Collection Summary

Title: Martha Dodd Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1898-1990
Bulk Dates: 1950-1990
ID No.: MSS80875
Creator: Dodd, Martha
Extent: 4,900 items
Extent: 14 containers plus 2 oversize
Extent: 7.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm91080875

Summary: Author and political exile. Correspondence, writings, research materials, memoirs, genealogical material, newspaper clippings, and other papers relating to Dodd's experiences (1933-1937) in Berlin with her father, William Edward Dodd, American ambassador to Germany; her exile (1957-1990) with her husband, Alfred Kaufman Stern, in Cuba and Czechoslovakia following indictment for participation in Soviet espionage; and her writings on topics including the civil rights movement in the United States, the Cold War, the Cuban revolution, and the conflict in Vietnam.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Delbrück, Max--Correspondence.
Dodd family.
Dodd, Martha, 1908-1990.
Dodd, Martha. 1908-1990. Through embassy eyes. 1939.
Dodd, William E. (William Edward), 1869-1940.
Feuchtwanger, Lion, 1884-1958--Correspondence.
Harnack-Fish, Mildred, 1902-1943--Correspondence.
Kanin, Fay. Fay Kanin papers.
Klopfer, Donald, 1902-1986--Correspondence.
Lamont, Corliss, 1902-1995--Correspondence.
Lardner, Ring, Jr., 1915-2000. Ring Lardner papers.
Maltz, Albert, 1908-1985--Correspondence.
Masters, Dexter--Correspondence.
Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956--Correspondence.
Miller, Arthur, 1915-2005--Correspondence.
Preminger, Otto--Correspondence.
Ratner, Letitia--Correspondence.
Roberts, George B. (George Bassett)--Correspondence.
Robeson, Elanda Goode, 1896-1965--Correspondence.
Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976--Correspondence.
Shirer, William L. (William Lawrence), 1904-1993--Correspondence.
Smith, Carleton, 1908-1984--Correspondence.
Sondergaard, Gale, 1899-1985--Correspondence.
Venturelli, José, 1924-1988--Correspondence.
Winogradov, Boris--Correspondence.
Wolfe, Thomas, 1900-1938--Correspondence.
**Organizations**
Illinois. State Housing Board.
Institute for Psychoanalysis.

**Subjects**
Civil rights movements.
Cold War.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Germany.
Espionage, Soviet.
Exiles' writings.
Exiles--Cuba.
Exiles--Czechoslovakia.
Psychoanalysis--Societies, etc.
Public housing--Cuba.
Public housing--Europe, Eastern.
Public housing--United States.
Treason--Germany.

**Places**
Berlin (Germany)--History--1918-1945.
Cuba--History--Revolution, 1959.
Czechoslovakia--History--Intervention, 1968.
Germany--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Germany.

**Occupations**
Authors.
Exiles.

**Acquisition Information**
The papers of Martha Dodd, author and political emigré, were bequeathed to the Library of Congress by Dodd in 1991. Several small additions have been received since that time.

**Processing History**
The papers of Martha Dodd were arranged and described by Kathleen Dondanville in 1993.

**Additional Guides**

**Transfers**
Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

**Copyright Status**
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Martha Dodd in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions

The papers of Martha Dodd 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, Martha Dodd Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1908, Oct.8</td>
<td>Born, Ashland, Va.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Graduated, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931-1933</td>
<td>Assistant literary editor, Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932, Mar.</td>
<td>Married George B. Roberts (divorced 1934)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933-1937</td>
<td>Moved to Berlin with family and father, William E. Dodd, upon his appointment as United States ambassador to Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938, Sept.13</td>
<td>Married Alfred K. Stern</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Publication of Through Embassy Eyes (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. 382 pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Publication of Ambassador Dodd's Diary (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. 464 pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Publication of Sowing the Wind (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. 311 pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Fled to Mexico City, Mexico, while under investigation by the Justice Department on charges of having participated in Soviet espionage operations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Publication of The Searching Light (New York: Citadel Press. 345 pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Indicted in absentia by United States federal grand jury for participation in Soviet espionage operations</td>
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<td>Emigrated to Prague, Czechoslovakia</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Emigrated to Havana, Cuba</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Returned to Prague, Czechoslovakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Indictment charges dismissed by United States federal district court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990, Aug.10</td>
<td>Died, Prague, Czechoslovakia</td>
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Scope and Content Note

The papers of Martha Eccles Dodd (1908-1990) span the years 1898-1990, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1950-1990. The collection contains correspondence, printed matter, and other materials documenting Dodd's experiences in Berlin from 1933 to 1937 with her father, William E. Dodd, American ambassador to Germany and her life during the period 1957 to 1990 spent in exile as a political writer in Cuba and Czechoslovakia. Also contained in the collection are Dodd's writings, including articles, short stories, and materials relating to her books. The Dodd Papers consist of the following series: Family Papers, Correspondence, Writings, and Scrapbooks.

