Robert G. Spivack Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm2007085367

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Maria Farmer, Jewel McPherson, and Chanté Flowers
Collection Summary
Title: Robert G. Spivack Papers
Span Dates: 1931-1970
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1936-1970)
ID No.: MSS85367
Creator: Spivack, Robert G., 1915-1970
Extent: 16,800 items ; 48 containers plus 2 oversize ; 19.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Journalist. Correspondence, articles, book projects, columns, newsletters, newspapers, material relating to speaking engagements, topical files, records of organizations, scrapbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Spivack’s career as a newspaper reporter, syndicated columnist, and newsletter publisher and to his participation in student groups and other organizations seeking the intervention of the United States in World War II prior to the Pearl Harbor attack.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Agar, Herbert, 1897-1980--Correspondence.
Bade, Wilbur E. (Wilbur Emil), 1906-1954--Correspondence.
Bell, Ulric, 1891-1960--Correspondence.
Bye, George T.--Correspondence.
Cohen, Elliot E., 1899-1959--Correspondence.
Eckman, Fern Marja--Correspondence.
Hagan, Lloyd D.--Correspondence.
Lash, Joseph P., 1909-1987--Correspondence.
Lazarus, Reuben A. (Reuben Avis), 1895-1971--Correspondence.
McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957--Correspondence.
Morris, Newbold--Correspondence.
Morris, Newbold.
Nagourney, Herbert--Correspondence.
O'Dwyer, William, 1890-1964.
O'Sheeh, Shaemas, 1886-1954--Correspondence.
Pilat, Oliver, 1903-1987--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Sann, Paul--Correspondence.
Schiff, Dorothy, 1903-1989--Correspondence.
Sengstacke, John Herman Henry, 1912-1997--Correspondence.
Sevareid, Eric, 1912-1992--Correspondence.
Sirkin, Abraham M.--Correspondence.
Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Robert G. Spivack, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Miranda Spivack, in 2007.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert G. Spivack in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Robert G. Spivack are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Robert G. Spivack Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.
### Biographical Note

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1915, Apr. 15</td>
<td>Born, Dayton, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Graduated, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-1938</td>
<td>Secretary, International Student Service of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Editor, <em>SOS</em>, a publication of Student Defenders of Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Married Adrienne Rauchwerger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1941</td>
<td>Publications director, Fight for Freedom Committee and Fight for Freedom, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941-1952</td>
<td>Reporter and Albany correspondent, <em>New York Post</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1969</td>
<td>Wrote syndicated column Watch on the Potomac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1970</td>
<td>Published newsletter <em>Spivack Report</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970, June 25</td>
<td>Died, Riverside, Conn.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Gerald Spivack (1915-1970) span the years 1931-1970, with the bulk of the material dating between 1936 and 1970. Spivack was a reporter who covered news, politics, and organized crime in New York for the *New York Post* in the 1940s and 1950s, and who later covered national politics in Washington, D. C. In the 1950s and 1960s he was a syndicated columnist and newsletter publisher on national politics. The papers consist of five series: *General Correspondence*, *Speeches and Writings*, *Subject File*, *Miscellany*, and *Oversize*.

The *General Correspondence* consists of letters and memoranda exchanged between Spivack and friends, colleagues, literary agents, public figures, and readers of his articles, columns, and newsletters. Included are memoranda to and from editors and colleagues at the *New York Post*, Paul Sann and James A. Wechsler among others, and with the owner of the *Post*, Dorothy Schiff. Other correspondents include Herbert Agar, Wilbur E. Bade, Ulric Bell, George T. Bye, Elliott E. Cohen, Louis G. Cowan, Fern Marja Eckman, Lloyd D. Hagan, Joseph P. Lash, Reuben A. Lazarus, Newbold Morris, Herbert Nagourney, Shaemus O'Sheel, Oliver Pilat, Eleanor Roosevelt, Arthur J. Rosenthal, John Herman Henry Sengstacke, Eric Sevareid, Abraham M. Sirkin, Martin Sommers, Mark Starr, and Rex Stout.

