Angelo Patri Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm74047167

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012086

Prepared by Martin Elzy

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Collection Summary
Title: Angelo Patri Papers
Span Dates: 1904-1962
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1924-1962)
ID No.: MSS47167
Creator: Patri, Angelo, 1876-1965
Extent: 30,000 items
Extent: 90 containers
Extent: 35.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm74047167
Summary: Educator and author. Professional and personal correspondence, copies of Patri's syndicated column Our
Children, radio scripts, and other writings and papers reflecting his role as an educator and popularizer of progressive
educational principles.

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
Patri, Angelo, 1876-1965.

Subjects
Child rearing.
Children.
Education--New York (State)--New York.
Education.
Newspapers--Sections, columns, etc.
Progressive education.
Public schools--New York (State)--New York.
Radio scripts.
School principals--New York (State)--New York.

Occupations
Authors.
Educators.

Provenance
The papers of Angelo Patri, educator and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Frank P. Merolla, executor of the
Patri estate, in 1966.

Processing History
The papers of Angelo Patri were arranged and described in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2012.
Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Angelo Patri Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Angelo Patri is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Angelo Patri 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, Angelo Patri Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1876, Nov. 26</td>
<td>Born in Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Emigrated to the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>A.B., College of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1898-1908</td>
<td>Teacher in public schools, New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>A.M. Columbia University, New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908-1913</td>
<td>Principal of Public School No. 4, New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Publication by Eugenio Cherubini of Patri’s translation of Pinocchio in Africa. Boston: Ginn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913-1944</td>
<td>Principal of Public School No. 45, New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Published Schoolmaster of the Great City. New York: Macmillan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Published Child Training. New York: D. Appleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Published Talks to Mothers. New York: D. Appleton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Began writing syndicated column, Our Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Published The Spirit of America. New York: American Viewpoint Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Published School and Home. New York: D. Appleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Published The Problems of Childhood. New York: D. Appleton, edited by Clinton E. Carpenter</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>Published What Have You Got to Give. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Page</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>Published Pinocchio in America. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>Published Pinocchio’s Visit to America. Boston: Ginn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Publication by C. Collodi (Carlo Lorenzi) of Patri’s translation of The Adventures of Pinocchio. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Appointed to New York City Radio Board, New York, N.Y., by Fiorello H. LaGuardia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Published The Parents Daily Counselor. New York: Wise-Parslow</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>Appointed to Mayor's War Council, New York, N.Y., by Fiorello H. LaGuardia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Published Your Children in Wartime. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Became director of American Relief for Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Published How to Help Your Child Grow Up. Chicago: Rand McNally</td>
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</table>
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Angelo Patri (1876-1965) are dated 1904-1962, although the bulk of the material is from 1924 to 1962. The material reflects Patri's role as a popularizer of John Dewey's progressive educational principles and indicates the evolving nature of education and child rearing from the 1920s to the 1960s. Almost no papers relating to Patri's personal life or role in civic affairs are included. The collection is organized into four series: Personal Correspondence; Professional Correspondence; Speech, Article, and Book File; and Miscellany.

The Personal Correspondence includes letters exchanged with friends, advertisers, and publishers. The Professional Correspondence consists of letters to Patri from people seeking child-rearing advice. Although this correspondence covers the period 1924-1962, the bulk of the letters is dated 1924-1939. Patri invited those who read his syndicated column Our Children and who heard his radio programs to write him about their family problems. He then responded personally to each request for assistance. Patri claimed in 1934 that he received as many as five thousand letters each month from the public. The letters from troubled parents disclose the problems of child rearing during the 1920s and 1930s. Many of Patri's correspondents questioned various practices of public and private schools; a few sought marital advice. Several of the letters illustrate family hardships caused by the Depression.

More than half of the Speech, Article, and Book File consists of typewritten copies of Patri's syndicated column from its inception in 1923 to the last column in 1962. Another large segment is composed of radio scripts dated 1928-1943. Supplementing the column articles and radio scripts are product endorsements, a pageant, children's short stories, and an unpublished typewritten autobiography of Patri's years as a public junior high school principal in New York City.

Included in the biographical material in the Miscellany series are biographical articles and a few items documenting his social life, as well as a registration book from Columbia University indicating that John Dewey was one of his professors. The financial material consists of account books, bills and receipts, and income tax material.