The Family Papers (1898-1990) consist primarily of letters sent or received by family members, genealogical materials, and newspaper clippings relating to Dodd and her immediate family. The series is also comprised of correspondence and business records pertaining to the career and interests of her second husband, Alfred K. Stern. These include files documenting his work as chairman of the Illinois State Housing Board, studies of public housing projects in Eastern Europe and Cuba, correspondence with the Institute of Psychoanalysis in Chicago (of which he was a founding member) and some of his early radio addresses and speeches. Completing the series are miscellaneous items dating from 1898 and calling cards and invitations from Berlin's diplomatic and social elite, received by Dodd during her father's tenure as American ambassador to Germany.

Martha Dodd Papers
The Correspondence series (circa 1928-1990) contains letters dating principally from 1960 to 1990 between Dodd and her friends, associates, professional contacts, and members of the general public. The file is replete with descriptions of her life as an exile in Cuba and Czechoslovakia, thoughts regarding her political writings and beliefs, and recollections of her past. During the post-World War II period, Dodd and Stern were active in left-wing politics and friendly with members of the Soviet and East European diplomatic corps. Their unsuccessful business venture with Russian emigré Boris Morros was later exposed by Morros in the early 1950s to be a front for espionage. Morros, a Soviet spy, who was later turned double-agent by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, implicated the Sterns, who then left the United States to live in Mexico. Dodd's correspondence reflects her bitterness toward the United States government for her exile and the indictment that followed in 1957 charging Dodd and Stern with participating in Soviet espionage operations. Though Dodd initially was eager to spend her exile in socialist Eastern Europe, correspondence during the last decade of her life reveals an intense disillusionment with socialism and a strong desire to relocate to England or return to the United States. Also reflected in these letters are admissions that she and Stern's lavish lifestyle did not always represent their belief in radical and progressive causes.

Correspondence dating from the early 1930s relates mainly to her experiences and travels in Europe during her father's tenure as United States ambassador to Germany. William E. Dodd was not a professional diplomat but was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal choice for the sensitive Berlin post. Martha Dodd often acted as hostess for her father during his Berlin service. Included are love letters written in German from Boris Winogradov, a Soviet official at the USSR's embassy in Berlin at the time Dodd was at the American embassy. Attached to his letters are notes by Dodd summarizing the contents and describing relevant events and circumstances surrounding his letters. Also of significance during this period are letters from Mildred Harnack, an American intellectual living in Berlin who was executed along with her German husband by order of Adolf Hitler on charges of high treason. Dodd later researched the lives of both Winogradov and Harnack, presumably with the intent of writing an article or short story. Research materials regarding these correspondents can be found in the Writings series of the collection.

Dodd cultivated and maintained a lively correspondence with artists, writers, actors, intellectuals, and others who shared her political ideology and traveled in the same social circles. Some of these prominent and frequent correspondents include Max Delbrück, W. E. B. Du Bois, Lion Feuchtwanger, Donald Klopfer, Corliss Lamont, Albert Maltz, Dexter Masters, H. L. Mencken, Arthur Miller, Letitia Ratner, George B. Roberts, Paul and Eslanda Goode Robeson, William L. Shirer, Carleton Smith, Gale Sondergaard, José Venturelli, and Thomas Wolfe.

The largest portion of the Writings series (1934-1982) is comprised of manuscripts and publication copies of Dodd's newspaper and magazine articles. Since most articles were written during her exile, many of the publication copies are in Chinese, Spanish, Czech, German, and Russian. Reflecting her bias towards socialist ideology, the articles pertain to topics such as the Cuban revolution, the Cold War, the civil rights movement in the United States, and the war in Vietnam.

Contracts, reviews, revision copies, and other materials relating to her books are also contained in the Writings. Of special note are comments and quotes by prominent writers and intellectuals used by Dodd's publishers to advertise her books. Included are quotes by Sean O'Casey, Albert Einstein, Katherine Anne Porter, Carl Sandburg, and Thomas Mann. The series also contains drafts of screenplays by Dodd, Fay Kanin, and Ring Lardner, correspondence with Hollywood producer and director Otto Preminger, and story treatments and other materials relating to a Hollywood film project, based on her books Ambassador Dodd's Diary and Through Embassy Eyes, which was later canceled.

