

Roland Herbert Shackford Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83060843>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008136>

Prepared by William Parham
Revised by Patrick Kerwin

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Collection Summary

Title: Roland Herbert Shackford Papers

Span Dates: 1925-1981

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1952-1979)

ID No.: MSS60843

Creator: Shackford, Roland Herbert, 1908-

Extent: 7,000 items

Extent: 22 containers

Extent: 9.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83060843>

Summary: Journalist and author. Correspondence, memoranda, notes, notebooks, invitations, printed matter, photographs, and other papers documenting primarily Shackford's career as a journalist with the Scripps-Howard news agency and other newspapers.

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

Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972.

Dulles, John Foster, 1888-1959.

Ford, Frank R.--Correspondence.

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973.

Kreisberg, Paul H.--Correspondence.

Mansfield, Mike, 1903-2001--Correspondence.

Marcy, Carl Milton, 1913-1990--Correspondence.

Meeman, Edward J. (Edward John), 1889-1966--Correspondence.

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.

Shackford family.

Shackford, Roland Herbert, 1908-1998.

Steele, Jack, 1914-1980--Correspondence.

Stone, Walker, 1904-1973--Correspondence.

Sullivan, William H. (William Healy), 1922-2013--Correspondence.

Organizations

Scripps-Howard.

Subjects

American newspapers.

Diplomacy.

Journalism.

News agencies.

Presidents--United States.

Places

Asia--Foreign relations--United States.

Asia--Politics and government--1945-

China--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Asia.

United States--Foreign relations--China.

United States--Politics and government--1945-1989.

Occupations

Authors.

Journalists.

Provenance

The papers of Roland Herbert Shackford, journalist and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Shackford in 1982.

Processing History

The papers of Roland Herbert Shackford were arranged and described in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 1994 and in 2009.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Roland Herbert Shackford 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 Roland Herbert Shackford 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, Roland Herbert Shackford Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1908, Mar. 13	Born, Westbrook, Maine
1931	B.S., Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio
1935-1937	Correspondent, United Press International, New York, N.Y.
1936	Married Augusta McMurray
1937-1943	Correspondent, United Press International, Washington, D.C.
1943-1948	Diplomatic correspondent
1946	Journalism award, National Headliner Club
1948-1952	European news manager, London, England
1952	News analyst, Scripps-Howard newspapers
1952-1954	European correspondent, Scripps-Howard newspapers, London, England
1954-1966	Diplomatic correspondent, Washington, D.C.
1955	Lawrence S. Mayers Peace Award
1960	William the Silent Award for Journalism
1962	Published <i>The Truth about Soviet Lies</i> . Washington, D.C.: Public Affairs Press
1964-1968	Wrote "Report on Red China," biweekly column

1967-1968	Asian correspondent, Scripps-Howard newspapers, Hong Kong
1969	Editor, <i>Harbour Square News</i> , Washington, D.C.
1969-1973	Diplomatic correspondent, Washington, D.C.
1973	Retired
1998, Feb. 6	Died, Cockeysville, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Roland Herbert Shackford (1908-1998) span the years 1925-1981 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1952-1979. The collection reflects Shackford's years as a journalist for the Scripps-Howard news agency as well as for other newspapers. Some material also sheds light on his family and personal life. Included are correspondence, memoranda, notes, notebooks, invitations, photographs, printed matter, and other material. The collection is arranged in five series: [Correspondence](#), [Research File](#), [Subject File](#), [Writings](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Correspondence](#), 1944-1980, consists of family correspondence and general correspondence. The family correspondence, 1947-1979, includes letters Shackford sent to and received from his family. He often wrote about the assignments he covered and his personal and professional assessment of social, political, and international events. He frequently described his evaluation of presidents, secretaries of state, other high-level government officials, and fellow journalists. The general correspondence covers the period 1944-1980. During the years 1967-1968, when Shackford was Asian correspondent for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, and 1969-1973, when he was foreign news analyst for the same organization, Shackford became an expert on China. Letters from government officials, editors, and other journalists express high regard for his writing on Chinese subjects.

The [Research File](#), 1938-1968, consists of a variety of notes, correspondence, and other material related to the sources Shackford used to write his articles. Of particular interest are notes from off-the-record briefings with secretaries of state James F. Byrnes and John Foster Dulles.

The [Subject File](#), 1925-1981, reflects some of the highlights of Shackford's career, such as his trip to Asia with Lyndon B. Johnson and his trip to China with Richard M. Nixon. Items of a more personal nature such as papers which relate to his education at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and his tenure as editor of the *Harbour Square News*, published by his condominium association in Washington, D.C.

The [Writings](#), 1952-1979, are largely comprised of articles written for Scripps-Howard. This series covers Shackford's postwar journalism career. There are also several articles written after his retirement, as well as a folder of articles he hoped to publish.

