her dialect, Lance was able to help return her to her home in Pennsylvania. He was also known as an authority on the pronunciation of “Missouri.” He died in 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Donald M. Lance Papers consist of professional papers related to Lance's research, writing, conference presentations, teaching, and professional associations. The papers are divided into the following seven series: **Correspondence, Research and Writings, Subject Files, Professional Organizations, Teaching, Personal, and Audio Cassettes.**

The **Correspondence** series contains letters exchanged mainly with professional colleagues. Letters from Rachel Faries document a professional and romantic friendship from 1973 to 1991. Correspondence with Sarah Gray includes Lance's notes from the interviews that helped ascertain her place of origin. Materials in this series may be related to any of Lance's research projects or professional organizations also documented elsewhere in the collection. The series is organized alphabetically by correspondent's last name, then chronologically.

The **Research and Writings** series contains research notes, correspondence, manuscripts, presentation materials, and other documents related to Lance's professional research, academic writing, and professional presentations. The folders are arranged alphabetically by the title of the project, sometimes subdivided into categories based on chronological, topical, or format requirements, depending on complexity of the contents.

The **Subject Files** series contains assorted professional papers, generally not directly related to a particular research or writing project, arranged alphabetically by subject or format, including numerous sample data worksheets for dialect research.

The **Professional Organizations** series contains papers related to Lance's work with various professional organizations including the American Dialect Society, American Names Society, Missouri Academy of Science, Missouri Folklore Society, and the Council on Geographic Names Authorities. Documents include meeting minutes, conference programs, records from his work as an officer in these organizations, records related to organizing conferences, and newsletters.

The **Teaching** series contains course materials such as exams, answer sheets, class handouts, lecturer's notes, and other materials related to Lance's teaching at the University of Missouri. The series is organized by course subject, course title, and semester.

The **Personal** series contains collected research articles and newspaper clippings not tied to particular research projects or subjects. Miscellaneous materials include a personality test, medical history, Anheuser-Busch bottle labels, a script for a tour of Missouri vineyards, and other materials. The folders entitled "My Creative Efforts," and "Other's Creative Efforts" contain original poetry. The book *Reminiscence of a Family* chronicles Lance family history. Texas A & M periodicals consist of small press student peace movement publications from the 1960s. This series is organized alphabetically throughout by document format and subdivided by subject, then chronologically.

The **Audio Cassettes** series contains audio cassettes collected by Lance for his dialect research. This series is subdivided into four categories, based on the content of the recordings, then arranged chronologically: Dialect Recordings, Interviews, Miscellaneous, and Music. Interview cassettes are related to Lance's dialect research as well as Missouri folklore. Miscellaneous cassettes consist of various linguistic lectures collected by Lance. Music cassettes contain live and recorded folk music, and classical music.

FOLDER LIST

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