The *Speeches and Writings* include articles, book projects, columns, interviews, memoranda for the record, newsletters, and newspapers, written or edited by Spivack or by others. The series includes a comprehensive file of Spivack's articles for the *New York Post* between 1941 and 1961, the entire span of his career with the paper. Subjects included New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey and unsuccessful mayoral candidates Jonah J. Goldstein and Newbold Morris. One of Spivack's themes was the nexus of New York politics and organized crime, notably during the administration of Mayor William O'Dwyer. When Spivack was the *Post's* Washington correspondent from 1952 to 1961, he covered the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration and figures from that era such as Senators Owen Brewster, Irvin McNeil Ives, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Joseph McCarthy.
Speeches and Writings include Spivack's book projects relating to Thomas E. Dewey, underworld figure Frank Costello, Lyndon B. Johnson's administration, and Congressman Franklin D. Roosevelt (1914-1988).

Spivack's columns documented in the papers include In the Town's Backrooms, which covered politics on the New York and national levels, and his syndicated product Watch on the Potomac treating national politics from 1956 to 1970. The series includes examples of the University of Cincinnati newspaper that Spivack edited as a student, Cincinnati Bearcat, and of his newsletters on national politics, Private Wire and Spivack Report.

The Subject File includes files relating to Spivack's late 1960s initiative, Reporters' News Syndicate, a program designed to give minority candidates practical training in journalism, and to Spivack's activism beginning in the 1930s with student and other groups advocating for war refugees and occupied peoples, against American isolationism, and in favor of United States participation in World War II. Spivack was editor of SOS, the newspaper of the Student Defenders of Democracy, and there are several examples of the newspaper in that organization's file. During 1937-1938 he served as secretary of the International Student Service and from 1940 to 1941 as publications director of Fight for Freedom. There is material on these and other interventionist organizations in two oversize scrapbooks relating to the World War II era.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1936-1970
- Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970
- Subject File, 1931-1970
- Miscellany, 1936-1970
- Oversize, 1941-1947
Description of Series

**Container**  
**Box 1-6**  
**Series**  
**General Correspondence, 1936-1970**  
Correspondence with friends, editors, newspaper owners, colleagues, public figures, and readers of his articles, columns, and newsletters.  
Arranged chronologically.

**Box 6-37**  
**Series**  
**Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970**  
Articles, columns, book projects, newsletters, newspapers, memoranda for the record, interviews, reporters' notes, political skits, satiric songs, speeches and miscellaneous material.  
Arranged into writings and speeches by Spivack and writing and speeches by others, and thereunder alphabetically by type of material.

**Box 37-46**  
**Series**  
**Subject File, 1931-1970**  
Topical files and organizational records.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or organization.

**Box 47-48**  
**Series**  
**Miscellany, 1936-1970**  
Biographical material, press releases, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

**Box OV 1-OV 2**  
**Series**  
**Oversize, 1941-1947**  
Two scrapbooks and a poster.  
Arranged and described according to the series, container, and file from which the material was removed.
Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-6</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1936-1970</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence with friends, editors, newspaper owners, colleagues, public figures, and readers of his articles, columns, and newsletters. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1936-1949&lt;br&gt;(7 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>1957-1961&lt;br&gt;(7 folders)&lt;br&gt;1962&lt;br&gt;Jan.-Mar.</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Apr. Dec.&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)&lt;br&gt;1963-1966&lt;br&gt;(4 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
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<td><strong>Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970</strong>&lt;br&gt;Articles, columns, book projects, newsletters, newspapers, memoranda for the record, interviews, reporters’ notes, political skits, satiric songs, speeches and miscellaneous material. Arranged into writings and speeches by Spivack and writing and speeches by others, and thereunder alphabetically by type of material.</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>By Spivack&lt;br&gt;Articles&lt;br&gt;<strong>Haddassah Newsletter, 1954</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hale, Jeanne, literary agent, undated&lt;br&gt;<strong>Literary Digest, 1936</strong>&lt;br&gt;Miscellaneous&lt;br&gt;1938-1950, 1963-1970&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Undated&lt;br&gt;<strong>The Nation, 1941-1960</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>New Republic, 1943-1953</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>New York Knickerbocker, 1968</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clippings&lt;br&gt;Drafts</td>
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### Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970

<table>
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<td>Cancer, 1959</td>
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<td>Democratic Party, 1960</td>
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<td>Lend Lease, 1942-1943</td>
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<td>Liberals, undated</td>
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Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970

Contains

Contents

Miscellaneous, 1957-1958
(2 folders)
Book reviews, 1942-1943, 1959
Books

Candidates 1960, edited with Eric Sevareid, 1959
(3 folders)

