# **Robert G. Spivack Papers**

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Maria Farmer, Jewel McPherson, and Chanté Flowers



# **Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Washington, D.C.

### 2012

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### **Collection Summary**

Title: Robert G. Spivack Papers

**Span Dates:** 1931-1970 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1936-1970)

**ID No.:** MSS85367

Creator: Spivack, Robert G., 1915-1970

Extent: 16,800 items; 48 containers plus 2 oversize; 19.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Journalist. Correspondence, articles, book projects, columns, newsletters, newspapers, material relating to speaking engagements, topical files, records of organizations, scrapbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Spivack's career as a newspaper reporter, syndicated columnist, and newsletter publisher and to his participation in student groups and other organizations seeking the intervention of the United States in World War II prior to the Pearl Harbor attack.

### **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**

Agar, Herbert, 1897-1980--Correspondence.

Bade, Wilbur E. (Wilbur Emil), 1906-1954--Correspondence.

Bell, Ulric, 1891-1960--Correspondence.

Brewster, Owen, 1888-1961.

Bye, George T.--Correspondence.

Cohen, Elliot E., 1899-1959--Correspondence.

Costello, Frank, 1891-1973.

Cowan, Louis G., 1909-1976--Correspondence.

Dewey, Thomas E. (Thomas Edmund), 1902-1971.

Eckman, Fern Marja--Correspondence.

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969.

Goldstein, Jonah J., 1886-1967.

Hagan, Lloyd D.--Correspondence.

Ives, Irving McNeil, 1896-1962.

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973.

Lash, Joseph P., 1909-1987--Correspondence.

Lazarus, Reuben A. (Reuben Avis), 1895-1971--Correspondence.

McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957--Correspondence.

Morris, Newbold--Correspondence.

Morris, Newbold.

Nagourney, Herbert--Correspondence.

O'Dwyer, William, 1890-1964.

O'Sheel, Shaemas, 1886-1954--Correspondence.

Pilat, Oliver, 1903-1987--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

Rosenthal, Arthur J. (Arthur Jesse), b. 1919--Correspondence.

Sann, Paul--Correspondence.

Schiff, Dorothy, 1903-1989--Correspondence.

Sengstacke, John Herman Henry, 1912-1997--Correspondence.

Sevareid, Eric, 1912-1992--Correspondence.

Sirkin, Abraham M.--Correspondence.

Sommers, Martin--Correspondence.

Spivack, Robert G.

Starr, Mark, 1894- -- Correspondence.

Stout, Rex, 1886-1975--Correspondence.

Wechsler, James A. (James Arthur), 1915-1983--Correspondence.

### **Organizations**

Fight for Freedom (Organization)

International Student Service.

University of Cincinnati.

### **Subjects**

Isolationism--United States.

Journalism--United States.

Minorities in journalism--United States.

Students--Political activity--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

World War, 1939-1945.

#### **Places**

New York (N.Y.)--Politics and government--20th century.

New York (State)--Politics and government--20th century.

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

#### **Titles**

Cincinnati bearcat.

New York post.

Private wire.

Spivack report.

### **Occupations**

Journalists.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Provenance**

The papers of Robert G. Spivack, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Miranda Spivack, in 2007.

### **Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert G. Spivack in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

#### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Robert G. Spivack 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, Robert G. Spivack Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

## **Biographical Note**

Date Event

1915, Apr. 15 Born, Dayton, Ohio

1936 Graduated, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

1937-1938 Secretary, International Student Service of the United States

1939 Editor, SOS, a publication of Student Defenders of Democracy

1940 Married Adrienne Rauchwerger

1940-1941 Publications director, Fight for Freedom Committee and Fight for Freedom,Inc.

1941-1952 Reporter and Albany correspondent, New York Post

1959 Edited with Eric Sevareid *Candidates 1960*. New York: Basic Books.

1952-1961 Washington, D. C., correspondent, New York Post

1956-1969 Wrote syndicated column Watch on the Potomac

1966-1970 Published newsletter Spivack Report

1970, June 25 Died, Riverside, Conn.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Robert Gerald Spivack (1915-1970) span the years 1931-1970, with the bulk of the material dating between 1936 and 1970. Spivack was a reporter who covered news, politics, and organized crime in New York for the *New York Post* in the 1940s and 1950s, and who later covered national politics in Washington, D. C. In the 1950s and 1960s he was a syndicated columnist and newsletter publisher on national politics. The papers consist of five series: General Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Subject File, Miscellany, and Oversize.

