

Richard Dudman Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012069>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Richard Dudman Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1911-2014

Bulk Dates: 1944-1983

ID No.: MSS58248

Creator: Dudman, Richard, 1918-

Extent: 22,000 items

Extent: 70 containers

Extent: 22 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81058248>

Summary: Editor, executive, and journalist. Correspondence, notebooks, writings, and background material relating mainly to Dudman's career as a journalist with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

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

Carter, Jimmy, 1924-

Dudman, Richard, 1918-2017.

Subjects

American newspapers--Missouri--Saint Louis.

Cold War.

Conservatism--United States.

Political corruption--United States.

Revolutions.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Watergate Affair, 1972-1974.

World politics--1945-1989.

Places

China--History--20th century.

Cuba--History--20th century.

Middle East--History--20th century.

Southeast Asia--History--20th century.

United States--History--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Vietnam--History--1945-1975.

Titles

St. Louis post-dispatch.

Occupations

Editors.

Executives.

Journalists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Richard Dudman, editor, executive, and journalist, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Dudman, 1978-1983. Additional material was given from 1987 to 2014, and the papers were converted to a gift in 2002.

Processing History

The papers of Richard Dudman were processed in 1979 and expanded in 1985 by David Mathisen. The finding aid was revised in 2013 and expanded in 2016 by Pang H. Xiong. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Posters have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library, where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Richard Dudman is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Richard Dudman 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, Richard Dudman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1918, May 3	Born, Centerville, Iowa
1937	Photographer, Oroville (Calif.) <i>Mercury-Register</i>
1940	A.B., Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
1942-1945	United States Naval Reserve
1946-1949	Reporter, <i>Denver Post</i>
1948	Married Helen Sloane
1949-1953	Reporter, <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
1953-1954	Nieman Fellow, Harvard
1954-1969	Member, Washington Bureau, <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
1962	Published <i>Men of the Far Right</i> . New York: Pyramid Books
1969-1981	Chief, Washington Bureau, <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
1970	Captured and detained by the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam for forty days, Cambodia
1971	Published <i>40 Days with the Enemy</i> . New York: Liveright

1974	Trustee, Washington Journalism Center
1977-1981	Member, advisory committee, Nieman Foundation for Journalism
1981	Chairman of the board and vice president, Dudman Communications Corp.
1988	Helped open southern Africa news bureau for South-North News Service, Swaziland
1993	Recipient, George Polk Career Award
1994-1996	Trained and coached newspaper reporters and editors, Knight International Media Fellowship, South Africa, with an absence in 1995
2000-2012	Senior contributing editor, <i>Bangor Daily News</i>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Richard Dudman (1918-) span the years 1911-2014 and consist of correspondence, notebooks, writings, and background material relating mainly to his career as a journalist with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Prominent topics include his coverage of the war in Vietnam and reporting on the Middle East, Cuba, Southeast Asia, and China during a period of cold war and revolutions. Others subjects relate to domestic politics in the 1960s and 1970s including Watergate, right-wing conservatism, and the Jimmy Carter administration. The collection is organized into six series whose contents reflect the arrangement and description of the material as it was received in installments from Dudman: [General Correspondence](#), [Notebooks](#), [Subject File](#), [Writings](#), and [Addition I](#) and [Addition II](#).

In the spring of 1965, the studied calm that generally characterizes meetings of the Massachusetts Historical society was disturbed when a troubled federal judge, Charles Wyzanski, posed several questions about the course of current events.[1] Judge Wyzanski was bothered by the little-debated but widening war in Vietnam, and he asked Walter Lippman, a guest of the society, if all the facts were accessible to the “informed public,” which he defined as “the type that reads the New York papers and the Washington papers.” Lippmann replied that the most relevant facts were available, but not in the New York or Washington papers, and he praised a recent series by “a correspondent of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* who's an old hand out there, Richard Dudman . . . I have checked those articles against our own intelligence sources privately. They are perfectly correct. . . . [H]e shows that the Viet Cong has won the war in the countryside of South Vietnam.” [2]

Richard Dudman had been a reporter for the *Post-Dispatch* since, 1949, and Walter Lippman's endorsement reflected the widespread respect that Dudman's work enjoyed among readers and reporters alike. His news articles and columns are a distillation of the major public events of the post-war era, and his papers provide important insights into the character of his career. The papers, listed in the 1978 [Manuscript Division] acquisitions report, were formally deposited by Mr. Dudman in 1979. They range from 1946 to 1978 and include correspondence, research files, clippings, and notebooks that document a newspaperman's odyssey. There are fascinating glimpses of half a dozen revolutions, Israeli operations in the 1956 Sinai campaign, the Lebanon crisis of 1958, Cuba, Laos, Cambodia, China, the two Vietnams, and other troubled spots throughout the world. Dudman's papers are also valuable for exploring a wide range of domestic political problems, and there are interesting files on right-wing politics, the Watergate scandals, and other major issues that have emerged since World War II. In 1969, after twenty years and over fifteen hundred stories with the *Post-Dispatch*, he became chief of the newspaper's Washington bureau, a post from which he continued to survey American politics and the world beyond until his retirement.

