

Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers
1920-1962
Mss.B.K53

American Philosophical Society
2002
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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963
Title	Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers
Date [inclusive]	1920-1962
Call number	Mss.B.K53
Extent	0.25 Linear feet
Location	LH-MV-C-12
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Head of the Historical Division of the Carnegie Institution, the archaeologist Alfred V. Kidder specialized in the cliff dwelling cultures of the American Southwest, and is best remembered for work at Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon, and Pecos del Arroyo.</p> <p>Primarily personal in nature, the exchange of letters between Kidder and his colleague and friend Neil M. Judd provides some details on their work on the archaeology of the Southwest. The 68 letters include sporadic references to excavations at Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon, and other archaeological sites, with a few references to other archaeologists and anthropologists.</p>
Preferred Citation	Cite as: Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers, American Philosophical Society.

Background note

Born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on October 25, 1885, Alfred V. Kidder enjoyed an outstanding education. As a student at elite prep schools in Cambridge and Boston, Mass., and Switzerland, he entered Harvard, where a childhood interest in Indians blossomed into a profession when he was introduced to the formal study of anthropology. After receiving his bachelors in 1908, he became one of the first Americans to receive a doctorate in archaeology in 1914, working on the pottery of the Southwest.

Working at the Phillips Academy, Andover, until 1929 (primarily on the site at Pecos dekl Arroyo), and thereafter as Chair of the Division of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, Kidder's interests remained centered on the Southwest. In addition to the Pecos site in New Mexico, he made valuable contributions to the archaeology of Mesoamerica through the Carnegie, coordinating excavations of Mayan sites at Chichen Itza and Uaxactun in Yucatan and Kaminaljuya in Guatemala. Although he was often denigrated by critics in the profession for being too little concerned with synthesizing the abundant data he collected in the field and for reaching too limited conclusions, many of his conclusions on the classification of southwestern basketry, for instance, endured for many years. He was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 1934, and the American Anthropological Association named an award for eminence in New World archaeology in his honor in the early 1950s.

Kidder retired from the Carnegie in 1950, teaching briefly at the University of California before retiring to his home in Cambridge. He died on June 11, 1963, leaving behind his wife, Madeleine, whom he married in 1910, and five children.

Scope & content

Primarily personal in nature, the exchange of letters between the archaeologist Alfred V. Kidder and his colleague and friend Neil M. Judd provides some details on their work on the archaeology of the Southwest. The 68 letters include sporadic references to excavations at Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon, and other archaeological sites, with a few references to other archaeologists and anthropologists. The later letters contain some information about Kidder's family.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 2002

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Gift of Neil Merton Judd, January 1965.

Processing Information

Recatalogued by rsc, 2002.

Indexing Terms

Personal Name(s)

- Boas, Franz, 1858-1942
- Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976
- Morley, Sylvanus Griswold, 1883-1948

Subject(s)

- Archaeology
- Chaco Canyon (N.M.)--Antiquities
- Indians of North America--Southwest, New
- Pueblo Bonito (N.M.)--Antiquities
- Southwest, New--Antiquities

Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers

Collection Inventory

Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers	1920-1962	0.25 lin. feet	Box 1
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	July 6, 1920	1p.	
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd Believes Chaco will be the biggest thing in American archaeology.	August 24, 1920	1p.	
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd Chaco Canyon excavation.	September 18, 1920	3p.	
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd More on the Chaco dig. National Geographic's involvement gives it profile. Chaco ruins mark the high water mark of southwestern civilizations.	September 18, 1920	5p.	
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	December 6, 1920	1p.	
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	March 29, 1921	2p.	
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	March 29, 1921	2p.	
Judd, Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder Have excavated the central kiva at Pueblo Bonito.	July 19, 1921	1p.	

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Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder Pueblo Bonito	July 12, 1922	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	February 18, 1929	1p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder	March 11, 1933	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	March 14, 1933	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	May 15, 1933	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	May 31, 1933	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	July 15, 1937	1p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder Re: photos of Chaco and Pueblo Bonito.	July 21, 1937	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	July 1, 1947	1p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder	August 14, 1947	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	August 22, 1947	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	December 22, 1949	1p.

Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers

Alfred V. Kidder Award Committee. TLS to Neil Merton Judd	March 17, 1950	2p.
Alfred V. Kidder Award Committee. TLS to Neil Merton Judd	October 11, 1950	2p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder	October 31, 1950	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	November 6, 1950	1p.
Alfred V. Kidder Award Committee. TLS	March 10, 1951	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	December 10, 1953	2p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	January 20, 1954	2p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 ALS to Neil Merton Judd	November 7, 1954	3p.
<p>"Boaz's enormous reputation, I've always felt, was to a considerable extent built up by a large and persistent clique (if that's how its spelled -- anyhow, mostly Jewish females)." Vannevar Bush raising Cain; suspects the Carnegie Institution is out of the humanities for good.</p>		
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS to Madeleine and Alfred Vincent Kidder	December 26, 1954	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	June 15, 1955	1p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder	June 21, 1955	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	June 24, 1955	1p.

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 ALS to Neil Merton Judd

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	November 4, 1955	2p.
ALS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	March 16, 1956	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	March 30, 1956	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	September 17, 1956	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	September 21, 1956	1p.
TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	July 29, 1957	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Wooden kivas at Pecos.

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	June 15, 1958	1p.
TLS Cy to Madeleine and Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	June 23, 1958	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	September 20, 1958	1p.
TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	September 25, 1958	2p.
ALS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	June 6, 1959	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	June 29, 1959	1p.
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Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers

 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	July 16, 1959	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	July 26, 1959	1p.
TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	August 4, 1959	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	September 5, 1959	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	December 14, 1959	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	January 18, 1960	1p.
TLS to Neil Merton Judd		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	January 20, 1960	1p.
TLS Cy to Madeleine and Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	January 27, 1960	1p.
TLS Cy to Madeleine and Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963	February 12, 1960	1p.
ALS to Neil Merton Judd		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	February 22, 1960	1p.
TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	April 28, 1960	1p.
TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder		

Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976	September 16, 1960	1p.
TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder		

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Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS to Alfred Vincent Kidder	July 19, 1921	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	September 23, 1960	2p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	February 26, 1961	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	May 3, 1961	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	May 31, 1961	1p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder	November 8, 1961	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	November 15, 1961	2p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	November 27, 1961	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	December 6, 1961	2p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	January 3, 1962	1p.
Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976 TLS Cy to Alfred Vincent Kidder	January 19, 1962	1p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	February 6, 1962	2p.
Kidder, Alfred Vincent, 1885-1963 TLS to Neil Merton Judd	February 21, 1962	1p.

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Judd , Neil Merton, 1887-1976

March 10, 1962

1p.

TLS Cy to Madeleine and Alfred Vincent
Kidder
