

Dagmar S. Hamilton Correspondence
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2014085942>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014074>

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2024 March

Collection Summary

Title: Dagmar S. Hamilton Correspondence

Inclusive Dates: 1969-1978

Bulk Dates: bulk 1970-1973

ID No.: MSS85942

Creator: Hamilton, Dagmar S.

Extent: 600 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2014085942>

Summary: Lawyer and educator. Chiefly correspondence to Hamilton from Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas pertaining to her work in assisting Douglas in writing and editing several books. The letters also reflect their close friendship and contain insights from Douglas about the business of the Supreme Court.

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

Douglas, Cathleen, 1943- --Correspondence.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980--Correspondence.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980--Impeachment.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980. Go East, young man, the early years : the autobiography of William O. Douglas. 1974.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980. Holocaust or hemispheric co-op: cross currents in Latin America. 1971.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980. International dissent: six steps toward world peace. 1971.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980. Points of rebellion. 1970.

Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-1980. The court years, 1939-1975: the autobiography of William O. Douglas. 1980.

Hamilton, Dagmar S.

Hamilton, Meredith--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Conservation of natural resources.

Constitutional law--United States.

Law--United States.

Presidents--United States--Election--1972.

Pro-life movement--Ohio--Cleveland.

Places

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

Titles

Dagmar S. Hamilton papers

Pentagon Papers.

Occupations

Educators.

Lawyers.

Acquisition Information

The correspondence of Dagmar S. Hamilton, lawyer and educator, was purchased by the Library of Congress in 2014.

Processing History

The correspondence of Dagmar S. Hamilton was arranged and described by Connie L. Cartledge in 2014. After Hamilton's death in 2024, all restrictions expired, and the finding aid was revised by Cartledge in 2024 to reflect the change.

Related Material

A related collection in the Manuscript Division is the [William O. Douglas Papers](#).

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The correspondence of Dagmar S. Hamilton is open for 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, Dagmar S. Hamilton Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1932, Jan. 10	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1953	A. B., Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.
1953-1955	J.D., University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Ill.
1961	J. D., American University, Washington, D.C.
1962-1973	Editor and researcher for Justice William O. Douglas, United States Supreme Court
1965-1966	Attorney, Civil Rights Division, United States Justice Department, Washington, D.C.
1966-1971	Assistant instructor, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.
1971-1972	Lecturer, law school of the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.
1972-1973	Editor and researcher for the autobiography of Justice William O. Douglas for Random House
1973-1974	Staff counsel, Judiciary Committee, United States House of Representatives, in the impeachment inquiry of President Richard M. Nixon
1974-1977	Assistant professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.
1975-1976	Editor and researcher for Justice William O. Douglas, United States Supreme Court
1977-1983	Associate professor, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.

1983-1987	Associate dean, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.
1983-2006	Professor, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.
2007-2024	Professor emeritus, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.
2024	Died

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence of Dagmar Strandberg Hamilton (1932-2024) spans the years 1969-1978, with the bulk of the material dating from 1970 to 1973. The papers are in English.

The majority of the Dagmar S. Hamilton correspondence consists of letters to Hamilton from William O. Douglas, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Hamilton assisted Douglas in writing several of his books including *International Dissent: Six Steps Toward World Peace*, *Points of Rebellion*, *Holocaust or Hemispheric Co-Op: Crosscurrents in Latin America*, *Go East*, *Young Man*, *The Early Years: The Autobiography of William O. Douglas*, and *The Court Years, 1939-1975: The Autobiography of William O. Douglas*, which are treated in this correspondence. The letters document both the professional and the close personal relationship between Hamilton and Douglas. The two shared an interest in environmental issues that is chronicled in the correspondence. Douglas often sent Hamilton newspaper clippings, pages from the *Congressional Record*, and other documents relating to environmental matters. Other topics treated are the attempt to impeach Douglas by members in the House of Representatives in 1970, the presidential campaign of 1972, references to Court decisions such as the Pentagon Papers case (letters of 20 June 1971 and 27 June 1971), and Douglas's frustration with the assignment of opinions by Chief Justice Warren Burger in 1972, and his increasing workload because he had to write more dissenting opinions. The letters also include descriptions of Douglas's speaking engagements, including an account of being heckled by anti-abortion protesters in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1973, and his struggles with his health during his tenure on the Court.

The collection also includes two letters from Douglas to Hamilton's daughter, Meredith, a few notes from Douglas's secretaries, and a letter from Cathy Douglas in January 1975, after Douglas suffered a debilitating stroke. Also included in the files are notes by Hamilton relating to her editorial work for Douglas and a page of detailed notes chronicling her trip to see Douglas in Washington, D.C., in May 1971.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	1969-1970 (20 folders)
BOX 2	1971 (14 folders)
BOX 2	1972
BOX 2	Jan.-May (8 folders)
BOX 3	June-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 3	1973-1978, undated (7 folders)