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A Guide to the
Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. Papers
1875-1995 (bulk 1889-1955)

5.25 Cubic feet

UPT 50 S617

Prepared by Joseph-James Ahern

June 2012

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PROVENANCE

The Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. Papers were acquired in two accessions. The first in November 1988 from his son, Richard B. Singer (1988:07); with the second arriving as part of the Richard B. Singer Papers in May 2011 (2011:25).

ARRANGEMENT

The Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. Papers are arranged alphabetically.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. was born on November 13, 1873 in Philadelphia, PA to Edgar Arthur Singer, Associate Superintendent of Schools in the Philadelphia Public School, and Sarah Elizabeth Phillips. Edgar grew up in the Frankford neighborhood of the city, and attended the Manual Training High School graduating in 1889. Singer attended the University of Pennsylvania where he

obtained his B.S. in Engineering in 1892 and his Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1894. Following graduation he received a postgraduate fellowship to study under William James at Harvard University.

In 1896 Singer returned to the University of Pennsylvania to accept the position of Senior Fellow in the Philosophy Department. Singer's academic career was interrupted briefly when he served as a sergeant in the First Volunteer Regiment of Engineers during the Spanish-American War. He would remain at Penn for his entire career, rising from Instructor in Philosophy in 1898 to the Adam Seybert Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy in 1929, and eventually Emeritus Professor in 1944. Singer's main emphasis was the theory of evidence, and the methods by which it related to a problem; something he termed empirical idealism. Throughout his career he was a noted lecturer, and authored numerous works on philosophy. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society and the American Philosophical Association. His last work was *Experience and Reflections*, which was edited by his former student C. West Churchman and published posthumously.

Singer married Helen Bunker on July 5, 1905. Together they had two children, Edgar Arthur III who was born in 1908, and Richard Bunker Singer who was born in 1914. The family resided in West Philadelphia on Chester Avenue – a short walk from the University. Helen Singer passed away in 1953, and Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. died on April 13, 1955.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. Papers documents the career and life of University of Pennsylvania Professor of Philosophy Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr. The collection consists primarily of lecture materials, addresses, and copies of publications – particularly material on his final work *Experience and Reflection*. There are also documents related to Singer's personal life and education.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Genre(s)

- Lecture notes.

Personal Name(s)

- James, William, 1842-1910

Subject(s)

- Education--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

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INVENTORY

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Acton Foundation, n.d.	1	2
Address to Class Entering Fine-Arts, n.d.	1	3
Address to the Art Alliance, Philadelphia, n.d.	1	4
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Baptismal Certificate 1885	1	11
Bass, Robert 1946	1	12
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Beyond Mechanism and Vitalism 1934-1935	1	14
Biser, Irwin, "A General Schema for Natural Systems" 1938	1	15

Bolero, Rita 1929	1	16
Bookreview: Richtie, A. D., "Scientific Method: An Inquiry into the Character and Validity of Natural Laws" 1923	1	17
Bound Pamphlets of Interest 1887-1897	1	18
Burkart, Anna D., n.d.	1	19
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Butler, Nicholas Murray 1925	1	21
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College Thesis, "Mathematics of Skew Arches" 1892	1	28
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Development of Science - Lectures to Juniors, University of Pennsylvania (1) 1900-1901	2	4
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Drawing - Island of Lipari Italy 1931	2	8
Edwards, Anne C. F. 1928	2	9
Empiricism of William James, n.d.	2	10
Esthetic and the Rational Ideal (Abridged) 1932	2	11
Experience and Reflection		
Chapters 6 - 10 Tentative Revisions, n.d.	2	12
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Part IV Life, n.d.	3	3
Part V Consciousness, n.d.	3	4
Part VI Truth and Error, n.d.	3	5
Publication 1954-1995	3	6
Fernberger, Samuel W. 1921	3	7
Finch, Henry, n.d.	3	8
Fool's Advice / Mastery and Service, n.d.	3	9
Frankford Library Stock 1877	3	10
Franklin J. Matchette Foundation 1946	3	11
Genealogical Information 1921	3	12
George Stuart Fullerton 1925-1929	3	13
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German Idealism Lectures, "Historic Chapters" 1896-1898	3	15
Giordano Bruno 1914-1915	3	16
Graduate School Papers - Harvard University 1894	3	17
Great Case Proved 1945	3	18
Henry Holt and Company 1923-1936	3	19
History of Foundations of Geometry 1900	3	20
Introduction to a Study of Contemporary Italian Fiction, n.d.	3	21
Invitations 1891-1928	3	22
Isolation or Cooperation 1946	3	23
James, William 1896	3	24
John Locke 1933	3	25
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Kelly, Maude M. 1928-1929	3	27
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Les Deux Sources de la Morale et de la Religion 1932	3	29
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Logic and the Relation of Life to Mechanism 1925	3	32
Logic and the Relations of Function to Mechanism 1930	3	33
Logico-Historical Study of Mechanism, Vitalism, Naturalism 1940	3	34
Longwell, Horace Craig, "Theory of Mind of Roger Bacon" annotated, n.d.	3	35
Lovejoy, Arthur O. 1924-1925	3	36
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Note on Bruno, n.d.	4	4
Notes on Individual Philosophers (1), n.d.	4	5
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On a Definition of Consciousness 1928	4	10
On a Possible Science of Religion 1929-1931	4	11
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On the Power of Art - Address to Alumni Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania 1944	4	17
Papers - Foolscap, n.d.	4	18
Papers Read 1902	4	19
Papers, "Concerning Patriotism" and Seven Others, n.d.	4	20
Passport 1930	4	21
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Ph.D. thesis, "On the Composite Nature of Consciousness" 1894	4	23
Philadelphia - Bureau of Surveys 1892	4	24
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Philosophy of Experiment 1929-1930	4	26
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Synopsis Philosophy 5 University of Pennsylvania 1935-1940	5	28
Thoughts on a Translation of Schelling's Weltalter: a Review Article 1943	5	29
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William James: What Makes a Life Significant, n.d.	6	5
Wright, Joan 1952	6	6
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