Other materials in the Writings include correspondence with publishers, research data, short stories, press releases and statements, radio addresses and speeches, and unfinished memoirs. Significant items include a press release issued by Dodd and Stern upon their arrival in Czechoslovakia after their 1957 indictment and memoirs recording Dodd's eyewitness account of Soviet tanks rolling through the streets of Prague in 1968. Themes in her short stories, most of which are undated but probably written during the 1930s and 1940s, are often based on Dodd's personal experiences, particularly those during her life in Nazi Germany.

The Scrapbooks series (1927-1945) completes the collection. Comprised of newspaper and magazine clippings, most of the scrapbooks contain announcements and reviews of Dodd's books. Others pertain to Stern and his work as chairman of the Illinois State Housing Board and other activities.
Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- **Family Papers, 1898-1987**
- **Correspondence, circa 1928-1990**
- **Writings, 1934-1982**
- **Scrapbooks, 1927-1945**
Description of Series

**Container**  
**Series**  
**BOX 1-4**  
**Family Papers, 1898-1987**  
Letters sent and received by family members, genealogical materials, newspaper clippings regarding the Dodd family, business records and related materials pertaining to Alfred Stern, passports and alien registration books, address and telephone number lists, a baby book, calling cards, directories, photographs, invitations collected in Germany, and other miscellaneous items.  
Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.

**BOX 4-10**  
**Correspondence, circa 1928-1990**  
Correspondence between Dodd and friends, organizations, and members of the general public, together with attachments such as newspaper clippings, brochures, articles, and photographs documenting Dodd's experiences in Germany and her life in exile in Cuba and Czechoslovakia.  
Arrangement is alphabetical by name of person or institution and chronological therein.

**BOX 10-14**  
**Writings, 1934-1982**  
Drafts, publication copies, correspondence, revisions, research materials, reviews, and related items pertaining to Dodd's books, magazine and newspaper articles, short stories, and screenplays. Interviews, memoirs, press releases, radio addresses, translations, and miscellaneous writings are included.  
Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.

**BOX OV 15-16**  
**Scrapbooks, 1927-1945**  
Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings and magazine articles pertaining to Dodd's books, Stern's work with the Illinois State Housing Board, and other subjects of personal interest.  
Arrangement is alphabetical by name of person and topic thereunder.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 1-4   | **Family Papers, 1898-1987**  
Letters sent and received by family members, genealogical materials, newspaper clippings regarding the Dodd family, business records and related materials pertaining to Alfred Stern, passports and alien registration books, address and telephone number lists, a baby book, calling cards, directories, photographs, invitations collected in Germany, and other miscellaneous items.  
Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein. |
| BOX 1     | Address and telephone number lists, undated  
American Embassy, Berlin, Germany  
Calling cards, 1933-1937  
(2 folders)  
Directory of diplomatic corps, 1935-1936  
(2 folders)  
Invitations, 1933-1937, undated  
(3 folders)  
Baby book, circa 1908-1916  
Correspondence  
Dodd, Martha, and Alfred Stern (husband)  
Dodd, William E., 1938-1939  
Dodd, William E., Jr., and Audrey, 1952  
Griffen, Annie and Allen, 1951, 1961-1965  
Dodd, Martha Johns (mother)  
Dodd, Martha and William E., Jr., 1928-1938  
Miscellaneous, 1934-1936 |
| BOX 2     | Dodd, William E. (father)  
Dodd family, 1922-1933  
Dodd, Martha, 1925-1938  
(2 folders)  
Dodd, Martha Johns, 1924-1933  
Dodd, William E., Jr., 1924-1933  
Miscellaneous, 1934-1940  
Stern, Alfred, 1938  
Dodd, William E., Jr. (brother)  
Dodd, Martha, 1929, 1936-1937, 1943  
Dodd, William E. and Martha Johns, 1933-1936  
Miscellaneous, 1933-1940  
Genealogical materials, 1938-1940, 1951-1952, undated  
(2 folders)  
Miscellany, 1898, 1916, 1948, undated |
Newspaper clippings
  Dodd family, 1933-1941
  Dodd, Martha, 1930-1947, 1957-1974, undated
  Dodd, Martha Johns, 1933-1938
  Dodd, William E., 1933-1941, 1970
  (2 folders)

BOX 3
  Dodd, William E., Jr., 1935-1952
  Miscellaneous, 1934-1936, 1943, undated
  Stern, Alfred, 1938-1939, undated