The General Correspondence consists of letters and memoranda exchanged between Spivack and friends, colleagues, literary agents, public figures, and readers of his articles, columns, and newsletters. Included are memoranda to and from editors and colleagues at the *New York Post*, Paul Sann and James A. Wechsler among others, and with the owner of the *Post*, Dorothy Schiff. Other correspondents include Herbert Agar, Wilbur E. Bade, Ulric Bell, George T. Bye, Elliott E. Cohen, Louis G. Cowan, Fern Marja Eckman, Lloyd D. Hagan, Joseph P. Lash, Reuben A. Lazarus, Newbold Morris, Herbert Nagourney, Shaemus O'Sheel, Oliver Pilat, Eleanor Roosevelt, Arthur J. Rosenthal, John Herman Henry Sengstacke, Eric Sevareid, Abraham M. Sirkin, Martin Sommers, Mark Starr, and Rex Stout.

The Speeches and Writings include articles, book projects, columns, interviews, memoranda for the record, newsletters, and newspapers, written or edited by Spivack or by others. The series includes a comprehensive file of Spivack's articles for the *New York Post* between 1941 and 1961, the entire span of his career with the paper. Subjects included New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey and unsuccessful mayoral candidates Jonah J. Goldstein and Newbold Morris. One of Spivack's themes was the nexus of New York politics and organized crime, notably during the administration of Mayor William O'Dwyer. When Spivack was the *Post's* Washington correspondent from 1952 to 1961, he covered the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration and figures from that era such as Senators Owen Brewster, Irvin McNeil Ives, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Joseph McCarthy.

<u>Speeches and Writings</u> include Spivack's book projects relating to Thomas E. Dewey, underworld figure Frank Costello, Lyndon B. Johnson's administration, and Congressman Franklin D. Roosevelt (1914-1988).

Spivack's columns documented in the papers include In the Town's Backrooms, which covered politics on the New York and national levels, and his syndicated product Watch on the Potomac treating national politics from 1956 to 1970. The series includes examples of the University of Cincinnati newspaper that Spivack edited as a student, *Cincinnati Bearcat*, and of his newsletters on national politics, *Private Wire* and *Spivack Report*.

The <u>Subject File</u> includes files relating to Spivack's late 1960s initiative, Reporters' News Syndicate, a program designed to give minority candidates practical training in journalism, and to Spivack's activism beginning in the 1930s with student and other groups advocating for war refugees and occupied peoples, against American isolationism, and in favor of United States participation in World War II. Spivack was editor of *SOS*, the newspaper of the Student Defenders of Democracy, and there are several examples of the newspaper in that organization's file. During 1937-1938 he served as secretary of the International Student Service and from 1940 to 1941 as publications director of Fight for Freedom. There is material on these and other interventionist organizations in two oversize scrapbooks relating to the World War II era.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1936-1970
- Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970
- Subject File, 1931-1970
- Miscellany, 1936-1970
- Oversize, 1941-1947

### **Description of Series**

Container Series

BOX 1-6 General Correspondence, 1936-1970

Correspondence with friends, editors, newspaper owners, colleagues, public figures, and readers of his articles, columns, and newsletters.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 6-37 Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970

Articles, columns, book projects, newsletters, newspapers, memoranda for the record, interviews, reporters' notes, political skits, satiric songs, speeches and miscellaneous material.

Arranged into writings and speeches by Spivack and writing and speeches by others, and thereunder alphabetically by type of material.

**Subject File, 1931-1970** 

Topical files and organizational records.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or organization.

BOX 47-48 <u>Miscellany</u>, 1936-1970

Biographical material, press releases, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX OV 1-OV 2 Oversize, 1941-1947

Two scrapbooks and a poster.

Arranged and described according to the series, container, and file from which the material was removed.

