

Stuart Chase Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015628>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008009>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
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Collection Summary

Title: Stuart Chase Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1907-1978

Bulk Dates: 1931-1955

ID No.: MSS15628

Creator: Chase, Stuart, 1888-1985

Extent: 5,000 items

Extent: 29 containers

Extent: 14 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015628>

Summary: Economist and author. Correspondence, drafts and manuscripts of books and writings, notes, reports, book reviews, contracts, subject files, printed matter, and other papers pertaining to Chase's contributions to economics and social policy, especially as member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "brain trust."

Online Content: Selected documents from the Stuart Chase Papers are available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008009.001>.

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

Acheson, Dean, 1893-1971--Correspondence.
Angell, Ernest, 1889-1973--Correspondence.
Baldwin, Roger N. (Roger Nash), 1884-1981--Correspondence.
Benton, William, 1900-1973--Correspondence.
Black, Hugo LaFayette, 1886-1971--Correspondence.
Bowles, Chester, 1901-1986--Correspondence.
Cantril, Hadley, 1906-1969--Correspondence.
Chase, Stuart, 1888-1985.
Chase, Stuart, 1888-1985. Power of words. 1954.
Cowley, Malcolm, 1898-1989--Correspondence.
Daniels, Jonathan, 1902-1981--Correspondence.
Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945--Correspondence.
Eccles, Marriner S. (Marriner Stoddard), 1890-1977--Correspondence.
Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955--Correspondence.
Fadiman, Clifton, 1904-1999--Correspondence.
Galbraith, John Kenneth, 1908-2006--Correspondence.
Gunther, John, 1901-1970--Correspondence.
Hassett, William D., 1880-1965--Correspondence.
Henderson, Leon, 1895-1986--Correspondence.
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952--Correspondence.
Jackson, Robert H., 1892-1954--Correspondence.
Keller, Helen, 1880-1968--Correspondence.
La Follette, Philip Fox, 1897-1965--Correspondence.
Lewis, Sinclair, 1885-1951.
Lilienthal, David Eli, 1899-1981--Correspondence.
Marquand, John P. (John Phillips), 1893-1960--Correspondence.
Mumford, Lewis, 1895-1990--Correspondence.
Perkins, Milo, 1900- --Correspondence.
Pusey, Nathan M. (Nathan Marsh), 1907-2001--Correspondence.

Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Roper, Elmo, 1900-1971--Correspondence.
Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968--Correspondence.
Stone, Harlan Fiske, 1872-1946--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence.
Yost, Charles Woodruff--Correspondence.

Organizations

Great Island Conference.
Standard Oil Company.
Twentieth Century Fund.
United States. Congress. Temporary National Economic Committee.
United States. Federal Trade Commission.

Subjects

Consumers--Research.
Economics.
Meat industry and trade--Illinois--Chicago.
Packing-houses--Illinois--Chicago.
Peace.
Social policy.
World War, 1939-1945--Peace.

Places

United States--Economic policy--1933-1945.
United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.
United States--Social policy.

Titles

Reader's digest.

Occupations

Authors.
Economists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Stuart Chase, economist and author, were given to the Library of Congress from 1956 to 1987. The first installment was given by Chase in 1956. Additions to the papers were made by Chase and his wife, Marian Tyler Chase, in 1977 and 1978 and by Sonia Chase Hodson in 1987.

Processing History

The papers of Stuart Chase were arranged and described in 1958 by Robert A. Land. The collection was expanded and revised in 1979 by Michael McElderry and 1996 by Karen A. Stuart and Melinda K. Friend. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Stuart Chase 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 Stuart Chase 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.

