

Walter P. Reuther Library  
Wayne State University Archives  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

**Wayne University**  
**Department of English Records**  
3.5 linear feet (7 MB)  
1920-1955

Finding aid written by Devin Erlandson on June 12, 2014.

**Accession Number:** WSR000027

**Creator:** Alexander Brede

**Acquisition:** Donated to the Reuther Library in 1958, 1961, and 1978.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

**Restrictions:** Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

**Notes:** Citation style: “Wayne University Department of English Records, Box [#], Folder [#], University Archives, Wayne State University.”

**Abstract**

This collection includes personal papers of Frank G. Tompkins, gradebooks of Clarence Hilberry, and general material from the English Department office.

Frank G. Tompkins was an English professor at Detroit Junior College and Central High School; he was on the earliest faculty roster (1918-1919), and was a department head. Much of his personal papers come from his early years of teaching, and the student papers found within are from both the Junior College and Central High School. Frank Tompkins was known for teaching his students to write one-act plays, which they would then perform under his direction. A memorial fund, administered by Alexander Brede, was established in his name in 1940 to award monetary prizes in a literary competition.

**Important Subjects:**

Tompkins Memorial Fund

**Important Names:**

Alexander Brede

Clarence Hilberry

Frank G. Tompkins

## **Arrangement**

Box 1 is grouped by subject and arranged chronologically within folders. Boxes 2-6 are unarranged. Box 7 is grouped by subject.

### **Box 1**

1. Tompkins Memorial Fund, 1940-1947
2. Tompkins Memorial Fund, 1943-1957
3. Tompkins Memorial Fund, Miscellaneous, 1941-1954
4. Tompkins Memorial Fund Pledge Cards, 1940-1941

### **Box 2**

Frank G. Tompkins' personal papers. Contains mainly student papers and manuscripts.

### **Box 3**

Frank G. Tompkins' personal papers. Contains mainly student papers and manuscripts.

### **Box 4**

Frank G. Tompkins' personal papers. Contains mainly newspaper and magazine clippings; some student work.

### **Box 5**

Clarence Hilberry's grade books.

### **Box 6**

General English Department material.

### **Box 7**

1. Writing from Observation
2. Writing from Life
3. Industry-Business
4. Orientation of Freshmen
5. Departmental Bulletin, 1946-1949
6. English Club
7. Composition Courses—above 1 and 2
8. Army Specialized Training Program
9. Adult Education
10. Teaching Economies