# **Container List**

Container	Contents
вох 1-6	General Correspondence, 1936-1970
	Correspondence with friends, editors, newspaper owners, colleagues, public figures, and
	readers of his articles, columns, and newsletters.
<b>30x</b> 1	Arranged chronologically. 1936-1949
SOX 1	(7 folders)
BOX 2	1950-1956
BOA 2	(7 folders)
вох 3	1957-1961
	(7 folders)
	1962
	JanMar.
ox 4	Apr. Dec.
БОА	(2 folders)
	1963-1966
	(4 folders)
30X 5	1967-1969
	(7 folders)
вох 6	1970, undated
	(5 folders)
вох 6-37	Speeches and Writings, 1935-1970
	Articles, columns, book projects, newsletters, newspapers, memoranda for the record,
	interviews, reporters' notes, political skits, satiric songs, speeches and miscellaneous
	material.
	Arranged into writings and speeches by Spivack and writing and speeches by others, and thereunder alphabetically by type of material.
<b>BOX</b> 6	By Spivack
	Articles
	Haddassah Newsletter, 1954
	Hale, Jeanne, literary agent, undated
	Literary Digest, 1936
	Miscellaneous
	1938-1950, 1963-1970
	(2 folders)
вох 7	Undated
	The Nation, 1941-1960
	New Republic, 1943-1953
	New York Knickerbocker, 1968
	Clippings
	Drafts
	New York Post
	Clippings

	1941-1944
	(4 folders)
	1945
	Jan May
вох 8	May-Dec.
DOX	1945-1948
	(7 folders)
	1949
	JanJuly
<b>BOX</b> 9	AugNov.
	1949-1952
	(7 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 10	1953
	(2 folders)
	1954
	(4 folders)
BOX 11	(3 folders)
	1955
	(2 folders)
BOX 12	1956-1957
12	(6 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 13	1958-1960
nov 14	(8 folders)
BOX 14	1961, undated
вох 15	(7 folders) Drafts
BOA 13	Alphabetical file by title
	"A" miscellaneous, undated
	"The Big Steal," 1955
	(6 folders)
	"B-C" miscellaneous, undated
<b>BOX</b> 16	"Fiorello at the Mike," undated
	"G-N" miscellaneous, undated
	"The Oil Empire," 1957
	(8 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 17	(3 folders)
	Chronological file, 1940-1965, undated
	(5 folders)
BOX 18	Topical file
	Cancer, 1959
	Democratic Party, 1960
	Dewey, Thomas E., undated
	Lend Lease, 1942-1943
	Liberals, undated
	Miscellaneous, 1957-1958
	(2 folders)
	Book reviews, 1942-1943, 1959

