

Rowland Evans Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Michael McElderry



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

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Collection Summary

Title: Rowland Evans Papers

Span Dates: 1946-2001

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1960-2001)

ID No.: MSS85253

Creator: Evans, Rowland, 1921-2001

Extent: 9,800 items and 34 microfiche; 28 containers plus 1 classified and 1 microfiche container; 11.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Journalist and author. Correspondence, notebooks, interviews, drafts, transcripts, articles and other writings, research and reference material, subject files, printed matter, and miscellaneous items relating to Evans's career as a journalist and political commentator.

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

Evans, Rowland, 1921-

Novak, Robert D.

Organizations

Cable News Network.

Liberty (Ship)

Subjects

Journalists--United States.

Journalists--Washington (D.C.)

Politicians--United States.

Politicians--Washington (D.C.)

Places

Israel--Foreign relations--United States.

Middle East--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Israel.

United States--Foreign relations--Middle East.

United States--Officials and employees.

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

Occupations

Authors.

Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Rowland Evans, journalist and author, were given to the Library of Congress in 2005 by his wife, Katherine Evans.

Transfers

A videotape has been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Rowland Evans in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Rowland Evans 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.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Microfiche

The Middle East File of the Rowland Evans Papers includes thirty-four microfiche received with the collection.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Rowland Evans Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1921, Apr. 28	Born, Whitemarsh, Pa.
1940-1941	Attended Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1945-1955	Reporter, Associated Press, Washington Bureau
1949	Married Katherine Winton
1950	A.A., George Washington University, Washington D.C.
1955-1963	Reporter, <i>New York Herald Tribune</i>
1963-1993	Published with Robert D. Novak the syndicated newspaper column Inside Report
1966	Published with Robert D. Novak <i>Lyndon B. Johnson: The Exercise of Power</i> . New York: New American Library
1971	Published with Robert D. Novak <i>Nixon in the White House: The Frustration of Power</i> . New York: Random House

1981	Published with Robert D. Novak <i>The Reagan Revolution</i> . New York: Dutton
1981-1999	Contributing editor with Robert D. Novak, <i>Reader's Digest</i>
1982-2001	Political commentator and cohost of "Evans and Novak," CNN television
2001	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rowland Evans (1921-2001) span the years 1946-2001, with the bulk of the material dating from 1960 to 2001. The collection contains correspondence, reporter's notebooks, drafts, research and reference material, and other publishing material relating to Evans's career as a journalist and author. Best known for his longtime partnership with Robert D. Novak, Evans joined with the former congressional correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal* in 1963 to write *Inside Report*, a nationally syndicated political column that from 1966 was published by the *Chicago Sun Times*. In addition to their newspaper column, Evans and Novak also hosted their own program of political commentary on CNN television and were frequent guests on other radio and television programs as well. The papers include drafts and copies of articles, transcripts and typescript notes of interviews, and television transcripts reflecting the mixed media outlets within which the journalists operated and the access to sources which made it possible. The collection is organized in the following series: [Notebooks](#), [Journalism File](#), [Book File](#), [Middle East File](#), and [Classified](#).

The [Notebooks](#) contain the primary sources of Evans's journalism, and he kept them continuously throughout his career. They include handwritten notes of conversations and personal interviews with a variety of public figures and administration officials and record Evans's impressions of events that he either participated in or witnessed. Most of the notebooks are dated on the front cover and include short references to their contents.

The [Journalism File](#) includes correspondence, drafts, photocopies of articles, research material, and transcripts relating to Evans and Novak's print journalism and television commentary, in particular their work as contributing editors for *Reader's Digest*. Although Evans and Novak shared reportorial duties, Evans specialized in reporting on American foreign policy issues and national security affairs, and the articles submitted to *Reader's Digest* reflect this division of interest. The series also includes photocopies of articles the team wrote for *Inside Report*, the widely syndicated newspaper column that first brought them to prominence, and contract documentation with various syndicators regarding the column's publication. The guest lists for *Inside Report*'s twenty-fifth anniversary includes the names of notable politicians, journalists, and other public figures who represented a cross section of established Washington society within which the two reporters circulated.

The [Journalism File](#) includes transcripts from telecasts of "Evans-Novak Report," a Metromedia-WTTG television program that includes interviews with many prominent political and international personalities, and a small file of material celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of their political discussion program, "Evans and Novak," on CNN television. The series also contains correspondence, memoranda, legal briefs and records, and printed matter regarding the libel case against Evans and Novak brought by Bertell Ollman, who claimed to have been denied the chairmanship of the Department of Politics and Government at the University of Maryland at College Park as a result of their column alleging his intentions to promote Marxism in the classroom.

In addition to his published newspaper columns and television programs, Evans also co-authored several books of contemporary presidential analysis with Novak. The [Book File](#) contains correspondence, drafts, notes, and research material relating to the research and writing of *Lyndon*

B. Johnson: The Exercise of Power, Nixon in the White House: The Frustration of Power, and The Reagan Revolution. The series also includes research for a proposed, but unpublished, book on Jimmy Carter's presidency. Material of interest includes transcripts and handwritten and typescript notes of personal interviews conducted by Evans and Novak with a variety of administration officials that serve as source material for the study of late twentieth-century American politics as viewed through the office of the United States presidency. In addition to their access to inside sources, Evans and Novak also used official public documents and other printed matter for sources of information, as the research material collected by them in the series demonstrates.

