

**Arthur Rothstein Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2004**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2003084965>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010244>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010  
Revised 2021 November

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Arthur Rothstein Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1936-2000

**Bulk Dates:** 1952-1985

**ID No.:** MSS84965

**Creator:** Rothstein, Arthur, 1915-1985

**Extent:** 3,150 items

**Extent:** 9 containers

**Extent:** 3.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2003084965>

**Summary:** Photographer. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches and lectures, articles, notes, subject files, transcripts, press clippings, and other material relating to Rothstein's career as a photojournalist.

## 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

Lange, Dorothea.

Rothstein, Arthur, 1915-1985.

Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975.

Vachon, John, 1914-1975.

### Organizations

United States. Farm Security Administration.

### Subjects

Cities and towns--United States.

Country life--United States.

Documentary photography--United States.

New Deal, 1933-1939.

Photography.

Photojournalism--United States.

### Titles

*Look.*

*Parade.*

### Occupations

Photographers.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Arthur Rothstein, photographer, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Grace Rothstein, in 2003.

## Processing History

The papers of Arthur Rothstein were arranged and described in 2004 by Laura J. Kells.

## Transfers

The papers of Arthur Rothstein are part of a larger collection titled the Arthur Rothstein Collection of which the major portion is housed in the Prints and Photographs Division. Most photographs, negatives, and contact sheets from the Rothstein Papers have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Rothstein Collection.

## Related Material

Arthur Rothstein donated his photographic collection, including prints, negatives, and color transparencies, to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division in 1972. His work is also represented in that division's Farm Security Administration Collection and *Look* Magazine Photograph Collection.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

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

## Preferred Citation

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

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1915, July 17	Born, New York, N.Y.
1935	B.A., Columbia College, New York, N.Y.
1935-1940	Photographer, Farm Security Administration
1940-1943	Photographer, <i>Look</i> magazine
1943-1946	Photo officer, United States Army Signal Corps, China, Burma, and India
1946	Chief photographer, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, China
1946-1971	Director of photography, <i>Look</i> magazine
1947	Married Grace Goodman
1956	Published <i>Photojournalism</i> . New York: American Photographic Book Co.
1961-1971	Adjunct faculty, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1963	Published <i>Creative Color in Photography</i> . Philadelphia: Clifton Books
1967	Published, with William Saroyan, <i>Look at Us; Let's See; Here We Are; Look Hard, Speak Soft; I See, You See, We All See; Stop, Look, Listen; Beholder's Eye; Don't Look Now, But Isn't That You? (Us? U.S.?)</i> . New York: Cowles Education Corp.
1970	Published <i>Color Photography Now</i> . New York: American Photographic Book Co.
1971-1972	Editor, <i>Infinity</i> , magazine
1972-1976	Associate editor, <i>Parade</i> magazine
1976-1985	Director of photography, <i>Parade</i> magazine

1978	Published <i>The Depression Years</i> . New York: Dover Publications
1979	Published <i>Arthur Rothstein: Words and Pictures</i> . New York: Amphoto/Billboard Publications
1981	Published <i>American West in the Thirties</i> . New York: Dover Publications
1984	Published <i>Arthur Rothstein's America in Photographs, 1930-1980</i> . New York: Dover Publications
1985	Died, New Rochelle, N.Y.
1986	Published posthumously <i>Documentary Photography</i> . Boston, Mass.: Focal Press

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Arthur Rothstein (1915-1985) span the years 1936-2000, with the bulk of the material dating from 1952 to 1985. The collection includes correspondence, speeches and writings, and subject files. The focus of the papers is Rothstein's fifty-year career as a photographer and his work as a teacher and writer on the subject of photography.

The speeches and writings section contains Rothstein's articles and essays on photography and accounts of his work as a photographer for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) from 1935 to 1940. Also included are lectures which Rothstein delivered to photojournalism classes and photography workshops and at exhibits of his photographs.