Online Content

Selected documents from the Stuart Chase Papers are available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008009.001>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Stuart Chase Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1888, Mar. 8	Born, Somersworth, N.H.
circa 1910-1917	Worked as a certified public accountant in his father's firm, Boston, Mass.
1914	Married Margaret Hatfield (divorced)
1917-1922	Staff, Federal Trade Commission, investigating meat packing industry
1922-1929	With Labor Bureau, Inc.
1927	Economic adviser to a trade union delegation to Russia
1930	Married Marian Tyler
1934	Published <i>The Economy of Abundance</i> . New York: Macmillan
1935	Published <i>Government in Business</i> . New York: Macmillan
1936	Published <i>Rich Land, Poor Land</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1938	Published <i>The Tyranny of Words</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1940	Published <i>Idle Money, Idle Men</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1940-1941	With Tennessee Valley Authority
1941	Published <i>A Primer of Economics</i> . New York: Row, Peterson
1942	Published <i>Goals for America</i> . New York: Twentieth Century Fund
1945	Published with Marian Tyler Chase <i>Men at Work</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1948	Published <i>The Proper Study of Mankind</i> . New York: Harper
1949	With Unesco
1951	Published with Marian Tyler Chase <i>Roads to Agreement</i> . New York: Harper
1954	Published with Marian Tyler Chase <i>Power of Words</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1956	Published <i>Guides to Straight Thinking</i> . New York: Harper
1958	Published <i>Some Things Worth Knowing</i> . New York: Harper
1962	Published <i>American Credos</i> . New York: Harper
1964	Published <i>Money to Grow On</i> . New York: Harper and Row
1968	Published <i>The Most Probable World</i> . New York: Harper and Row
1969	Published <i>Danger--Men Talking!</i> New York: Parents' Magazine Press

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Stuart Chase (1885-1985) span the years 1907 to 1978, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1931 to 1955. He was a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "brain trust." His interests and contributions in the fields of economics and social policy are documented throughout the collection. This collection includes correspondence, notes, reports, contracts, book reviews, printed matter, and card files divided among the original gift and two subsequent ones organized as Additions I and II.

The material of the first installment has been organized in three series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), and [Printed Matter](#). The [Correspondence](#) series includes letters to and from prominent correspondents, letters from readers of Chase's works, and correspondence with his publishers and his literary agent, Ann Watkins. The [Subject File](#) contains correspondence and other material relating to Chase's writings, career, and other interests. Although many of the files pertain to his writings, only manuscript drafts for *The Power of Words* are found in this installment. Clippings, reviews, and correspondence concerning many of his prominent writings, however, are represented. Included also in the [Subject File](#) is material on Chase's work with the Federal Trade Commission investigating Chicago meat packers in 1919 and subsequent accusations of socialist leanings among members of the project staff, the organizing of a consumers' research foundation in 1928, Chase's work with the Temporary National Economic Committee in 1939, and his participation in conferences on peace and international affairs in the post-World War II period.

Prominent correspondents include Dean Acheson, Chester Bowles, Theodore Dreiser, Albert Einstein, Clifton Fadiman, William D. Hassett, Harold L. Ickes, Helen Keller, John P. Marquand, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Upton Sinclair, and Harry S. Truman.

[Addition I](#) was appended to the Chase papers in 1979 and consists largely of literary manuscripts in the form of typewritten book drafts and related records. Letters relate to the publication of Chase's *The Power of Words* as well as a variety of subjects, including economic theory, publishing interests, and literary and political criticism. Notable in the correspondence is a letter dated 13 January 1964 to Jonathan Daniels in which Chase recalls his early association with Sinclair Lewis. Also of note are letters written by Chase in response to the publication of John A. Stormer's *None Dare Call It Treason* (1964) which cited allegations about Chase's political associations before World War II. Correspondents include Ernest Angell, William Benton, Hadley Cantril, Malcolm Cowley, Jonathan Daniels, Marriner S. Eccles, John Kenneth Galbraith, John Gunther, David Eli Lilienthal, Lewis Mumford, Nathan M. Pusey, Elmo Roper, and Charles Woodruff Yost.

[Addition II](#), appended to the Chase papers in 1993, includes a [subject file](#) containing correspondence and drafts of articles relating to Chase's work for the Standard Oil Company and *Reader's Digest* as well as general [correspondence](#). Letters relating to Chase's articles concern research material, business conducted with publishers, and reaction to a publication. A majority of Chase's articles for the *Reader's Digest* were written about programs for supervisory job training during World War II.

