

Rudy Abramson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086328>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms020014>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2022

Collection Summary

Title: Rudy Abramson Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1941-1990

ID no.: MSS86328

Creator: Abramson, Rudy

Extent: 1,000 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086328>

Summary: Journalist and author. Research files for Abramson's biography of W. Averell Harriman, *Spanning the Century: The Life of W. Averell Harriman, 1891-1986*, consisting of oral history interview transcripts, correspondence, memoranda, research notes, printed matter, and other papers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Rudy Abramson were given to the Library of Congress by Nancy Coleman Wolsk and Julia Diane Parrish from the estate of Thomas Parrish in 2019.

Processing History

The papers of Rudy Abramson were arranged and described by Thomas Bigley in 2021.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of W. Averell Harriman (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003012>).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Rudy Abramson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Rudy Abramson 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, Rudy Abramson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1937, Aug. 31	Born, Florence, Ala.

1958	Graduate, University of Mississippi
1958-1965	Reporter, <i>Nashville Tennessean</i>
1965-1993	Washington correspondent, <i>Los Angeles Times</i>
1965, Dec. 31	Married Joyce Taylor
1992	Published <i>Spanning the Century: The Life of W. Averell Harriman, 1891-1986</i> . New York: W. Morrow
circa 1993-1994	Executive director, Protect Historic America
1996	Published <i>Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage</i> . Charlottesville: Thomasson-Grant & Lickle
2006	Co-editor with Jean Haskell, <i>The Encyclopedia of Appalachia</i> . Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press
2008, Feb. 13	Died, Fairfax, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rudy Abramson (1937-2008) span the years 1941-1990. The collection contains the research files for Abramson's biography of W. Averell Harriman, *Spanning the Century: The Life of W. Averell Harriman, 1891-1986*.

Included in the papers are transcripts of interviews with W. Averell Harriman and sixty-eight other people including McGeorge Bundy, Clark M. Clifford, Mary Averell Harriman Fisk, William C. Foster, Jack W. Germond, Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman, Richard Helms, Richard C. Holbrooke, Robert A. Lovett, John J. McCloy, Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer, William S. Paley, W. W. Rostow, Dean Rusk, Dorothy Schiff, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., Theodore C. Sorensen, and Jack Valenti. The collection also includes a file relating to Harriman's interactions with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin. The file spans the years between the beginning of the Lend-Lease program, which Harriman helped coordinate, and Harriman's tenures as United States ambassador to the Soviet Union and United States ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The remainder of the collection mainly consists of Abramson's research into the Lend-Lease program and Harriman's role in helping coordinate it. There is also a portion of a diary published by Robert P. Meiklejohn, one of Harriman's former secretaries, a small miscellany file, and Abramson's research notes.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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

Abramson, Rudy.
 Abramson, Rudy. *Spanning the century : the life of W. Averell Harriman, 1891-1986*. 1992.
 Bundy, McGeorge--Interviews.
 Churchill, Winston, 1871-1947.
 Clifford, Clark M., 1906-1998--Interviews.
 Fisk, Mary Averell Harriman, 1917-1996--Interviews.
 Foster, William C. (William Chapman), 1897-1984--Interviews.
 Germond, Jack W. (Jack Worthen), 1928-2013--Interviews.
 Harriman, Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward, 1920-1997--Interviews.
 Harriman, W. Averell (William Averell), 1891-1986--Interviews.
 Harriman, W. Averell (William Averell), 1891-1986.

Helms, Richard--Interviews.
Holbrooke, Richard C., 1941-2010--Interviews.
Lovett, Robert A. (Robert Abercrombie), 1895-1986--Interviews.
McCloy, John J. (John Jay), 1895-1989--Interviews.
Meiklejohn, Robert P.--Diaries. 1941-1946.
Mortimer, Kathleen Lanier Harriman, 1917-2011--Interviews.
Paley, William S. (William Samuel), 1901-1990--Interviews.
Rostow, W. W. (Walt Whitman), 1916-2003--Interviews.
Rusk, Dean, 1909-1994--Interviews.
Schiff, Dorothy, 1903-1989--Correspondence.
Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. (Arthur Meier), 1917-2007--Interviews.
Sorensen, Theodore C.--Interviews.
Stalin, Joseph, 1878-1953.
Valenti, Jack--Interviews.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.
Lend-lease operations (1941-1945)
Statesmen--United States--Biography.
World War, 1939-1945--Economic aspects.
World War, 1939-1945--Europe.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.

Places

Europe--Foreign relations--United States.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--Europe.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations

Authors.
Journalists.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Churchill, Winston, and Joseph Stalin, 1941-1944 (11 folders)
BOX 1	Interviews
BOX 1	Harriman, W. Averell, 1953, 1981-1984 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Others, 1966-1968, 1981-1989
BOX 1	Abel, Ellie-Buttenweiser, Ben
BOX 1	Clifford, Clark-Dutchin, Peter
BOX 2	Evans, Jim-Friendly, Alfred
BOX 2	Germond, Jack W.-Hilsman, Roger
BOX 2	Holbrooke, Richard C.-Klopfer, Donald
BOX 2	Lanigan, Jim-McCloy, John
BOX 2	McGhee, George Crews-Mortimer, Kathleen Lanier Harriman
BOX 2	Nielsen, Waldemar A.-Rumsey, Charles
BOX 2	Rusk, Dean-Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr.
BOX 2	Shulman, Marshall D.-Swope, Herbert Bayard
BOX 2	Tannenwald, Theodore (3 folders)
BOX 2	Taylor, Maxwell D.-Whitridge, Arnold
BOX 2	Lend-Lease Program
BOX 2	Correspondence and memoranda, 1941, Jan.-Apr. (2 folders)
BOX 3	Correspondence and memoranda, 1941, May-1945, Mar. (3 folders)
BOX 3	Printed matter, 1941, 1953, 1959, 1965-1983 (5 folders)
BOX 3	Meiklejohn, Robert P., diary, 1941-1946 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1941, 1963-1967, 1975
BOX 3	Notes, circa 1990