Passports and alien registration books
  Dodd, William E., 1933-1937

Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1955
  Stern, Alfred
    Congressional campaign brochure, circa 1940

Housing files
  Cuba, 1968-1969
  Czechoslovakia, 1959-1961
  Germany, 1959-1961, undated
  (2 folders)
  Miscellaneous, 1948, 1960
  Romania, 1961
  Sweden, undated
  United States, 1933-1937

Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chicago, Ill.
  1957, 1981-1983
  (4 folders)

BOX 4
  1984-1987, undated

Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1932-1937

Memorial tributes and related materials
  Stern, Alfred, 1986
  Stern, Max, 1916

Radio addresses and speeches, 1931-1938

BOX 4-10

Correspondence, circa 1928-1990

Correspondence between Dodd and friends, organizations, and members of the general public, together with attachments such as newspaper clippings, brochures, articles, and photographs documenting Dodd's experiences in Germany and her life in exile in Cuba and Czechoslovakia.

Arrangement is alphabetical by name of person or institution and chronological therein.

BOX 4

  Berard, Armand, 1935-1938

  Coe, Frank and Ruth, 1961-1986
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<td>Davidson, Jo, circa 1936-1952</td>
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<td>Deiss, Joseph, 1977-1986</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>“D” miscellaneous, 1939-1941, 1983-1986, undated</td>
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<td>Eaton, Anne, 1979-1986</td>
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<td>Feuchtwanger, Lion, 1937-1957</td>
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<td>Fuss, Audrey, 1975-1977</td>
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<td>Hajek, Jiri, 1978-1988, undated</td>
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<td>Halonen, Pekka, 1978-1982</td>
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<td>Harnack, Mildred, 1934-1936</td>
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<td>Kadlecova, Vera, 1979-1989</td>
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<td>Kaufman, Solovan and Jennie, 1982-1989</td>
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(2 folders)  
Valyi, Erzsi and Gabor, 1961-1989  
(2 folders)  
BOX 10  
Venturelli, José, 1980-1988  
“V” miscellaneous, 1955, 1980  
Walker, Agnes, 1980-1986  
Winogradov, Boris, 1933-1938  
(5 folders)  
Wolfe, Thomas, 1934-1935  
Zilliacus, Jannie, 1981-1989  
“Z” miscellaneous, 1948  

BOX 10-14  
Writings, 1934-1982  
Drafts, publication copies, correspondence, revisions, research materials, reviews, and related items pertaining to Dodd's books, magazine and newspaper articles, short stories, and screenplays. Interviews, memoirs, press releases, radio addresses, translations, and miscellaneous writings are included. 
Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.  

BOX 10  
Articles  
"Adenauer Raus," 1960  
"The American Student," 1934  
"Assault on a White Female," 1963  
"Babes in the Woods, Spies in the Sky," 1960  
"Black Sea Coast," undated  
"Black Sea Vacation," 1960  
"China," undated  
"Cuba," undated  
"The Daily Revolution," 1967  
"Daughter of Earth," 1965  
"The Days Are Numbered," 1963-1964  
"Demonstration of Prague Against the Oppressors of Cuba," undated  
"Dinosaur in Vietnam," 1965  
"The Eternal Brilliance of Norman Bethune," 1965  
"An Explosive Force," 1964  
"A Fateful Moment," 1961  
"Germany Revisited," 1959  
"Hail and Farewell," 1964  
"Health in High Tatras," 1961  

BOX 11  
"Home Away from Home," 1963  
"I am a Folksinger: Paul Robeson," 1963
<table>
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<th>Container</th>
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"Imprison a Flame?" 1961
"Independence," 1963
"Eine Lanze fur Chicago," 1934
"The Life Rules the Pen," 1964
"The Lips to the Teeth," 1965
"Meeting with Moscow," 1958
"Miracles in Zdiar," 1961
"Moscow," 1962
"Mr. Oxford," 1962-1963
"The Nazi Riders Are Again in the Saddle," 1960
"New Hoyerswerda: Second Socialist City of the GDR," 1960
"No Pasaran," 1960
"Of Blue Jeans and Socialism," 1965
"Open Letter to the Editors of Ogonyok," 1959
"Pillars of Fire," 1965
"Prisoner Number 4678860," 1963
"A Rally," 1960
"A Reading by Ilya Ehrenburg," 1962
"Robesn and Hemingway," 1963
"Salesman of Death," 1960
"Socialist Hotelery in the High Tatras," 1961
"Sounding Reveille in Siboney," 1963
"Stranger than a Blockage and Cyclone," 1963
"The Tail of the Alligator," 1961
"Thoughts about Munich," 1959
"A Time to Speak Out and a Time to Act," 1965
"To a Red Army Soldier," 1959
"To Make a Desert, to Call It Peace," 1965
"To Those Who Sit in Darkness," 1960
"The Twain Have Met, or N.S.K. Via-a-via U.S.A.," 1959
"Twilight in the Earth," 1965
"Under the Gilded Dome," 1959