The bulk of this addition consists of [research notes](#) written on note cards arranged alphabetically by the title of the book to which they correspond. The notes consist of quotations and attached documents, articles, citations to books, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings. Chase did not footnote his works, but these cards seemed to have served that purpose. Other note cards contain references to [speeches](#) apparently given by Chase.

Correspondents include Roger N. Baldwin, Hugo LaFayette Black, Chester Bowles, Marriner S. Eccles, Leon Henderson, Robert Houghwout Jackson, Phillip Fox La Follette, Milo Perkins, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Eleanor Roosevelt, Elmo Roper, Harlan Fiske Stone, and Henry A. Wallace.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1924-1955](#)
- [Subject File, 1912-1954](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1927-1955](#)

- Addition I, 1909-1978
- Addition II, 1923-1978

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Correspondence, 1924-1955</u></p> <p>Correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and type of correspondence and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-8	<p><u>Subject File, 1912-1954</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, memoranda, clippings, reviews, drafts, contracts, and questionnaires. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, type of material, subject, or title of work and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 9-10	<p><u>Printed Matter, 1927-1955</u></p> <p>Articles, pamphlets, and books by Chase, with some works in foreign languages. Arranged chronologically by year of publication.</p>
BOX 11-13	<p><u>Addition I, 1909-1978</u></p> <p>Correspondence, articles, and drafts of books. Arranged alphabetically by type of material, title of work, or subject and therein chronologically, with the correspondence arranged chronologically only by year.</p>
BOX 14-29	<p><u>Addition II, 1923-1978</u></p>
BOX 14	<p><u>Correspondence, 1939-1964</u></p> <p>Correspondence. Arranged chronologically only by year.</p>
BOX 14	<p><u>Subject File, 1940-1963</u></p> <p>Correspondence and drafts of articles. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 15-29	<p><u>Research Notes, 1923-1978</u></p> <p>Note cards. Arranged alphabetically by title of the work for which they were used, with unidentified cards filed at the end.</p>
BOX 29	<p><u>Speeches, 1929-1950</u></p> <p>Note cards. Arranged alphabetically by state in which the speeches were given and therein chronologically.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1924-1955 Correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and type of correspondence and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Fan mail, 1945-1955
BOX 1	Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1932-1954
BOX 1	<i>Harper's Magazine</i> , 1953-1954
BOX 1	Macmillan Co., 1925-1949
BOX 1	McGraw-Hill and Whittlesey House, 1938, 1949
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1924-1955
BOX 1	Watkins, Ann (literary agent), 1937-1953
BOX 2-8	Subject File, 1912-1954 Correspondence, reports, memoranda, clippings, reviews, drafts, contracts, and questionnaires. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, type of material, subject, or title of work and therein chronologically.
BOX 2	Chicago meat packers--Federal Trade Commission, 1918-1922, undated (4 folders)
BOX 2	Civil liberties, 1954
BOX 2	<i>Consumers' Research</i> , 1928-1931
BOX 2	<i>Government in Business</i> , 1935
BOX 2	Great Island Conference, Inc., 1946-1948, undated
BOX 3	<i>Idle Money, Idle Men</i> , 1939-1941, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	<i>Men at Work</i> , 1943-1945
BOX 3	"Nineteen Propositions About Communism," 1952
BOX 3	Pages from journal, 1912-1913
BOX 3	"Paying for the War," 1942
BOX 3	<i>Power of Words</i> Correspondence, 1953-1954 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Reviews, 1954
BOX 4	<i>A Primer of Economics</i> , 1941
BOX 4	The Proper Study of Mankind, 1946-1948 (5 folders)
BOX 5	(4 folders)
BOX 5	<i>Roads to Agreement</i> Correspondence, 1949-1951 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Reviews, 1951
BOX 5	Roosevelt, Franklin D., and Supreme Court reform, 1937

