

Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2011

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010315>

Collection Summary

Title: Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd Papers

Span Dates: 1895-1968

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1922-1968)

ID No.: MSS51664

Creator: Lynd, Robert Staughton, 1892-1970

Creator: Lynd, Helen Merrell Lynd, 1896-1982

Extent: 4,000 items; 15 containers; 6 linear feet; 8 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Sociologist and educator (Robert Staughton Lynd). Sociologist (Helen Merrell Lynd).

Family and general correspondence, writings and lectures, notes, research material, student papers, and miscellaneous biographical and genealogical material chiefly relating to the Lynds' sociological research and writings, especially their study of "Middletown," Muncie, Indiana.

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

Brinton, Crane, 1898-1968--Correspondence.

Diamond, Sigmund--Correspondence.

Erikson, Erik H. (Erik Homburger), 1902-1994--Correspondence.

Lynd, Helen Merrell, 1896-1982. Robert Staughton and Helen Merrell Lynd papers. 1895-1968.

Lynd, Robert Staughton, 1892-1970.

Lynn family.

Merton, Robert King, 1910-2003--Correspondence.

Riesman, David, 1909-2002--Correspondence.

Organizations

Columbia University.

Sarah Lawrence College.

Social Science Research Council (U.S.)

Subjects

Academic freedom.

Internal security.

Social sciences.

Sociology.

Universities and colleges--New York (State)

Occupations

Educators.

Sociologists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Robert Staughton Lynd, sociologist and educator, and Helen Merrell Lynd, sociologist, were given to the Library of Congress by Helen Merrell Lynd in 1969.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1969 and revised in 1981. The finding aid was revised again in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Lynd Papers 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on eight reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Robert Staughton Lynd

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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1892, Sept. 26	Born, New Albany, Ind.
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1914	B.A. Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
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1914-1918	Editor, <i>Publishers' Weekly</i>
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1919	Manager, advertising and publicity, Charles Scribner's Sons
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1920	Assistant publisher, B. W. Huebsch, Inc., and the <i>Freeman</i>
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1921	Married Helen Merrell (died 1982)
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1922	Missionary and writer, Elk Basin, Wyo., oil fields
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1923	B.D., Union Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y.
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1923-1926	Director, Small City Study, Institute of Social and Religious Research
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1926-1927	Assistant director, Division of Educational Research, Commonwealth Fund
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1927-1931	Assistant to chairman, later permanent secretary, Social Sciences Research Council
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1929	Published with Helen Merrell Lynd <i>Middletown, a Study in Contemporary American Culture</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1931	Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1931-1960	Professor of sociology, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1937	Published with Helen Merrell Lynd <i>Middletown in Transition; a Study in Cultural Conflicts</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1939	Published <i>Knowledge for What? The Place of Social Science in American Culture</i> . Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press
1970, Nov. 1	Died, New York, N.Y.
Helen Merrell Lynd	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1896, Mar. 17	Born, La Grange, Ill.
1919	B.A., Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.
1921	M.A., Columbia University, New York, N.Y. Married Robert Staughton Lynd (died 1970)
1929	Published with Robert Staughton Lynd <i>Middletown, a Study in Contemporary American Culture</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1929-1964	Engaged in research and writing Lecturer, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y.
1937	Published with Robert Staughton Lynd <i>Middletown in Transition; a Study in Cultural Conflicts</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1944	Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1945	Published <i>England in the Eighteen-Eighties: Toward a Social Basis for Freedom</i> . New York: Oxford University Press Published <i>Field Work in College Education</i> . New York: Columbia University Press
1958	Published <i>On Shame and the Search for Identity</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace
1965	Published <i>Toward Discovery</i> . Bronxville, N.Y.: Sarah Lawrence College
1982	Died, Warren, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Staughton Lynd (1892-1970) and Helen Merrell Lynd (1896-1982), husband and wife, span the years 1895-1968, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1922-1968. Included in the collection is a small [Correspondence](#) series containing some family letters plus a larger number of personal and professional letters. The Lynds apparently kept few copies of outgoing correspondence; most of the letters in this series date from 1950 onward and nearly all were written by others.

Also in the Lynd papers is a [Writings](#) file treating selected examples of their production as authors, lecturers, teachers, and reviewers. Material concerning "Middletown," a sociological study of Muncie, Indiana, comprises the largest portion of the Writings and is mainly devoted to background research data the pair gathered while surveying the city. There are, in addition, numerous reviews of both the 1929 *Middletown* volume and the follow-up study, *Middletown in Transition*, published eight years later. Popular reaction to the books was strong in Muncie, and samples of the response can be found in the general correspondence of this part of the Writings.