“Corruption” (unpublished), 1955-1956
(3 folders)

(4 folders)

“He'd Rather Be President” about Thomas E. Dewey (unpublished), circa 1950
(3 folders)

“The Johnson Revolution” (unpublished), 1964
(4 folders)

“The Life and Times of Frank Costello” (unpublished), 1946-1952
(1 folder)

(4 folders)

Our Sovereign States, edited by Robert S. Allen, 1949

(3 folders)

(2 folders)

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (1914-1988), undated
Social and Civic Agencies in Greater Cleveland, National Youth Agency, circa 1938

Columns

Closeup, 1956-1957
Footnotes to Headline, 1941-1942

In the Town's Backrooms
Drafts and notes, undated
(2 folders)
Newspaper clippings, 1951-1956
(4 folders)

Miscellaneous
Drafts, 1941-1969, undated
(2 folders)
Newspaper clippings,
1948, 1960-1968

1969

Report from Washington
Watch on the Potomac
Drafts
Set no. 1
1955-1961
(6 folders)
1962
(6 folders)

(1 folder)
1963
(8 folders)
Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970

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<td>BOX 31</td>
<td>1962-1969</td>
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<td>BOX 32</td>
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<td>Promotional and administrative material, 1955-1968, undated</td>
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<td>Newsletters and newspapers</td>
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<td><em>Cincinnati Bearcat</em>, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1935</td>
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<td><em>Contemporary Affairs</em>, publication of the Contemporary Affairs Society</td>
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<td>BOX 33</td>
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<td>Miscellany, 1962-1970</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970

#### Container 34
- Private Wire, 1958-1959
- SOS, 1941 (See Container 46, Student Defenders of Democracy)

#### Spivack Report
- Chronological file, 1966-1970
  - (3 folders)
- Promotional material, 1968
- Notes, undated
  - (2 folders)
  - (2 folders)

#### BOX 34
- Reporter's notebooks, undated
  - (2 folders)

#### BOX 35
- Speeches and speaking engagements, 1951-1964
  - (2 folders)

#### By others
- Articles
  - Carter, Douglass, 1957-1962
  - Miscellaneous, 1944-1970, undated
    - (6 folders)
- New York Post
  - Miscellaneous, 1943-1967
    - (4 folders)
  - Poston, Ted, undated

#### New York Times
- 1940

#### BOX 36
- 1941
  - (3 folders)
- Newsletters
- Miscellaneous, 1958-1969
- Pulliam Albany Letter, 1945-1948
- Newspapers
- African-American, 1957, 1965
- PM, 1941
- Plays and poems, undated
- Political skits and song parodies, undated
  - (2 folders)

#### BOX 37
- Speeches, 1955
  - Television interview shows, 1969

#### BOX 37-46
- Subject File, 1931-1970
  - Topical files and organizational records.
  - Arranged alphabetically by subject or organization.

#### BOX 37
- Banking, 1954
- Brewster, Owen and Henry Grunewald, 1952-1953
Cartoons and cartoonists, undated
Chaachou, Khadouri, 1961
DC Nine Defense Committee, 1969
Dewey, Thomas E., 1941-1951
Energy
  Miscellany, 1948-1965
  (3 folders)
  Niagara power controversy, newspaper articles by Spivack, 1955
BOX 38
  Printed matter, 1953-1955
  (2 folders)
  Eisenhower, Dwight D., administration, 1952-1965
    Hagerty, James C., 1948, 1958
    Miscellany, 1952-1965
  Farley, James A., 1967
  Foundations and community organizations, undated
  Goldstein, Jonah J., 1935-1945
  Jews and Israel, 1950-1969
  Johnson, Lyndon B., administration
    Dominican Republic crisis
      1955-1965
      (2 folders)
BOX 39
  Undated
  Miscellany, 1947-1970, undated
  (3 folders)
  Printed matter, 1957-1965
  Lane, Myles J., 1952
  Lundberg, Ferdinand, 1968
  McCarthy, Joseph
    Congressional printed matter, 1954
    Miscellany
      1953-1954
      (2 folders)
BOX 40
  Undated
  Medicine, 1945,1955
  Morris, Newbold, 1945-1952
  New York, N.Y., politics, government, and civic life, 1940-1969
  Nixon, Richard M., 1957-1964
  O'Dwyer, William
    Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 1941-1951
    Miscellany, 1934-1964, undated
      (4 folders)
BOX 41
  Organized crime
    Commissioner of Internal Revenue, 1951
    Costello, Frank, 1947-1951
    Lucchese, Thomas, 1941-1952
    Miscellany, 1950-1951
Subject File, 1931-1970