The collection consists of approximately sixty-three hundred items, and it has an organic character that gives it special value for researchers. There are clear relationships between the notebooks, the columns, and the correspondence that permit one to follow the story as it emerged, as it appeared, and as it provided the basis for Dudman's further reflections. On a number of matters, such as the Dixon-Yates plan, Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign, and negotiations leading to American withdrawal in Vietnam, there are memoranda from Dudman to his editors that show how his articles took shape. More frequently, fragments appear in his notebooks that help one understand events as they unfolded for him. Correspondence with readers and fellow newsmen gives other insights into Dudman's efforts to reconstruct and interpret the events of the day.

Wide-ranging personal interests and the multiple demands made on reporters in a Washington bureau have led Dudman to explore an incredible range of problems, but he is perhaps most frequently associated with his coverage of the war in Vietnam. Dudman first went to South Vietnam in 1962, and his many subsequent visits to the field combined with his assessment of his decisions in Washington to make him and the *Post-Dispatch* leading critics of the war. In early

1965, while he was in Vietnam preparing the series that Lippman praised, Dudman wrote his colleague Marquis Childs, that “[m]y own view is that the war is being lost, and in a hurry.” As events developed during the remainder of the decade, Dudman retained a commendable open-minded sensitivity to the complexities of the quagmire, but his earliest impression that the war was an overwhelmingly flawed enterprise continued to be the central theme of his reporting. Thus the jottings in his notebooks on Vietnam are particularly lively, and they reveal the human dimensions as well as the structural dynamics of war. Typical notes from January 1970 describe Henry Kissinger's deputy, General Al Haig, as “RA [Regular Army] all the way. . . . JCS insisted he sit at Henry's elbow. Sits on Henry's info flow.” A briefing on the situation in Vietnam was summed up as “*The line—Enemy capability down*,” with emphasis supplied by the uncharacteristic underscoring. “*All quotas met*” (and furiously underscored by Dudman) characterized the Phoenix program, an element in the assault on the Viet Cong infrastructure that included assassination. Dudman wrote several critical pieces about the Phoenix program, and his papers also include interesting exchanges with government officials who ran the program.

Perhaps the most unusual documents in the Dudman Papers are the notes he took during May and June 1970, when he and two other reporters covering the Cambodian incursion were captured by forces of the National Liberation Front. Dudman and his colleagues were held for forty days, and following his release he transformed these jottings, many of them on student's lined copybook paper, into one of the most dramatic series of the war. Other materials relating to the series and to the book that followed, *Forty Days with the Enemy* (New York: Liversight, 1971. 182 p.), are contained in the papers. Dudman's capture and release gave renewed hope to the families of many journalists who had not been so fortunate, and he began to play a larger role in the many efforts to secure the return of those still listed among the missing. One of the most poignant experiences of the war is reflected in his exchanges with Patricia Hangen, the wife of a missing television correspondent, and her spirit, persistence, and dignity give the tragedy of her husband's disappearance in Cambodia a special sadness.

It is appropriate that a collection which documents the full range of public issues also runs the gamut of private emotions, for there are lighter moments in the Dudman Papers that give some balance to the more somber situations he encountered. Among the most delightful notes in the collection are letters from his daughters in 1966, when he was midway through his third trip to Vietnam. Janet, a high school student, sought his advice about which modern language she should study. “I am seriously considering Russian but I don't know. Please answer because we have to answer soon.” His daughter Martha asked him “to write me about the situation there, and explain it so I can tell those guys I argue with. OK?” Such family letters appear throughout the collection, and they will provide students of modern journalism with a valuable angle of vision on the life of a reporter on assignment.

