

Hanson Weightman Baldwin Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

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

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Collection Summary

Title: Hanson Weightman Baldwin Papers

Span Dates: 1920-1978

ID No.: MSS61729

Creator: Baldwin, Hanson Weightman, 1903-1991

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 8 containers

Extent: 3 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm84061729>

Summary: Author and editor. Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, notes, typescripts, press releases, printed matter, and other papers pertaining primarily to Baldwin's naval career and his early years as a general assignment newspaper reporter.

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

Baldwin, Hanson Weightman, 1903-1991.

Organizations

Naval War College (U.S.)

U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association.

United States Naval Academy.

United States. Naval Reserve--Officers.

United States. Navy--Officers.

Subjects

American newspapers--Maryland--Baltimore.

American newspapers--New York (State)--New York.

Titles

New York times.

Sun (Baltimore, Md. : 1837)

Occupations

Authors.

Newspaper editors.

Provenance

The papers of Hanson Weightman Baldwin, author and editor, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1984 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Hanson Weightman Baldwin were arranged and described in 1987. The collection was revised in 2002 and the finding aid further revised in 2008.

Related Materials

The principal collection of the Hanson Weightman Baldwin Papers is located in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, while a smaller collection of papers exists at the George C. Marshall Research Foundation Library, Lexington, Virginia.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Hanson Weightman Baldwin is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Hanson Weightman Baldwin 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, Hanson Weightman Baldwin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1903, Mar. 22	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1924	B.S., United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1924-1927	Naval officer, sea duty along the East Coast, in the Caribbean, and in Europe
1927	Resigned from active duty
1928-1929	Police and general assignment reporter, <i>Baltimore Sun</i>
1929-1937	General assignment reporter, <i>New York Times</i>
1931	Married Helen Bruce
1933	Resigned Naval Reserve commission
1937-1942	Military and naval correspondent, <i>New York Times</i>
1942	Published <i>Strategy for Victory</i> . New York: W. W. Norton
1942-1968	Military affairs editor, <i>New York Times</i>
1943	Awarded the Pulitzer Prize
1944	Awarded Distinguished Service Medal, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.
1958	Published <i>The Great Arms Race</i> . New York: Praeger
1969-1971	President, United States Naval Academy Alumni Association
1970	Published <i>Strategy for Tomorrow</i> . New York: Harper & Row
1991, Nov. 13	Died, Roxbury, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Hanson Weightman Baldwin (1903-1991) date from 1920 to 1978 and most prominently document his student years at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, along with his subsequent tour of active duty in the navy, his early years as a general assignment newspaper reporter, and his participation as an active member of both the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and the Naval War College, Washington, D.C. The papers are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series contains letters exchanged between Baldwin and his parents which provide details of Baldwin's years at the United States Naval Academy and describe the atmosphere of academy life in the period immediately following World War I. A file containing report cards and other school records from his student days is located in the [Subject File](#), while the [Miscellany](#) series includes several personal notebooks kept by Baldwin at the academy.

Following his graduation from the Naval Academy, Baldwin served as an officer aboard the battleship *Texas* and the destroyer *Breck*. In 1928 he began his career as a newspaper reporter after having resigned from active naval duty the previous year. Baldwin's letters to his parents in the [Correspondence](#) series provide information on his life as a young naval officer and also on his early years as a general assignment reporter, first with the *Baltimore Sun* in 1928 and a year later with the *New York Times*, the paper with which he would be associated for the remainder of his career. Although the [Correspondence](#) also contains letters to and from friends and former shipmates which further document this period of Baldwin's life, there are few letters in the series which illuminate his newspaper career after his appointment in 1937 by the *Times* as the first full-time military correspondent, and later military editor, on an American newspaper.

Baldwin's service as a commissioned officer in the navy, both on active duty and in the Naval Reserve, is also documented in the [Subject File](#). Records in this file concerning his resignation in 1933 give evidence to the conflict which arose between Baldwin's position as a Naval Academy graduate and naval officer, whose code required conduct loyal to the service, and his role as a newspaper reporter, whose commitment to objective and unprejudiced reporting demanded freedom of expression, when an article written by Baldwin contained information that was deemed sensitive by naval authorities. Explaining his position in a memorandum to the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation dated 1 March 1933, Baldwin wrote, "Loyalty cannot be interpreted from my viewpoint as preventing me the free and unabridged statement of fact or expression of opinion."

The [Subject File](#) also contains records relating to Baldwin's appointment as president of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and to his membership on the board of advisors of the Naval War College. Baldwin's literary manuscripts, few of which are included in the collection, are filed in the [Speeches and Writings File](#).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1920-1977](#)
- [Subject File, 1920-1978](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1929-1973](#)
- [Miscellany, 1920-1970](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Correspondence, 1920-1977</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, including correspondence with family members, postcards, and miscellaneous enclosures. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-6	<p><u>Subject File, 1920-1978</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, notes, printed matter, press releases, reports, school records, minutes of meetings, documents, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 6-7	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1929-1973</u></p> <p>Typescripts, printed matter, and notes relating to the speeches and writings of Hanson Baldwin and others. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 7-8	<p><u>Miscellany, 1920-1970</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings, printed matter, notes and notebooks, and cards. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1920-1977 Letters sent and received, including correspondence with family members, postcards, and miscellaneous enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1920-1977, undated (4 folders)
BOX 2-6	Subject File, 1920-1978 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, printed matter, press releases, reports, school records, minutes of meetings, documents, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 2	Arnheiter-Alexander investigation, 1967-1968
BOX 2	"Caribbean" book research
BOX 2	Korean War, 1950-1951 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Naval War College, Washington, D.C.
BOX 2	Advanced research program
BOX 2	Board of advisors, 1972-1975
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1970-1975, undated
BOX 3	Correspondence course, 1924-1925
BOX 3	Memoranda for the president of the college, 1974
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1971-1975
BOX 3	President's Maritime Advisory Committee, 1968-1969
BOX 3	<i>Scorpion</i> (Warship), 1968
BOX 3	United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1920-1924
BOX 4	United States Naval Academy Alumni Association
BOX 4	Correspondence
BOX 4	1967, June-1971, May (4 folders)
BOX 5	1971, June-1978, Feb., undated
BOX 5	Meetings
BOX 5	Board of trustees, 1968-1971
BOX 5	Business committee, 1969
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Michelson, Albert A., nomination to Hall of Fame for Great Americans, New York University, New York, N.Y.
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Recruiting campaign, 1969-1970
BOX 6	United States Navy
BOX 6	Documents and records, 1924-1934, undated

Subject File, 1920-1978

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Resignation, 1933-1934
BOX 6-7	Speeches and Writings File, 1929-1973 Typescripts, printed matter, and notes relating to the speeches and writings of Hanson Baldwin and others. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 6	Articles and other writings
BOX 6	Printed copies, 1930-1950, undated
BOX 6	Typescripts
BOX 6	1929-1970
BOX 6	Undated (1 folder)
BOX 7	(1 folder)
BOX 7	Speeches, 1973, undated
BOX 7	Speeches and writings by others, 1917-1972, undated
BOX 7-8	Miscellany, 1920-1970 Newspaper clippings, printed matter, notes and notebooks, and cards. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7	Cards
BOX 7	Newspaper clippings, 1933-1968, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Notebooks, 1920-1929
BOX 8	Notes
BOX 8	Printed matter, 1930-1970, undated