John J. Walsh Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: John J. Walsh Papers
Span Dates: 1933-2004
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1944-2000)
ID No.: MSS85232
Creator: Walsh, John J. (John Joseph), 1916-
Extent: 3,000 items; 10 containers; 4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. Correspondence, writings, and research material relating to Walsh's career as a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and as an investigator for congressional committees and executive branch agencies. Includes Walsh's unpublished memoir and research files relating to the Venona project and to Matthew Silverman, a figure in the Alger Hiss case.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Hiss, Alger.
Silverman, Matthew.
Walsh, John J. (John Joseph), 1916-

Organizations
Soviet Union. Komitet gosudarstvennoĭ bezopasnosti.
United States. Army. Signal Intelligence Service.
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Subjects
Communists--United States.
Foreign agents--Australia.
Foreign agents--California--San Francisco.
Foreign agents--Mexico.
Foreign agents--New York (State)--New York.
Foreign agents--Russia--Moscow.
Foreign agents--South America.
Foreign agents--Washington (D.C.)
Government investigators--United States.
Governmental investigations--United States.
Intelligence service--Soviet Union.
World War, 1939-1945--Cryptography.
World War, 1939-1945--Military intelligence--United States.
World War, 1939-1945--Soviet Union.

Places
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--1917-1945.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--1945-1991.

Occupations
FBI agents.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of John J. Walsh, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, were given to the Library of Congress by Walsh in 2005.

Transfers:

A videotape has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the John J. Walsh Papers.

Copyright Status:

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

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of John J. Walsh 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, John J. Walsh Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1916, Oct.9	Born, Des Moines, Iowa
1938	Appointed to Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.
1940-1941	Special agent training, Washington, D.C., and Quantico, Va.
1941-1943	Agent, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Baltimore, Md.
1943-1944	Agent, Special Intelligence Service, Medellin, Columbia
1944-1945	Agent, Philadelphia, Pa.
1946	Agent, Special Intelligence Service, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1946-1952	Agent, Chicago, Ill., and Washington, D.C.
1948-1950	Assigned with three other agents to Alger Hiss case
1951-1953	Agent, Division Five, Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters, Washington, D.C., investigating Communists in the United States
1953-1958	Assistant to the vice president, Bendix Radio Factory, Baltimore, Md.
1958-1963	Radio Corporation of America

1963-1976	Investigator, Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Committee on Government Operations
1976-1977	Director, Office of Investigations, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
1977-1979	Investigator, Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Committee on Government Operations
1979	Retired from federal government
1979-1986	Investigator, congressional committees and executive branch agencies

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John J. Walsh (1916-) span the years 1933-2004, with the bulk of the material dating from 1944 to 2000. A majority of the collection consists of Walsh's research files and writings relating to the Venona project, a secret program started in 1943 by the Signal Intelligence Service of the United States Army to examine encrypted Soviet diplomatic communications. The research files are largely comprised of photocopies of Venona project documents released by the National Security Agency from 1995 to 1997. These documents are translations of messages sent among Komitet gosudarstvennoĭ bezopasnosti (KGB) agents and operatives in Moscow, New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Mexico, South America, and Australia during the 1940s and 1950s. There are also research files for an unpublished article on Matthew Silverman, a figure in the Alger Hiss case.

The writings include Walsh's unpublished memoir entitled "The Story of a Special Agent" detailing his years of service with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and as an investigator for congressional committees and executive branch agencies. Also of interest are his "write-ups" of short summaries on communists operating in the United States, including their cover names and supporting Venona project documents.

Arrangement of the Papers

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

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1996-2004, n.d
BOX 1	Schechter, Jerrold, 1999, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 1	Notes, undated
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Clippings, 1999-2002, undated
BOX 1	Federal Bureau of Investigation
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1946, 1999
BOX 1	Special Intelligence Service, 1997-2003, undated
BOX 1	Venona documents, 1950-1957
BOX 1	Gellhorn, Walter, 1936-2000
	(1 folder)
BOX 2	(1 folder)
BOX 2	Hitler, Adolf
BOX 2	Correspondence, 2002-2003
BOX 2	File no. 65-53615, circa 1944-circa 1955
	(2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellaneous documents, 1942, 2001, undated
BOX 2	Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace, Stanford, Calif., 1998-1999, undated
BOX 2	Venona project
BOX 2	Communications
BOX 2	Buenos Aires, Argentina-New York, N.Y., 1941-1943
BOX 2	Mexico City, Mexico-Moscow, USSR, 1944-1945
	pp. 3-150
BOX 3	pp.151-326
BOX 3	Cover names
BOX 3	Artur, 1942-1944
BOX 3	"A-T" miscellaneous, 1944, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 3	Indexes of KGB cover names in communications, undated
BOX 3	New York, N.Y.-Moscow, USSR
BOX 3	San Francisco, Calif.-Moscow, USSR
BOX 3	Unidentified, New York, N.Y.-Moscow, USSR
BOX 3	Washington, D.C.-Moscow, USSR
BOX 3	Lists, undated
BOX 3	Documents
BOX 3	Chronological
BOX 3	1942-1944
	(3 folders)
BOX 4	1945

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Undated notes
BOX 4	Miscellaneous, 1943-1945, undated
BOX 4	Printed matter 1995-1999
	(4 folders)
BOX 5	Write-ups
BOX 5	Indexes, undated
BOX 5	No. 1, Judith Coplon, 2000
BOX 5	No. 2, Harry Dexter White, 2000
BOX 5	No. 3, Laurence Duggan, 2000
BOX 5	No. 4, Lauchlin B. Currie, 2000
BOX 5	No. 5, R, 2000
BOX 5	No. 6, Joseph Milton Bernstein and Thomas Arthur Bisson, undated
BOX 5	No. 7, Jacob M. Golos and Elizabeth Bentley, 2000
BOX 5	No. 8, Office of Strategic Services, 2000, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 5	No. 9, Earl Browder, 2000 2000
BOX 6	No. 10, Julius Rosenberg and Ethel Rosenberg, 2000, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 6	No. 11, Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, 2000, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 6	No. 12, Joseph Katz and Bernard Schuster, 2000, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 6	No. 13, Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs and Harry Gold, 2000
BOX 6	No. 14, Lona Cohen, 2000
BOX 7	No. 15, Theodore Alvin Hall and Saville Sax, 2000
BOX 7	No. 16, Robert Owen Menaker, 2000
BOX 7	No. 17, Michael Burd, 2000
BOX 7	No. 18, Soviet Economic Directorate (KhU), 2000, undated
	(4 folders)
BOX 7	No. 18A, Gaik Badalovich Ovakimian, 2000-2003, undated
BOX 7	No. 19, Perlo Group, 2000
BOX 8	No. 20, Vladimir Pravdin and Samuel Krafsur, 2000, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 8	No. 21, Iskhak A. Akmerov, 2000
BOX 8	No. 22, Donald Duart Maclean, 2000
BOX 8	No. 23, Anatoli Borisovich Gromov, 2000
BOX 8	No. 24, Vasili Zubilin and Elizabeth Zubilin, 2000
BOX 8	No. 25, Amadeo Sabatini and Jones Orin York, undated
BOX 9	Writings
BOX 9	"Matthew Silverman: The Other Silverman" (unpublished)
BOX 9	Correspondence and memoranda, 1999-2004, undated
BOX 9	Documents, 1944-1973
	(8 folders)
BOX 10	Exhibits
BOX 10	Nos. 1-7, 1948-1956, 1964, 2000, undated
BOX 10	Nos. I-V, 1933-1955, 1988
	(2 folders)

Container List