Following a tour of the Middle East in 1956, Dudman wrote Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., his publisher, that he “found government leaders impressed that a Middle Western American newspaper would send its own reporter there, and they were correspondingly helpful.” Dudman's career and the traditions of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* confirm the important national contributions that regional newspapers have made to the American experience. The Library of Congress is fortunate to have the papers of many who have been associated with the *Post-Dispatch*, such as Joseph Pulitzer, Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., Irving Brant, Bill Mauldin, and Wallace Deuel. Thus future students will be able to consult the Dudman Papers within a particularly rich documentary context.

Material from [Addition I](#) are mostly topical files and supplement the [Subject File](#) and [Writings](#) series. Also included are drafts and supporting material for Dudman's *Men of the Far Right* and *Forty Days with the Enemy*. [Addition II](#) primarily relates to Dudman's life and continued work in journalism following his retirement from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1981. Material documents his work with the *Bangor Daily News* and the South-North News Service; involvement with the Maine Lobster Promotion Council; and advocacy for the JUMP playground in Ellsworth, Maine. In 1986, Dudman briefly returned on a special assignment to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* to cover the tenth anniversary of the Tangshan earthquake in China. In 1994, he returned to Vietnam on another special assignment to interview the Viet Cong officer who captured and released him and two other journalists in 1970. Both assignments are included in the papers along with other writings about and by Dudman.

1. The following description is taken from *Library of Congress Acquisitions, Manuscript Division*, 1979 (Washington, D.C.: 1981): 24-26. It describes the collection before the Addition series was appended to the collection in 1985.

2. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 1965 77 (1966): 90.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, 1944-1978](#)
- [Notebooks, 1970-1976](#)
- [Subject File](#)
- [Writings](#)
- [Addition I](#)
- [Addition II, 1911-2014](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1944-1978</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by folder.</p>
BOX 2-3	<p><u>Notebooks, 1970-1976</u></p> <p>Reporter's notebooks. No arrangement.</p>
BOX 4-14	<p><u>Subject File</u></p> <p>Correspondence, notes, reports, clippings, printed matter, and miscellaneous material compiled for background reference. Arranged alphabetically by topic.</p>
BOX 15-23	<p><u>Writings</u></p> <p>Mostly clippings and printed copies of news articles but including typewritten copies and dispatches. Arranged by topic or type of material. Includes a scrapbook of articles.</p>
BOX 24-67	<p><u>Addition I</u></p> <p>Correspondence, writings, subject files, notebooks, photographs, and miscellaneous material described by topic or type of material. No arrangement.</p>
BOX 68-70	<p><u>Addition II, 1911-2014</u></p> <p>Writings, correspondence, photographs, printed matter, subject files, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General Correspondence, 1944-1978 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by folder.
BOX 1	1944-1949
BOX 1	1953-1978 (26 folders)
BOX 2-3	Notebooks, 1970-1976 Reporter's notebooks. No arrangement.
BOX 2	1970-1975 (44 vols.)
BOX 3	1976-1978 (31 vols.)
BOX 4-14	Subject File Correspondence, notes, reports, clippings, printed matter, and miscellaneous material compiled for background reference. Arranged alphabetically by topic.
BOX 4	American Conservative Union
BOX 4	American Enterprise Institute
BOX 4	American Institute of Free Labor Development
BOX 4	Assassinations (3 folders)
BOX 4	Backlash
BOX 4	Birch (John) Society
BOX 5	Bloodbaths
BOX 5	Bombings
BOX 5	Bourne, Peter
BOX 5	Bundy, McGeorge
BOX 5	California
BOX 5	Central Intelligence Agency (2 folders)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
BOX 6	Conduits
BOX 6	Chile
BOX 6	China (3 folders)
BOX 6	Cuba
BOX 6	Dikes

Subject File

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Dixon-Yates contract
BOX 6	Dominican Republic
BOX 6	Drug Enforcement Agency
BOX 6	Ellsberg, Daniel
BOX 7	Fake money
BOX 7	Federal Bureau of Investigation
BOX 7	Freedom Studies Center
BOX 7	Freelance
BOX 7	Friends
BOX 7	Goldwater, Barry
BOX 7	Gould, Frank
BOX 7	Hanoi, Vietnam
BOX 7	Hanoi, Vietnam series
BOX 7	Dead notes
BOX 7	Extra copies
BOX 8	Memoranda
BOX 8	Photographs
BOX 8	Hiss, Alger
BOX 8	Humphrey, Hubert H.
BOX 8	Indochina
	(2 folders)
BOX 8	Indochina, peace
BOX 8	Investments
BOX 8	Israel
BOX 8	Korea
BOX 9	Labor
BOX 9	Laos
BOX 9	Memoranda
	(2 folders)
BOX 10	Military industrial complex
BOX 10	Minutemen
BOX 10	Miscellaneous background
BOX 10	National Security Agency
BOX 10	New Directions
BOX 10	Nieman Fellowship
BOX 10	Nixon, Richard M.
BOX 10	Omori Research Institute
BOX 10	Origins
BOX 11	Outlines
BOX 11	Panama
BOX 11	Platforms
BOX 11	Postal service
BOX 11	Republican national convention
BOX 11	Revenue sharing
BOX 11	Sinai
BOX 11	South