Besides "Middletown," some of the main topics in this collection are academic and educational affairs at Columbia University and Sarah Lawrence College, where the Lynds taught; national security questions and academic freedom; the sociological discipline; and Robert Lynd's work as permanent secretary of the Social Science Research Council between 1927 and 1931. Important correspondents include Crane Brinton, Sigmund Diamond, Erik H. Erikson, Robert King Merton, and David Riesman.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1923-1967](#)
- [Writings, 1895-1967](#)
- [Miscellany, 1918-1968](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1
REEL 1

Series

Correspondence, 1923-1967

Family and general correspondence, mostly received, and related matter. The general correspondence is arranged separately for Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd and therein chronologically.

BOX 2-13
REEL 1-8

Writings, 1895-1967

Holograph, typewritten, and near-print and printed articles, lectures, book material, interview surveys, outlines, notes, reviews, and miscellaneous research data.

Arranged in separate files for Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd as well as a joint file of both their material, and therein alphabetically by type of material or title.

BOX 14-15
REEL 8

Miscellany, 1918-1968

Biographical and genealogical material, and student papers.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material. The papers of students have not been microfilmed.

Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 18,297

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1923-1967 Family and general correspondence, mostly received, and related matter. The general correspondence is arranged separately for Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd and therein chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Family, 1939-1964, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	General
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lynd, Robert Staughton, 1923-1967 (3 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lynd, Helen Merrell, 1937-1965, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2-13 REEL 1-8	Writings, 1895-1967 Holograph, typewritten, and near-print and printed articles, lectures, book material, interview surveys, outlines, notes, reviews, and miscellaneous research data. Arranged in separate files for Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd as well as a joint file of both their material, and therein alphabetically by type of material or title.
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Lynd, Robert Staughton, 1922-1965, undated
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Articles and papers
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Book reviews
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	By Lynd
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	By others regarding <i>Lynd's Knowledge for What?</i> (1939)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Lectures, outlines, and notes (3 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Reminiscences
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Research projects
BOX 2	Social Science Research Council, 1927-1933

REEL 1-2	
	(2 folders)
BOX 3	Survey schedules, Montclair, N.J.
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Seminar topics
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Miscellaneous research material and printed matter
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Lynd, Helen Merrell, 1933-1967, undated
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Articles, talks, and miscellaneous
REEL 2	
BOX 3	1933-1967
REEL 2	
	(6 folders)
BOX 4	Undated
REEL 3	
	(2 folders)
BOX 4	Book manuscripts
REEL 3	
BOX 4	<i>On Shame and the Search for Identity</i>
REEL 3	
	(5 folders)
BOX 5	(4 folders)
REEL 3-4	
BOX 5	Book notes
REEL 3	
BOX 5	<i>England in the Eighteen-Eighties</i>
REEL 3	
	(2 folders)
BOX 6	(2 folders)
REEL 3-4	
BOX 6	Book reviews
REEL 3-4	
BOX 6	<i>England in the Eighteen-Eighties</i>
REEL 3-4	
BOX 6	<i>On Shame and the Search for Identity</i>
REEL 3-4	
BOX 6	Miscellaneous notes, research material, and printed matter
REEL 3-4	
	(3 folders)
BOX 7	Lynd, Robert Staughton, and Helen Merrell Lynd, 1895-1967, undated
REEL 4	
BOX 7	<i>Middletown</i>
REEL 4	
BOX 7	Comments on manuscript
REEL 4	
BOX 7	General correspondence, 1923-1960
REEL 4	
	(2 folders)

Writings, 1895-1967

Container *Contents*

BOX 7	Research files
REEL 4	
BOX 7	Background, 1895-1947
REEL 4	
BOX 7	Clubs
REEL 4	
	(2 folders)
BOX 8	(4 folders)
REEL 5	
BOX 8	General notes
REEL 5	
BOX 8	Individual biographies
REEL 5	
	(2 folders)
BOX 9	Interview schedules
REEL 5-6	
	(4 folders)
BOX 9	Ku Klux Klan
REEL 5-6	
	(2 folders)
BOX 10	Leisure activities
REEL 6	
	(2 folders)
BOX 10	Ministerial Association
REEL 6	
BOX 10	Organized labor
REEL 6	
BOX 10	Working conditions
REEL 6	
	(2 folders)
BOX 11	(4 folders)
REEL 6-7	
BOX 11	Reviews, 1929-1967, undated
REEL 6-7	
	(3 folders)
BOX 12	(5 folders)
REEL 7-8	
BOX 13	<i>Middletown in Transition</i>
REEL 8	
BOX 13	Corrected galley
REEL 8	
BOX 13	General correspondence, 1937-1941
REEL 8	
BOX 13	Review, 1937-1967, undated
REEL 8	
	(5 folders)
BOX 13	Talk to Rotary Club, Muncie, Ind., 1935
REEL 8	
BOX 14-15	Miscellany, 1918-1968

Miscellany, 1918-1968

Container *Contents*

REEL 8

Biographical and genealogical material, and student papers.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material. The papers of students have not
been microfilmed.

BOX 14

Biographical and genealogical data, 1918-1968

REEL 8

BOX 14

Student papers

not filmed

(6 folders)

BOX 15

(6 folders)

not filmed