The [Miscellany](#), 1945-1979, contains notes, a notebook, an invitation to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, passports, and photographs. Of particular use is an index compiled by Shackford of articles he had written.

Significant and frequent correspondents include Frank R. Ford, Paul H. Kreisberg, Mike Mansfield, Carl Milton Marcy, Edward J. Meeman, Jack Steele, Walker Stone, and William H. Sullivan.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1944-1980](#)
- [Research File, 1938-1968](#)
- [Subject File, 1925-1981](#)
- [Writings, 1952-1979](#)
- [Miscellany, 1945-1979](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Correspondence, 1944-1980</u> Family letters and general correspondence. Arranged according to type of correspondence and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-3	<p><u>Research File, 1938-1968</u> Correspondence, memoranda, notes, clippings, and other printed matter relating to articles. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 3-6	<p><u>Subject File, 1925-1981</u> Correspondence, memoranda, notes, clippings, and other printed matter. Organized alphabetically by title of publication or by name of person, organization, or topic of material.</p>
BOX 6-21	<p><u>Writings, 1952-1979</u> Typewritten copies of articles written by Shackford for the Scripps-Howard newspapers and after his retirement in 1973. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 21-22	<p><u>Miscellany, 1945-1979</u> Invitations, notes and notebook, clippings, passports, photographs, and an index to articles written by Shackford. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1944-1980 Family letters and general correspondence. Arranged according to type of correspondence and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Family, 1947-1979
BOX 1	General, 1944-1980, undated (13 folders)
BOX 2-3	Research File, 1938-1968 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, clippings, and other printed matter relating to articles. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	1938-1959 (6 folders)
BOX 3	1960-1969
BOX 3-6	Subject File, 1925-1981 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, clippings, and other printed matter. Organized alphabetically by title of publication or by name of person, organization, or topic of material.
BOX 3	Adee, Alvey Augustus, 1972
BOX 3	Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, 1925-1931
BOX 3	Asian trip with Lyndon B. Johnson, 1966
BOX 3	Atomic diplomacy, 1973-1974
BOX 3	Balance of power, 1960-1972
BOX 3	China
BOX 3	General, 1966-1968, undated
BOX 4	Trip, 1972
BOX 4	Cold war revisionism, 1971-1974
BOX 4	<i>Harbour Square News</i> , Washington, D.C., 1969, 1978-1981
BOX 4	Kennan, George F., 1944-1981
BOX 4	Pantheon Books, 1967-1968
BOX 4	"Report on Red China," 1964-1965 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Scripps-Howard News Agency, 1954-1962, 1973
BOX 5	Siberian trip, 1968
BOX 5	Stone, Walker, 1952-1967, undated
BOX 5	Thomson, James C., 1967-1972
BOX 5	<i>The Truth about Soviet Lies</i> , 1962
BOX 5	Vietnam, 1964-1975 (2 folders)

Subject File, 1925-1981

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 1973-1977 (2 folders)
BOX 6-21	Writings, 1952-1979 Typewritten copies of articles written by Shackford for the Scripps-Howard newspapers and after his retirement in 1973. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6	Scripps-Howard articles
BOX 6	1952, Feb.-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 7	1953, Jan.-1954, Aug. (4 folders)
BOX 8	1954, Sept.-1956, Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 9	1956, Apr.-1957, Dec. (5 folders)
BOX 10	1958, Jan.-1959, Dec. (5 folders)
BOX 11	1960, Jan.-1961, June (4 folders)
BOX 12	1961, July-1963, May (5 folders)
BOX 13	1963, June-1964, Aug. (4 folders)
BOX 14	1964, Sept.-1965, Aug. (3 folders)
BOX 15	1965, Sept.-1966, Aug. (3 folders)
BOX 16	1966, Sept.-1967, Dec. (4 folders)
BOX 17	1968, Jan.-1969, Apr. (4 folders)
BOX 18	1969, May-1970, Aug. (4 folders)
BOX 19	1970, Sept.-1971, Dec. (4 folders)
BOX 20	1972, Jan.-1973, Mar. (4 folders)
BOX 21	Postretirement articles, 1973-1979
BOX 21	Potential articles, undated
BOX 21-22	Miscellany, 1945-1979 Invitations, notes and notebook, clippings, passports, photographs, and an index to articles written by Shackford. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 21	Clippings, 1954-1977
BOX 21	General, 1960-1974, undated

Miscellany, 1945-1979

Container

Contents

BOX 21	Indexes, 1952-1973
BOX 22	Invitation to coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953
BOX 22	Notebook, undated
BOX 22	Notes, undated
BOX 22	Passports, 1945-1979
BOX 22	Photographs, 1947-1972, undated