Subject File

Container	Contents
BOX 12	Right wing
BOX 12	Rusk, Dean
BOX 12	Southeast Asia
BOX 12	Speeches (2 folders)
BOX 12	Symington, Stuart
BOX 12	Tax privacy
BOX 13	Texas
BOX 13	Thailand-Laos
BOX 13	Tonkin
BOX 13	Travel rights
BOX 13	U-2 reconnaissance aircraft
BOX 13	Vietnam
BOX 13	General
BOX 13	Invasion
BOX 13	Military
BOX 13	Negotiations
BOX 14	Policy
BOX 14	Politics
BOX 14	Statistics
BOX 14	Visa
BOX 14	Warren, Earl
BOX 14	Watergate
BOX 14	General
BOX 14	Prosecutions
BOX 14	Wheat
BOX 14	Wyant
BOX 14	Zoll
BOX 15-23	Writings Mostly clippings and printed copies of news articles but including typewritten copies and dispatches. Arranged by topic or type of material. Includes a scrapbook of articles.
BOX 15	Report from Hanoi, Vietnam
BOX 15	Vietnam 77 (11 folders)
BOX 15	Miscellaneous
BOX 16-21	Newspapers
BOX 22	Newspapers clippings and printed matter
BOX 23	Scrapbook
BOX 24-67	Addition I Correspondence, writings, subject files, notebooks, photographs, and miscellaneous material described by topic or type of material. No arrangement.
BOX 24	Miscellany

Addition I

Container	Contents
BOX 24	Southeast Asia
BOX 24	Thailand
BOX 24	Laos
BOX 24	Vietnam maps
BOX 24	Cambodia
BOX 24	1970 "Capture" materials
BOX 24	Newspaper and magazine articles
BOX 24	Cuba
BOX 24	Personal
BOX 24	Asia, 1962
BOX 24	China
BOX 25	Vietnam
BOX 25	Burma
BOX 25	Laos
BOX 25	India
BOX 25	Southeast Asia
BOX 25	Thailand
BOX 25	Duplicates
BOX 25	Goldwater, Barry
BOX 26	<i>Men of the Far Right</i> , manuscript, notes, contract 26 (8 folders)
BOX 27	Welch, John
BOX 27	Prospects
BOX 27	Schwarz, Fred C.
BOX 27	Mouthpieces
BOX 27	Benson, George S.
BOX 27	Hargis, Billy James
BOX 27	Wyoming textbooks
BOX 27	Right tries
BOX 27	Newspaper articles
BOX 28	Fanaticism
BOX 28	Intellectuals
BOX 28	Action
BOX 28	China picture information, 1972
BOX 28	Taiwan, 1972
BOX 28	Tokyo, Japan, 1972
BOX 29	Vietnam, 1972
BOX 29	Duplicates, 1972
BOX 29	Personal, 1972
BOX 29	Printed matter
BOX 29	Other, 1972
BOX 29	Hanoi, Vietnam
BOX 29	Laos photographs, 1959
BOX 29	Symington, Stuart
BOX 30	Materials relating to 1970 capture
BOX 30	South Vietnam

Addition I

Container	Contents
BOX 30	Printed matter
BOX 30	China dispatches, 1972
BOX 30	China
BOX 30	Office files
BOX 30	Hate mail
BOX 30	Miscellany
BOX 31	Dudman, Helen, 1970-1975 (5 folders)
BOX 31	Dudman, Richard, 1970-1974
BOX 32	<i>Forty Days with the Enemy</i>
BOX 32	Notes, reviews, rough drafts, proofs
BOX 33	Notes, reviews, rough drafts, proofs
BOX 33	China with Gerald Ford, 1976
BOX 34-38	Newspaper clippings
BOX 34-38	Printed matter
BOX 39	China and Hanoi, Vietnam, Dudman photographs, 1970-1972
BOX 40	Notebooks, diaries, press passes, 1958-1977
BOX 41-47	Scrapbooks, 1946-1965
BOX 48	Scrapbooks and poster
BOX 49-50	Notebooks, 1954-1981
BOX 51	Angola
BOX 51	Alaska
BOX 51	Arab boycott
BOX 51	Arms control
BOX 51	Asbestos
BOX 51	B'nai B'rith
BOX 51	Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.
BOX 51	Cambodia (2 folders)
BOX 52	(4 folders)
BOX 52	Caric
BOX 52	Carter, Jimmy, administration
BOX 52	General
BOX 53	Campaign
BOX 53	Foreign policy
BOX 53	Promises
BOX 53	Central Intelligence Agency (3 folders)
BOX 53	China
BOX 54	Clemency
BOX 54	Connally, John B.
BOX 54	Correspondence (4 folders)
BOX 54	Columns
BOX 54	Detainees
BOX 54	Dispute
BOX 54	Dogs

