

Collection #  
SC 3140

**ARNOLD FAMILY WWII RATION BOOKS,  
1942–1943**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1942–1943

PROVENANCE: Robert D. Arnold

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2009.0100

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

World War II put immense strain on the United States home front. The war caused a large shortage in rubber, metal, fuel, clothing, and food. A large portion of manufacturing was diverted to the war effort and the supply of available goods decreased. In 1941 the U.S. government established the Office of Price Administration in order to address these shortages and create a system of rationing and price controls to conserve resources. Issued to every American, ration books contained stamps that could be exchanged for food items such as sugar, meat, and canned goods. Without these stamps an individual could not purchase the items. Once the stamps were used an individual would not receive another ration book until the next month. This required that families carefully planned meals and spent their stamps wisely throughout the month.

Theodore Dreiser (1871–1945) was born in Terre Haute, Indiana and was an accomplished American author. His most well known works are the novels *Sister Carrie* (1900) and *An American Tragedy* (1924).

The Arnold family consisted of Leo K. Arnold (1892–1955), Gladys E. Donnell Arnold (1908–?), and their son Robert Donnell Arnold (1932–2012).

### Sources:

Jacobs, Meg. "'How About Some Meat?': The Office of Price Administration, Consumption Politics, and State Building from the Bottom Up, 1941-1946." *Journal of American History*, 48, no. 3 (Dec. 1997).

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection includes five World War II ration books belonging to the Arnold family of Indianapolis, Indiana. The ration books were contained within a green leatherette envelope case with an embossed advertisement for October Ale and Gold Medal Beer. Two of the ration books were issued to Leo K. Arnold, one to Gladys E. Donnell Arnold, and two to Robert D. Arnold. Included in the collection is an autograph from Theodore Dreiser inscribed "To Bobby Arnold (Young America) / From Theodore Dreiser / Indianapolis - / Febr. 1942."

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Arnold family WWII ration books and Theodore  
Dreiser autograph, 1942–1943

### CONTAINER

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