Subject files feature material relating to Rothstein's work at *Look* and *Parade* magazines and the exhibition, sale, and reproduction of his photographs. A common topic in the subject files is the photography of the Farm Security Administration which documented rural and small town America from 1935 until the early 1940s. A transcript of a 1952 conversation between Roy Emerson Stryker, the director of the project, and FSA photographers, including Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein, and John Vachon, regarding their work is located in the Farm Security Administration subject file.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1963-1994, undated (11 folders)
BOX 1	Speeches and writings
BOX 1	Articles
BOX 1	1952, 1961-1975 (2 folders)
BOX 2	1976-1982, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Books
BOX 2	<i>American West in the Thirties</i> , 1979-1982, undated
BOX 2	<i>Arthur Rothstein: Words and Pictures</i> , 1978-1983
BOX 2	<i>The Depression Years</i> , 1975-1979, undated
BOX 2	<i>Documentary Photography</i> , 1975, 1984-1985, 1992, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Look at Us; Let's See; Here We Are; Look Hard, Speak Soft; I See, You See, We All See; Stop, Look, Listen; Beholder's Eye; Don't Look Now, But Isn't That You? (Us? U.S.?)</i> , 1967, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1962-1963, 1969-1971, 1981-1984, undated
BOX 2	<i>Photojournalism</i> , 1957-1983, undated
BOX 2	Forewords and introductions, 1977-1979
BOX 2	Lectures and speeches
BOX 2	1956, 1965-1971
BOX 3	1972-1985, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Manuals, 1968-1970, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellaneous writings, 1968-1976, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Notes and jottings, 1970, 1979-1981, undated
BOX 3	Subject file
BOX 3	American bicentennial photography and film project, 1973-1981
BOX 3	Biographical information, 1941, 1966-1984, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), 1979-1981, 1996, undated
BOX 4	Calendar and appointment book, 1980-1981
BOX 4	Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1963-1972, 1986
BOX 4	Conferences
BOX 4	Photography in Visual Communications Today, University of Maryland, College Park, Md., 1975-1978
BOX 4	Wilson Hicks International Conference on Visual Communication, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla., 1970-1976 (4 folders)

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Eastman Kodak Co.
BOX 4	Kodachrome film, 1985
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1969-1971, 1980, undated
BOX 4	Ethics and copyright, 1982-1983, undated
BOX 4	Evans, Walker, 1974, undated
BOX 4	Farm Security Administration
BOX 4	Revisiting sites of photographs, 1961, 1978-1984, undated
BOX 4	Symposia, 1977-1979, 1985
BOX 4	Transcript of conversation between Roy Emerson Stryker and photographers, 1952
BOX 4	<i>A Vision Shared</i> , 1976, undated
BOX 4	Honors and awards, 1967-1968, 1976, 1985-1988
BOX 4	Hunan, China, famine, 1946, 1980, undated
BOX 5	International Center of Photography, New York, N.Y., 1974-1981, 1989-1995, undated
BOX 5	International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, Rochester, N.Y., 1956-1957, 1968, 1975-1998, undated
BOX 5	Interviews, 1977-1985, undated
BOX 5	Library of Congress, 1971-1986, 1994-1998, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	<i>Look</i> magazine
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1960-1975, undated
BOX 5	Photographic department, 1957, 1965-1971, undated
BOX 5	Photographic library, 1970-1981, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Photographs by Rothstein, lists, 1946-1971, undated
BOX 6	Miscellany, 1945, 1955, 1967-1983, 1993, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	1930s, undated
BOX 6	Overseas Press Club of America, 1976-1981
BOX 6	<i>Parade</i> magazine
BOX 6	Covers, 1974-1980, undated
BOX 6	General, 1972-1982, undated (5 folders)
BOX 6	Photography exhibits, 1979-1988, undated
BOX 6	Story ideas, 1969-1981, undated (2 folders)
BOX 6	Photojournalism, 1966, undated
BOX 7	Photographs
BOX 7	Controversy, 1936, 1975-1978, 1984
BOX 7	Exhibitions, 1956-1985, 1994-1995 (4 folders)
BOX 7	Reproduction
BOX 7	<i>Dust Storm, Cimarron County, Okla., 1936</i> , 1937, 1959-1985, undated (3 folders)
BOX 7	Miscellaneous photographs, 1973, 1979-1982, 2000, undated
BOX 7	Permission requests, 1971-1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Sales

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 8	Miscellaneous, 1969-1987, 1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Portfolios, 1975-1981, undated
BOX 8	Polaroid, 1977-1981
BOX 8	Press clippings, 1941, 1948, 1954-1985, 1992-1995 (6 folders)
BOX 8	Pulitzer Prize, journalism nominating jury, 1979-1981
BOX 8	Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, London, England, 1963-1968, 1974-1978, undated
BOX 8	Safari, notes and writings by Grace Rothstein, 1965, undated
BOX 8	Speeches
BOX 8	By <i>Look</i> editors and publishers, 1959-1971
BOX 9	By others, 1958-1968, 1981, undated
BOX 9	By Rothstein <i>See Containers 2-3, Lectures and speeches</i>
BOX 9	Strand, Paul, 1974-1976, undated
BOX 9	Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1974-1976, 1983, undated
BOX 9	Teaching
BOX 9	Course material, 1976, 1983-1985, undated
BOX 9	"How to write a caption/layout," 1984, undated
BOX 9	Lecture notes, 1965-1971, undated
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1970-1985, undated
BOX 9	Printed matter, 1936, 1969, 1975-1985, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Seminars and workshops, 1970-1981
BOX 9	University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya, 1971-1974 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Utah, ethnic minorities photography project, 1985
BOX 9	Vachon, John, 1975, undated
BOX 9	Volunteer Service Photographers, 1974-1981
BOX 9	Wolcott, Marion Post, 1977-1993
BOX 9	Xograph, three dimensional printing and photography technique, 1964-1967, undated