The [Middle East File](#) was gathered and maintained by Evans as a reference and research file on Middle East and Israeli geopolitical issues and contains correspondence, memoranda, notes, statements and testimony, and printed matter. Reflective of the passions stirred by the many newspaper columns written by Evans and Novak on Middle East affairs are letters from the public, both pro and con, sent to the columnists in response to their articles. Among the topics represented in the series are extensive files surrounding the controversy over the Israeli air and sea attack in 1967 on the American intelligence ship *Liberty* during the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War and the subsequent diplomatic and press reactions to Israel's official claim of mistaken identity. The Liberty files contain correspondence, reports, printed matter, and other items relating to the attack and its aftermath, including background material on the book *Assault on the Liberty* by James M. Ennes, a junior officer onboard the ship during the attack and a leading critic of the United States government's official diplomatic response. The files include letters from survivors providing eyewitness accounts of the assault and in support of a full congressional investigation into the incident.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Notebooks, 1960-1995](#)
- [Journalism File, 1961-2001](#)
- [Book File, 1952-1981](#)
- [Middle East File, 1946-2000](#)
- [Classified, 1981-1982](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-8	<u>Notebooks, 1960-1995</u> Reporter's notebooks containing handwritten notes recorded by Evans of various interviews and events. Arranged chronologically
BOX 8-17	<u>Journalism File, 1961-2001</u> Correspondence, drafts, notes, transcripts, legal records, research material, photocopies, printed matter, and miscellaneous items relating to articles and other political commentary by Evans and Novak. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 17-24	<u>Book File, 1952-1981</u> Correspondence, drafts, interviews, notes, transcripts, outlines, proofs, research material, printed matter, and miscellaneous items concerning the research and writing of books by Evans and Novak. Arranged alphabetically by title of book.
BOX 24-28	<u>Middle East File, 1946-2000</u> Correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, notes, reports, statements and testimony, press releases, photocopies, printed matter, and miscellaneous items maintained by Evans as a reference and research file on the Middle East and Israel. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Includes one container of microfiche. Shelf number 23,004
BOX CL 1	<u>Classified, 1981-1982</u> Research and policy papers. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-8	Notebooks, 1960-1995 Reporter's notebooks containing handwritten notes recorded by Evans of various interviews and events. Arranged chronologically
BOX 1	1960-1966, Feb. (5 folders)
BOX 2	1966, Mar.-1968, Aug. (5 folders)
BOX 3	1968, Sept.-1972, July (5 folders)
BOX 4	1972, Sept.-1978 (5 folders)
BOX 5	1978-1984, June (6 folders)
BOX 6	1984, Aug.-1989 (6 folders)
BOX 7	1990-1995 (4 folders)
BOX 7	Undated (1 folder)
BOX 8	(4 folders)
BOX 8-17	Journalism File, 1961-2001 Correspondence, drafts, notes, transcripts, legal records, research material, photocopies, printed matter, and miscellaneous items relating to articles and other political commentary by Evans and Novak. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 8	Articles and other writings
BOX 8	Drafts, 1962-1963, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Newspaper clippings, 1961
BOX 9	Proof, undated
BOX 9	Correspondence, 1997, undated
BOX 9	"Evans and Novak," CNN television, fifteenth anniversary, 1997
BOX 9	"Evans-Novak Report," Metromedia-WTTG television, transcripts, 1969 (4 folders)
BOX 9	Inside Report
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BOX 9	Articles written after retirement, 1993-2000
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BOX 11	Ollman v. Evans and Novak
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BOX 11	Legal briefs and records, 1979-1984, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Printed matter, 1972, 1978-1987, undated
BOX 11	<i>Reader's Digest</i>
BOX 11	1981, Dec., "Pakistan: Nation on a Tightrope," 1980-1981, undated
BOX 11	1982
BOX 11	Jan., "America and Israel: A Troubled Partnership"
BOX 11	Correspondence, 1981-1982, undated
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BOX 12	General, 1981
BOX 12	June, "What's Happened to U.S. Foreign Policy?" 1981-1982, undated
BOX 12	1983
BOX 12	Nov., Hafez Assad, proposed article, 1970-1983, undated
BOX 12	Dec. "George Shultz: Diplomacy's Quiet Man," 1983, undated
BOX 12	1985
BOX 12	Feb., "Israel's Hour of Danger"
BOX 12	Correspondence, 1983-1984
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BOX 13	June, "Soviet Reform: Can Gorbachev Bring It Off?"
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BOX 14	Correspondence, 1990, undated
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BOX 14	1991, "The Quiet, Big Clout of Dick Cheney"
BOX 14	Correspondence, 1991, undated
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BOX 15	General, 1975-1991, undated
BOX 15	1993, Jan., "A Healer in the Holy Land"
BOX 15	Correspondence, 1992
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BOX 15	1994, Aug., "The Oslo Channel"
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BOX 15	General, 1993-1994, undated
BOX 16	1995, Apr., "Clinton's Yo-Yo Diplomacy," 1994-1995, undated
BOX 16	1996, Jan., "If War Should Come"
BOX 16	Correspondence, 1995
BOX 16	Drafts and notes, 1995, undated
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BOX 16	1997, Sept., "A Woman Who Stands for Freedom"
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BOX 17-24	Book File, 1952-1981 Correspondence, drafts, interviews, notes, transcripts, outlines, proofs, research material, printed matter, and miscellaneous items concerning the research and writing of books by Evans and Novak. Arranged alphabetically by title of book.
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BOX 24-28	Middle East File, 1946-2000 Correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, notes, reports, statements and testimony, press releases, photocopies, printed matter, and miscellaneous items maintained by Evans as a reference and research file on the Middle East and Israel. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Includes one container of microfiche. Shelf number 23,004
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Middle East File, 1946-2000

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