Subject File, 1912-1954

Container	Contents
BOX 5	Temporary National Economic Committee, 1939 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Twentieth Century Fund, 1941-1954 (5 folders)
BOX 7	<i>The Tyranny of Words</i>
BOX 7	Correspondence, 1936-1939, undated (10 folders)
BOX 8	Publicity and reviews, 1938 (6 folders)
BOX 8	Washington Seminar on International Affairs, 1954
BOX 9-10	Printed Matter, 1927-1955 Articles, pamphlets, and books by Chase, with some works in foreign languages. Arranged chronologically by year of publication.
BOX 9	1927-1946
BOX 10	1950-1955, undated
BOX 11-13	Addition I, 1909-1978 Correspondence, articles, and drafts of books. Arranged alphabetically by type of material, title of work, or subject and therein chronologically, with the correspondence arranged chronologically only by year.
BOX 11	Correspondence, 1909-1977 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Articles, "How to Read a Financial Report," undated
BOX 11	Books
BOX 11	<i>American Credos</i> , circa 1962
BOX 11	Final copy, chapters 3-4, 12
BOX 11	Draft
BOX 11	Printer's copy
BOX 11	"Hard Profile," chapter 12, draft, undated
BOX 11	<i>The Most Probable World</i> , circa 1968
BOX 11	Outline
BOX 12	Printer's copy (2 folders)
BOX 12	<i>Power of Words</i> , 1952-circa 1954
BOX 12	Correspondence
BOX 12	Drafts
BOX 12	Printer's copy (3 folders)
BOX 13	Final copy (3 folders)
BOX 13	<i>Some Things Worth Knowing</i> , circa 1968 (3 folders)
BOX 13	Unesco Conference, International Tensions and Modern Technology, Paris, France, Apr. 1949

Addition I, 1909-1978

Container	Contents
BOX 13	Miscellany, 1931-1932, 1941-1944, 1951-1978, undated
BOX 14-29	Addition II, 1923-1978
BOX 14	Correspondence, 1939-1964 (2 folders) Correspondence. Arranged chronologically only by year.
BOX 14	Subject File, 1940-1963 Correspondence and drafts of articles. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization and therein chronologically.
BOX 14	<i>Reader's Digest</i> , 1940-1963 (6 folders)
BOX 14	Standard Oil Co., 1946-1950, undated
BOX 15-29	Research Notes, 1923-1978 Note cards. Arranged alphabetically by title of the work for which they were used, with unidentified cards filed at the end.
BOX 15	<i>Danger--Men Talking!</i> , circa 1962-1969
BOX 15	<i>The Economy of Abundance</i> , circa 1931-1938 Part 1
BOX 16	Part 2
BOX 17	<i>Government in Business</i> , circa 1934-1935
BOX 17	<i>Guides to Straight Thinking</i> , circa 1937, 1954-1957 Part 1
BOX 18	Part 2
BOX 18	<i>Money to Grow On</i> , circa 1950, 1960-1965
BOX 19	<i>The Most Probable World</i> , circa 1964-1967 Chapters 1-8
BOX 20	Chapters 9-15
BOX 20	<i>Power of Words</i> , circa 1946-1952 Part 1
BOX 21	Part 2
BOX 21	<i>The Proper Study of Mankind</i> , circa 1951-1955
BOX 21	<i>Rich Land, Poor Land</i> , circa 1930-1936 Part 1
BOX 22	Part 2
BOX 23	<i>Roads to Agreement</i> , circa 1923, 1945-1952 Part 1
BOX 24	Part 2
BOX 24	<i>Some Things Worth Knowing</i> , circa 1950-1958 Part 1
BOX 25	Part 2
BOX 25	<i>Tyranny of Words</i> , circa 1936-1942 Part 1

Addition II, 1923-1978

Container	Contents
BOX 26	Part 2
BOX 26	Unidentified A, circa 1967-1978
BOX 26	Unidentified B, circa 1965-1972
BOX 27	Unidentified C, circa 1968-1976
BOX 27	Unidentified D, circa 1942-1943
BOX 27	Unidentified E, circa 1968-1978
	Part 1
BOX 28	Part 2
BOX 28	Unidentified F, circa 1971-1978
	Part 1
BOX 29	Part 2
BOX 29	Speeches, 1929-1950
	Note cards.
	Arranged alphabetically by state in which the speeches were given and therein chronologically.