Container  
Contents

Murder, Inc., 1941-1947
New York State Crime Committee, 1951

Political parties
American Party, 1952
Communist Party, 1953
Democratic Party, 1948-1960
Liberal Party of New York State, undated
Republican Party, 1942-1970


BOX 42
Press and media
Miscellany, 1956-1969
Professional organizations, 1941-1957
Tours, 1951, undated
Public opinion polling, 1964-1967

Reporters’ News Syndicate
Announcements and news releases, circa 1969
Correspondence, 1964-1970
(2 folders)
Instructional material, circa 1969
Miscellany, 1949, 1968-1969
New York Urban Coalition, 1969

Participants
Bell, Joan E., 1969
Haggans, Lionel, 1958, 1969

BOX 43
Mahone, Othello, 1969
Morales, Reuben, 1969
(2 folders)
Miscellaneous, 1969-1970
(2 folders)
Palmer, Angela, 1969
(3 folders)
Peterson, James W., 1969
(2 folders)
Resumés, 1968-1969
Varlack, Keith, 1969
Zephyr, Aubrey, 1970
(2 folders)

BOX 44
Publications

Contemporary Affairs, 1969 See also Container 32, Contemporary Affairs
(3 folders)
“Sonny Jones” incident, 1944
United Nations headquarters building, site committee, undated
United States Commission on Civil Rights, 1965
Vietnam
Democratic Party of Vietnam
Miscellany, 1963
_Sword of Free Vietnam_, newsletter, 1962-1964

Miscellany
1962-1967
(2 folders)

**BOX 45**
1968-1970, undated
(3 folders)
White backlash and other ethnic issues, 1967-1968, undated
(3 folders)
Wiretapping, 1949

World War II
Activism for United States intervention
Bissell, George, III, 1934, 1951
Congressional hearings, 1931-1941
Fight for Freedom, Inc., 1940-1941, undated _See also Oversize_ (2 folders)

**BOX 46**
Free French, 1936-1943
Miscellany, 1936-1946
(2 folders)
Newspaper clippings, 1941-1949, undated
(2 folders)
Reference file, 1941-1943
Scrapbook, 1941-1942, 1947 _See Oversize_
Spain, 1937-1941
Student organizations
American Student Union, 1938
American Youth Congress, 1939-1942
International Student Service of the United States, 1939-1942, 1957, undated
(2 folders)
Student Defenders of Democracy, 1941
_What Are We Catholics Going to Do?,” _tabloid pamphlet, 1933
Miscellany, 1941-1943 _See also Oversize_

**BOX 47-48**
_MISCELLANY, 1936-1970_
Biographical material, press releases, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

**BOX 47**
Book lists and promotional material relating to books, undated
Biographical material and clippings mentioning Spivack, 1941-1970
(2 folders)
Financial papers, 1946, 1960-1966
Lists and seating charts, 1943-1946, 1957, 1967
Neighborhoods and housing programs, 1947-1970
Press releases, 1950-1963
(3 folders)
Printed matter
_Business and the Ghetto_, Chilton Co., 1968
### Pointers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 48    | Civil rights, 1957-1958  
(3 folders)  
Congressional publications  
Hearings, Soviet espionage, 1956-1957  
Miscellaneous, 1953-1956, 1963  
Magazines and journals, 1956-1970  
(2 folders)  
Miscellaneous, 1936, 1946, 1961-1969  
(2 folders)  
*New Leader*, 1956-1960  
Résumés, 1963-1965 |
| BOX OV 1-OV 2 | **Oversize, 1941-1947**  
Two scrapbooks and a poster.  
Arranged and described according to the series, container, and file from which the material was removed. |
| BOX OV 1    | Subject File  
World War II  
Activism for United States intervention  
Fight for Freedom, Inc.  
“Business with Hitler?,” poster, circa 1941 (Container 45) |
| BOX OV 2    | Scrapbook, 1941-1942, 1947 (Container 46)  
Miscellany  
Scrapbook, 1943 (Container 46) |