Although Patri's writings, especially his syndicated columns, reflect his advocacy of the principles of progressive education associated with John Dewey, there is almost no material in the papers demonstrating Patri's practical application of Dewey's principles as a school administrator.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Personal Correspondence, 1904-1957
- Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962
- Miscellany
## Description of Series

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Personal Correspondence, 1904-1957</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters received and carbons of letters sent.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereafter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2-37</td>
<td><strong>Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters received and carbons of letters sent consisting of requests for child-rearing advice and Patri's replies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 38-86</td>
<td><strong>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Typewritten and printed copies of radio scripts, newspaper and serial articles, pamphlets, tracts, and books.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder where possible. Some undated radio dramatizations have been arranged alphabetically by title and undated articles have been left unarranged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 87-90</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Biographical material, mailing lists, financial material, printed matter, student writings, and a teacher survey.</td>
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## Container List

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Letters received and carbons of letters sent.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereafter. |
| BOX 1     | A-Z      |
| BOX 2-37  | **Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962**  
Letters received and carbons of letters sent consisting of requests for child-rearing advice and  
Patri's replies.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 2     | Jan. 1924-15 Mar. 1925 |
| BOX 3     | 16 Mar. 1925-Jan. 1926 |
| BOX 4     | Feb.-Nov. 1926 |
| BOX 5     | Dec. 1926-Mar. 1928 |
| BOX 6     | Apr.-8 Aug. 1928 |
| BOX 7     | 9 Aug.-Dec. 1928 |
| BOX 8     | Jan.-26 Mar. 1929 |
| BOX 9     | 27 Mar.-27 May 1929 |
| BOX 10    | 28 May-22 Aug. 1929 |
| BOX 11    | 23 Aug.-12 Nov. 1929 |
| BOX 12    | 13 Nov. 1929-15 Jan. 1930 |
| BOX 13    | 16 Jan. 1930-Jan. 1931 |
| BOX 14    | Feb.-Mar. 1931 |
| BOX 15    | Apr.-May 1931 |
| BOX 16    | June-Aug. 1931 |
| BOX 17    | Sept. 1931-14 June 1932 |
| BOX 18    | 15 June-July 1932 |
| BOX 19    | Aug.-22 Sept. 1932 |
| BOX 20    | 23 Sept.-24 Oct. 1932 |
| BOX 21    | 25 Oct.-21 Nov. 1932 |
| BOX 22    | 22 Nov. 1932-19 Jan. 1933 |
| BOX 23    | 20 Jan.-14 Feb. 1933 |
| BOX 24    | 15 Feb.-Nov. 1933 |
| BOX 25    | Dec. 1933-12 Feb. 1934 |
| BOX 26    | 13 Feb.-11 Mar. 1934 |
| BOX 27    | 12 Mar.-4 Apr. 1934 |
| BOX 28    | 5 Apr.-8 May 1934 |
| BOX 29    | 9 May-June 1934 |
| BOX 30    | July 1934-4 Mar. 1936 |
| BOX 31    | 5 Mar.-26 Aug. 1936 |
| BOX 32    | 27 Aug. 1936-May 1937 |
### Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962

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<td>BOX 34</td>
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<td>BOX 35</td>
<td>23 Sept.-6 Nov. 1938</td>
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<td>BOX 36</td>
<td>7 Nov. 1938-July 1939</td>
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<td>BOX 37</td>
<td>Aug. 1939-1962, undated</td>
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<td>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962</td>
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Typewritten and printed copies of radio scripts, newspaper and serial articles, pamphlets, tracts, and books.

Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder where possible. Some undated radio dramatizations have been arranged alphabetically by title and undated articles have been left unarranged.

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<td>BOX 40</td>
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<td>BOX 41</td>
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<td>BOX 41</td>
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<td>A-P</td>
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<td>Articles</td>
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<td>Our Children, syndicated column</td>
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<td>“Wherever Children Are”</td>
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<td><em>Brooklyn Daily Eagle</em>, undated</td>
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<td><em>Colorado Weekly</em>, 8 Dec. 1923</td>
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<td><em>Christian Science Sentinel</em>, 25 Apr. 1953</td>
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<td>BOX 83</td>
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<td>BOX 83</td>
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<td>BOX 84</td>
<td>Miscellaneous writings</td>
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<td>BOX 85</td>
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<td>Chart of childhood characteristics</td>
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| BOX 87-90 | **Miscellany**  
Biographical material, mailing lists, financial material, printed matter, student writings, and a teacher survey.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 87    | Survey of teachers |
| BOX 87    | Mailing lists |
| BOX 87    | 1932-1934 |
| BOX 88    | 1934-1935 |
| BOX 88    | Answers to questionnaire |
| BOX 88    | Autobiography of a sixteen-year old student, 1936 |
| BOX 88    | “George Washington: My Diary,” by an eleven-year old student |
| BOX 88    | Printed matter |
| BOX 88    | Letters of recommendation |
| BOX 88    | Biographical material |
| BOX 89    | Account books |
| BOX 89    | Banking material |
| BOX 89    | Bills and receipts |
| BOX 89    | Income tax material |
| BOX 90    | Income tax material |
| BOX 90    | State and national income tax returns |
| BOX 90    | Notes and notations |