

MAITLAND C. DE SORMO PAPERS, 1951-1986

MSS. COLLECTION #99
.75 linear feet

Biographical

Maitland C. De Sormo was born August 26, 1906 in Canton, N.Y., was educated in Malone, N.Y., Hamilton College, New York University and Columbia University. He was a high school teacher for almost 40 years. He was the owner of Adirondack Yester years in Saranac Lake and was the author/editor of many articles and books on the Adirondacks. Maitland C. De Sormo died January 24, 1993 in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Scope & Content

The collection includes over 100 letters, memos and other correspondence to Maitland De Sormo from several people affiliated with St. Lawrence University, including Paul Jamieson, Frank Piskor, Edward Blankman, Alan Splete, Peter VandeWater and Atwood Manley. It also includes several letters written by Mr. De Sormo to people connected to St. Lawrence. Most of the correspondence concerns De Sormo's invitations to speak, lecture at and receive awards and an honorary degree from the University. There is also some correspondence concerning the acquisition of De Sormo's papers by SLU. In addition to the written material, 31 audio cassette tapes are included. Several of these are recordings of people interviewed by De Sormo while writing his books. Also included are several interviews by other people of the noted "Hermit of the Adirondacks" Noah John Rondeau.

Provenance

Purchased by St. Lawrence University in 1987

Box 1—Correspondence

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Three letters from SLU in 1974 asking De Sormo for ideas for names of potential Adirondack Conference speakers
2	10 letters from SLU in 1975 regarding Adirondack conference, interview request from WSLU, acquisition of Wabeek Inn by St. Lawrence Univ.
3	14 letters from SLU in 1976. Includes 6 th Adirondack conference; Invitation to receive a North Country Citation, copy and news clipping of Citation
4	Six letters from SLU in 1977. Includes invite to participate in program on tall-tales and legends; inviting input on naming of future North Country Citees; congratulations on publishing book on Noah John Rondeau
5	Four letters from SLU in 1978. Includes invitation and follow-up from Peter Van de Water on De Sormo guest lecturing a Winterim class. One letter from Allen Splete hints that discussion is underway concerning donation of De Sormo's "collection".
6	10 letters, a photograph, news clippings and a copy of citation. Most items concern De Sormo's Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree given in September, 1979

- 7 21 letters from various people at SLU in 1980. Most involve discussions of donations of books to the University made by De Sormo and negotiations over the possible acquisition of De Sormo's literary holdings, manuscripts, letters, photos and ephemera from his career as an Adirondack writer. Letters and an inventory of the proposed "De Sormo Collection" written by De Sormo are included. Also included is a third party appraisal of a collection of drawings prints given by De Sormo.
- 8 Seven letters from SLU in 1981-82. Allen Splete writes that he wishes "St. Lawrence was in a position to acquire your material". Other correspondence relates to the acquisition of several "Little Leather" volumes by the library. Last letter tells of Splete's appointment as President of Westminster College
- 9 Five letter from Prof. Ron Hoffman of Phys. Ed. department, 1960's, concerning De Sormo's Stoddard book
- 10 Approx. 32 letters from Paul Jamieson 1960s-1981. Mostly personal discussing climbing & vacation plans. Some discussion of De Sormo's magazine articles and Jamieson's *Adirondack Reader*.
- 11 12 letters from Atwood Manley. Most concern Manley's interest in getting permission to use photos and other material from De Sormo's Stoddard collection and other issues concerning Manley's writing projects.
- 12 "Photostatic material" (copies) on Dollard des Ormeaux. All material is in French.
- 13 De Sormo obituary from Watertown Daily Times, Jan. 24, 1993; "*Old Guide's Story*" *Reflects Authentic Knowledge* article by Ed Blankman, St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Dec. 12, 1973; De Sormo advertisement/order form for *The Murray Rush*, his last book; "Adirondack Company's 7 percent Coupon Bond" stamps, New York State Loan and Trust Co.

Box 2—Audio cassette tapes

De Sormo Interviewing others

Tape 1—Mrs. William Rondeau (sister-in-law of Noah John Rondeau); 1969, Source info for "Noah John Rondeau, Adirondack Hermit".

Tape 2—Ives Turner, Adirondack surveyor, 1969.

Tape 3—Dennis Perry, source material for "Summers on the Saranacs", 1979

Tape 4—Alvin Doty & Clyde Cheesman, source material for "Summers", 1979

Tape 5—Dick Emperer, retired game warden; Mrs. Herbert Leggett & Mrs. Charles Roberson, source material for "Summers"

Tape 6—John Benson, source material for "Summers", 1979

Tape 7—Dick Emperer, Carel Prue & Clarence Savard for “Summers on the Saranacs”, 1979

Tape 8—More Dick Emperer

Tape 9—Laurel Spina on Eagle Island Girl Scout Camp; Mr & Mrs. Remington on Deer Island; “Summers”, 1979

Tape 10—Percy Saumier about Knollwood Lodge, source material for “Summers”, 1979

Tape 11—Seaver Rice discussing Saranac Lake and the Lakes, 1979

Tape 12—Alphonse & Minnie Beaudette of Tupper Lake discussing N. J. Rondeau, logging, etc., 1968

Tape 13—DeSormo reading newspaper account of Noah John Rondeau at Tupper Lake in 1940s; interview with Ross Freeman about Indian Dan Emmett and Noah John Rondeau, 1969

Tape 14—Conversation with Scott Wood primarily about logging in the Adks. Ends abruptly. 1985

Interviews with other people

Tape 15—A “Mr. Lamb” (?) interviewing 50 year Lake Placid resident Jacques Suzanne, 1962

Tape 16—Larry Todd interviewing William McGlaughlin on early Saranac Lake, 1981

Tape 17 & 18—Enoch Squires, radio host, interviewing Noah John Rondeau on a radio program

Tape 19—Noah John Rondeau recorded in 1952—includes a famous “bear story”.

DeSormo at public talks & events

Tape 20—DeSormo introducing Seaver Rice at a function at the Wabeek

Tape 21—A talk given at the Long Lake Hotel, 1970. DeSormo is Master of Ceremonies.

Tape 22—DeSormo at an Adirondack Conference hosted by St. Lawrence University

DeSormo being interviewed

Tape 23—Interview in 1983 with Gordie Little, WIRY, Plattsburgh

Tape 24—Interview with Tom Coyne, WIBX in Utica, 1984

Miscellaneous tapes

Tape 25—5th SLU Conference on the Adirondacks, 1975. Q & A with and Adirondack Park Agency commissioner

Tape 26—Anti-Adirondack Park Agency meeting at Pontiac Theater, 1975. Also includes a DeSormo interview with Edgar Scanlon of Malone

Tape 27—Ron Kilbourne's "Tale of the 2 x 4"

Tape 28—"the Ballad of Noah John Rondeau" performed by Peter Longshore

Tape 29—Recording of songs recorded by Patricia Loucks of Glens Falls

Tape 30—"A Place in America" original songs from the Adirondacks by Bill Hall

Tape 31—Tape labeled "Teitell 9/20/86" (no apparent relationship with other tapes in the collection)