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Books
                               Candidates 1960, edited with Eric Sevareid, 1959
                                 (3 folders)
BOX 19
                               "Corruption" (unpublished), 1955-1956
                                 (3 folders)
                               "Dictionary of American Terminology" (unpublished), 1947-1950, 1958-1960
                                 (4 folders)
                               "He'd Rather Be President" about Thomas E. Dewey (unpublished), circa 1950
BOX 20
                                 (3 folders)
                               "The Johnson Revolution" (unpublished), 1964
                                 (4 folders)
                               "The Life and Times of Frank Costello" (unpublished), 1946-1952
                                 (1 folder)
BOX 21
                                 (4 folders)
                               McCarthy, Joseph, and Robert Kennedy, 1963, 1970
                               Our Sovereign States, edited by Robert S. Allen, 1949
                                 (3 folders)
BOX 22
                                 (2 folders)
                               Roosevelt, Franklin D. (1914-1988), undated
                               Social and Civic Agencies in Greater Cleveland, National Youth Agency, circa 1938
                            Columns
                               Closeup, 1956-1957
                               Footnotes to Headline, 1941-1942
                               In the Town's Backrooms
                                 Drafts and notes, undated
                                    (2 folders)
                                 Newspaper clippings, 1951-1956
                                    (4 folders)
                               Miscellaneous
                                 Drafts, 1941-1969, undated
                                    (2 folders)
                                 Newspaper clippings,
                                    1948, 1960-1968
BOX 23
                                    1969
                               Report from Washington
                               Watch on the Potomac
                                 Drafts
                                    Set no. 1
                                      1955-1961
                                         (6 folders)
                                      1962
                                        (6 folders)
BOX 24
                                        (1 folder)
                                      1963
                                         (8 folders)
                                      1964
                                         (2 folders)
BOX 25
                                         (5 folders)
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1965
                                         (5 folders)
BOX 26
                                         (1 folder)
                                    Set no. 2
                                      1955-1965
                                         (9 folders)
                                      1966
                                         (4 folders)
                                         (3 folders)
BOX 27
                                      1967
                                         (5 folders)
                                      1968
                                         (3 folders)
BOX 28
                                         (2 folders)
                                      1969-1970, undated
                                         (5 folders)
                                    Set no. 3, undated
                                      (4 folders)
                                 Newspaper clippings
                                    1956
                                      Jan.-May
BOX 29
                                      June-Dec.
                                         (3 folders)
                                    1957-1959
                                      (14 folders)
BOX 30
                                    1960-1961
                                      (19 folders)
BOX 31
                                    1962-1969
                                      (24 folders)
BOX 32
                                    Undated
                                 Promotional and administrative material, 1955-1968, undated
                                    (2 folders)
                            Interviews conducted by Spivack, 1941-1953, 1966-1969, undated
                               (2 folders)
                            Letters to the editor, undated
                            Memoir writings, undated
                            Memoranda for the record, 1946-1961
                               (2 folders)
                            Newsletters and newspapers
                               Cincinnati Bearcat, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1935
                               Contemporary Affairs, publication of the Contemporary Affairs Society
                                 Chronological file
                                    1961-1962
BOX 33
                                    1963-1969
                                 Miscellany, 1962-1970
                               Private Wire, 1958-1959
                               SOS, 1941 See Container 46, Student Defenders of Democracy
                               Spivack Report
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Chronological file, 1966-1970
                                   (3 folders)
                                 Promotional material, 1968
                            Notes, undated
                              (2 folders)
BOX 34
                              (2 folders)
                            Radio commentary with Richard Pack, Combat News Service, transcript, circa 1939
                            Reporter's notebooks, undated
                              (2 folders)
BOX 35
                            Speeches and speaking engagements, 1951-1964
                              (2 folders)
                          By others
                            Articles
                              Carter, Douglass, 1957-1962
                              Miscellaneous, 1944-1970, undated
                                 (6 folders)
                              New York Post
                                 Miscellaneous, 1943-1967
                                   (4 folders)
                                 Poston, Ted, undated
                              New York Times
                                 1940
BOX 36
                                 1941
                                   (3 folders)
                            Columns, 1945, 1954-1962, 1969
                            Newsletters
                              Miscellaneous, 1958-1969
                              Pulliam Albany Letter, 1945-1948
                            Newspapers
                              African-American, 1957, 1965
                              PM, 1941
                            Plays and poems, undated
                            Political skits and song parodies, undated
                               (2 folders)
BOX 37
                            Speeches, 1955
                            Television interview shows, 1969
BOX 37-46
                       Subject File, 1931-1970
                          Topical files and organizational records.
                          Arranged alphabetically by subject or organization.
BOX 37
                          Banking, 1954
                          Black Panther Party, 1967-1970
                          Brewster, Owen and Henry Grunewald, 1952-1953
                          Cartoons and cartoonists, undated
                          Chaachou, Khadouri, 1961
                          DC Nine Defense Committee, 1969
                          Dewey, Thomas E., 1941-1951
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Education, 1947, 1960-1967
                         Energy
                            Miscellany, 1948-1965
                              (3 folders)
                            Niagra power controversy, newspaper articles by Spivack, 1955
BOX 38
                            Printed matter, 1953-1955
                              (2 folders)
                         Eisenhower, Dwight D., administration, 1952-1965
                            Hagerty, James C., 1948, 1958
                            Miscellany, 1952-1965
                         Farley, James A., 1967
                         Foundations and community organizations, undated
                         Goldstein, Jonah J., 1935-1945
                         Jews and Israel, 1950-1969
                         Johnson, Lyndon B., administration
                            Dominican Republic crisis
                              1955-1965
                                (2 folders)
BOX 39
                              Undated
                            Miscellany, 1947-1970, undated
                              (3 folders)
                            Printed matter, 1957-1965
                         Lane, Myles J., 1952
                         Lundberg, Ferdinand, 1968
                         McCarthy, Joseph
                            Congressional printed matter, 1954
                            Miscellany
                              1953-1954
                                (2 folders)
BOX 40
                              Undated
                         Medicine, 1945,1955
                         Morris, Newbold, 1945-1952
                         New York, N.Y., politics, government, and civic life, 1940-1969
                         Nixon, Richard M., 1957-1964
                         O'Dwyer, William
                            Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 1941-1951
                            Miscellany, 1934-1964, undated
                              (4 folders)
BOX 41
                         Organized crime
                            Commissioner of Internal Revenue, 1951
                            Costello, Frank, 1947-1951
                            Lucchese, Thomas, 1941-1952
                            Miscellany, 1950-1951
                            Murder, Inc., 1941-1947
                            New York State Crime Committee, 1951
                         Political parties
                            American Party, 1952
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**BOX** 43