Addition I

Container	Contents
BOX 55	Egypt
BOX 55	Election financing
BOX 55	Executive privilege
BOX 55	Food for Peace
BOX 55	Freedom of information
BOX 56	Freedom Studies Center
BOX 56	Freelance
BOX 56	Future (2 folders)
BOX 56	Glomar Explorer suppression
BOX 56	Gridiron
BOX 57	Halperin, Morton
BOX 57	Hanoi, Vietnam (2 folders)
BOX 57	Helsinki Accords
BOX 57	Indonesia
BOX 57	Institute for Policy Studies
BOX 58	Intelligence
BOX 58	ITT Corp. (2 folders)
BOX 58	Jewish vote
BOX 58	Job applications
BOX 59	Justice
BOX 59	Kennedy, Edward
BOX 59	Kissinger, Henry
BOX 59	LaRoque, Gene
BOX 59	Latin America
BOX 59	Memoranda
BOX 59	Nieman Foundation
BOX 59	Nixon Doctrine
BOX 59	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
BOX 59	Oil
BOX 59	Phone (1 folder)
BOX 60	(1 folder)
BOX 60	<i>Post-Dispatch</i> future
BOX 60	Pending assignments
BOX 60	Presidency
BOX 60	Press
BOX 60	Privacy
BOX 60	Pulitzer
BOX 60	Rhodesia
BOX 60	Right wing
BOX 61	Rusk, Dean
BOX 61	St. Louis Post-Dispatch v. F.B.I. (2 folders)

Addition I

Container	Contents
BOX 62	SALT I and SALT II (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks) (2 folders)
BOX 62	Securities and Exchange Commission
BOX 62	Schorr, Daniel
BOX 62	Staff meetings
BOX 62	Synfuel
BOX 62	Systems
BOX 62	Taiwan (2 folders)
BOX 62	Terror
BOX 62	TRB (newspaper column).
BOX 63	Vietnam (4 folders)
BOX 63	Washington Journalism Center, Washington, D.C.
BOX 63	Wilson, Woodrow (2 folders)
BOX 64	Writings
BOX 64	Printed matter
BOX 65	Printed matter
BOX 66-67	Newspapers and newspaper clippings
BOX 68-70	Addition II, 1911-2014 Writings, correspondence, photographs, printed matter, subject files, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 68	Awards, 1979-1981, 1994
BOX 68	Biographies and résumés, 1990-1997, 2004, 2013
BOX 68	General correspondence, 1970-2001, 2007, 2013, undated (2 folders)
BOX 68	JUMP playground, 1985-1986, 1999
BOX 68	Miscellany, 1970, 1979, 1987-1994, 2007, undated
BOX 68	National Pork Producers Council v. Maine Lobster Promotion Council, 1993-1998
BOX 68	Newseum, 1952, 1968-1969, 1990, 1997-1998, 2006-2007, undated
BOX 68	Photographs, 1924, 1959, 1972-1980, 1989, undated
BOX 68	Pulitzer family, 1911, 1929, 1947-1954, 1960-1965, 1972, 1978
BOX 68	South Africa, 1988-1996
BOX 69	<i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> , 1947, 1972, 1979-1981, 1990-2005, undated
BOX 69	Stone, I. F., 1968, 2006
BOX 69	Tangshan earthquake, 1986
BOX 69	Vietnam, 1969-1982, 1988-1994, 2007 (3 folders)
BOX 69	<i>World Wise</i> , 1992-1995
BOX 69	Writings About Dudman, 1971, 1980-1998, 2013-2014, undated (2 folders)
BOX 70	(1 folder)

Addition II, 1911-2014

Container

Contents

By Dudman, 1956, 1963-1964, 1970-2013, undated
(5 folders)