Unidentified translations in Czech and Russian, 1959-1965, undated

Untitled [re. Vietnam War], 1967, undated

"Waiting in Poprad," undated

"What? No Tipping?" 1965
"Wieder in Deutschland," 1959
"Wolf in Sheep's Clothing," 1963
"World Without Weapons," 1959
"A Yankee in Cuba," 1962-1963
"Years to Remember," 1964

Books
Ambassador Dodd's Diary
   First edition
      Comments and quotes, 1940-1941
      Contract, 1941
Reviews and related materials
1940-1941

BOX 12
1941-1943
(2 folders)
Later editions, changes made, 1960-1961
Our Nation, 1941
The Searching Light
First edition
Comments and quotes, 1953-1955
Reviews and related materials, 1955-1957
Later editions
Changes made, undated
Reviews, 1960-1965
Sowing the Wind
First edition
Comments and quotes, 1945
Reviews and related materials, 1945-1947
Later editions
Changes made, 1958, undated
Comments and quotes, undated
Contract, 1960
Reviews and related materials, 1967-1969, undated
Through Embassy Eyes
Comments and quotes, 1939
Reviews and related materials, 1939
Correspondence with publishers
Das Magazin, 1960-1963
Mainstream, 1959-1963, 1969
Seven Seas Books, 1959-1966
Verlag der Nation, 1961, 1973-1978
Verlag Volk and Vert, 1947, 1960-1962
Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1939-1940
World Literature, 1961-1965
Interviews, undated
Memoirs (unfinished), 1962, 1968-1969

BOX 13
Miscellany, 1958-1963, undated
(2 folders)
Open letter to newspapers, 1947
Press releases and statements, 1957-1962
Radio addresses and speeches, 1959, undated
Research materials
Africa, undated
Castro, Fidel, 1963
Civil rights, 1959-1963, undated
Communist Party USA, 1953-1961, undated
Czechoslovakia, 1968-1969
Du Bois, W. E. B., undated
Dulles, John Foster, 1959-1961
Fascism, 1956-1961
Harnack, Mildred, 1936-1947, 1982, undated
Hemingway, Ernest, 1961
Kennedy, John F., and Robert F., 1961-1963, undated
Korean War, 1950, undated
Miscellaneous, 1938-1963, undated
(2 folders)
U-2 spy flight, 1960
Unemployment, 1959, undated
Winogradov, Boris, 1957, 1969-1971
World War II, 1963, undated
Scholarships for children of antifascist fighters (from book royalties), 1948, undated
Screenplays
Ambassador Dodd's Diary, with Fay Kanin
Contracts and legal agreements, 1943-1944
Correspondence, 1939-1943
Draft, 1943
Publicity, 1943
Revisions, 1943
Story treatment, 1943
Now It Can Be Told, with Ring Lardner, 1943
Short stories
"Bright Journey into Darkness," undated
"Brother and Sister," undated
"Cargo: Gramophone," undated
"Crossroads," undated
"Death in Tiflis," undated
"Father and Son," undated
"A Fight for Peace," undated
"Fight Two Thousand Years," undated
"Maria," 1950-1951
"The Musicians," undated
"Not Yet by Bread Alone," undated
"Peace to the Aged," undated
"Poet's Wife," undated
"The Silver Penguin," 1942
"Who Art in Heaven," undated
Translation editing for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, 1964-1965, undated

Scrapbooks, 1927-1945
Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings and magazine articles pertaining to Dodd's books,
Stern's work with the Illinois State Housing Board, and other subjects of personal interest.
Arrangement is alphabetical by name of person and topic thereunder.
## Scrapbooks, 1927-1945

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BOX OV 15** | Dodd, Martha  
Ambassador Dodd's Diary, 1941  
Sowing the Wind, 1945  
Through Embassy Eyes, 1939 |
| **BOX OV 16** | Stern, Alfred  
Public housing and related topics  
Vol. 1, 1927-1937  
Vol. 2, 1931-1940 |