Communist Party, 1953

Democratic Party, 1948-1960

Liberal Party of New York State, undated

Republican Party, 1942-1970

Presidential campaigns, 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968

BOX 42 Press and media

Miscellany, 1956-1969

Professional organizations, 1941-1957

Tours, 1951, undated

Public opinion polling, 1964-1967

Reporters' News Syndicate

Announcements and news releases, circa 1969

Correspondence, 1964-1970

(2 folders)

Instructional material, circa 1969

Miscellany, 1949, 1968-1969

New York Urban Coalition, 1969

**Participants** 

Bell, Joan E., 1969

Haggans, Lionel, 1958, 1969

Mahone, Othello, 1969

Morales, Reuben, 1969

(2 folders)

Miscellaneous, 1969-1970

(2 folders)

Palmer, Angela, 1969

(3 folders)

Peterson, James W., 1969

(2 folders)

Resumés, 1968-1969

Varlack, Keith, 1969

Zephyr, Aubrey, 1970

(2 folders)

BOX 44 Publications

Contemporary Affairs, 1969 See also Container 32, Contemporary Affairs

Washington Hotline, 1969-1970

(3 folders)

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (1914-1988), 1949-1956

"Sonny Jones" incident, 1944

United Nations headquarters building, site committee, undated

United States Commission on Civil Rights, 1965

Vietnam

Democratic Party of Vietnam

Miscellany, 1963

Sword of Free Vietnam, newsletter, 1962-1964

Miscellany

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1962-1967
                                 (2 folders)
BOX 45
                               1968-1970, undated
                                 (3 folders)
                          White backlash and other ethnic issues, 1967-1968, undated
                            (3 folders)
                          Wiretapping, 1949
                          World War II
                            Activism for United States intervention
                               Bissell, George, III, 1934, 1951
                               Congressional hearings, 1931-1941
                               Fight for Freedom, Inc., 1940-1941, undated See also Oversize
                                 (2 folders)
BOX 46
                               Free French, 1936-1943
                               Miscellany, 1936-1946
                                 (2 folders)
                               Newspaper clippings, 1941-1949, undated
                                 (2 folders)
                               Reference file, 1941-1943
                               Scrapbook, 1941-1942, 1947 See Oversize
                               Spain, 1937-1941
                               Student organizations
                                 American Student Union, 1938
                                 American Youth Congress, 1939-1942
                                 International Student Service of the United States, 1939-1942, 1957, undated
                                    (2 folders)
                                 Student Defenders of Democracy, 1941
                               What Are We Catholics Going to Do?," tabloid pamphlet, 1933
                            Miscellany, 1941-1943 See also Oversize
BOX 47-48
                       Miscellany, 1936-1970
                          Biographical material, press releases, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.
                          Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 47
                          Book lists and promotional material relating to books, undated
                          Biographical material and clippings mentioning Spivack, 1941-1970
                            (2 folders)
                          Financial papers, 1946, 1960-1966
                          Lists and seating charts, 1943-1946, 1957, 1967
                          Neighborhoods and housing programs, 1947-1970
                          Press releases, 1950-1963
                            (3 folders)
                          Printed matter
                            Business and the Ghetto, Chilton Co., 1968
                            Civil rights, 1957-1958
                               (3 folders)
BOX 48
                            Congressional publications
                               Hearings, Soviet espionage, 1956-1957
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BOX OV 2

Miscellaneous, 1953-1956, 1963 Magazines and journals, 1956-1970 (2 folders) Miscellaneous, 1936, 1946, 1961-1969 (2 folders) New Leader, 1956-1960 Résumés, 1963-1965

### **BOX** OV 1-OV 2 **Oversize, 1941-1947**

Two scrapbooks and a poster.

Arranged and described according to the series, container, and file from which the material was removed.

BOX OV 1 Subject File

World War II

Activism for United States intervention

Fight for Freedom, Inc.

"Business with Hitler?," poster, circa 1941 (Container 45)

Scrapbook, 1941-1942, 1947 (Container 46)

Miscellany

Scrapbook, 1943 (Container 46)