
The Donald Menzel Collection

➤ *American Philosophical Library, 151 South Independence Mall East,
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3386 Phone: (215)-440-3400*

Description

The Donald Menzel papers are an open collection in the APC (with one exception), and contain about 12 linear feet of archive space.

The majority of this material is of only marginal interest to the UFO historian (leading one to wonder if there are not significant UFO papers of Menzel elsewhere). There are 21 boxes of materials (mostly file folders), and there exists a finder's aid. Most folders contain very little information. The best correspondence "runs", however, (ex. With Paul McCarthy, Wade Wellman, and Charles Maney) are excellent, lengthy "debates", and offer much insight into Menzel's thought process and character. There are 3 reel-to-reel audiotapes, two of which are Menzel's anti-UFO lectures.

A 3x5 card file of meteor & UFO instances exists. The one exception to the grayness of the collection is an unpublished autobiography, which can only be read with specific written authorization by his widow. It is interesting psychologically but not ufologically.

Accessibility: The holdings of the APL are open to serious scholars. Notice should be given in advance of planned visits. Swords (in 1994) found Manuscripts Librarian Beth Carroll-Horrocks and Rita Dockery to be particularly helpful. As mentioned above, if one is hoping to read the autobiography, one should contact Mrs. Menzel well in advance. The APL should be able to inform you of how she may be currently reached, or if it is still necessary.

(Source: Michael Swords)



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