

Martin Agronsky

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Donna Ellis
with the assistance of Dan Oleksiw**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Martin Agronsky

Span Dates: 1907-1999

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1990)

ID No.: MSS84841

Creator: Agronsky, Martin, 1915-1999

Extent: 27,700 items; 79 containers; 31.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Radio and television journalist. Appointment books, awards, radio, television, and film scripts, speeches, writings, and research material pertaining to Agronsky's career as a radio and television journalist.

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.

Names:

Agronsky, Martin.

Eichmann, Adolf, 1906-1962--Trials, litigation, etc.

Subjects:

Cold War

Economics

Foreign correspondents--Asia

Foreign correspondents--Australia

Foreign correspondents--Europe

Politics, Practical

Trials--Israel

World War, 1939-1945--Journalists

Occupation:

Journalists

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Martin Agronsky, radio and television journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by his estate in 2001. Additional material was given in 2003 by David Agronsky.

Transfers:

Sound recordings, videocassettes, and a film have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Martin Agronsky Papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Martin Agronsky in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved.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.

Preferred Citation:

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1915, Jan. 12	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1936	B.A., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1936-1937	Reporter, <i>Palestine Post</i>
1937-1940	Freelance newspaper reporter
1940-1943	Foreign correspondent, National Broadcasting Co.
1943	Married Helen Smathers (died 1969)
1943-1957	Correspondent, American Broadcasting Co., Washington, D.C.
1952	Awarded George Foster Peabody Award
1957-1964	Correspondent, National Broadcasting Co.
1961	Awarded Alfred I. DuPont Award
1964-1968	Bureau chief, Paris, France, and moderator of “Face the Nation,” Columbia Broadcasting System
1968	Received Emmy Award
1969	News anchor, WTOP-TV, Washington, D.C.
1969-1987	Host, “Agronsky and Company,” WETA-TV, Washington, D.C.
1971-1975	Host, “Martin Agronsky's Evening Edition” and “Agronsky at Large,” Public Broadcasting System
1999, July 25	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Martin Agronsky (1915-1999) span the years 1907-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1940 to 1990. The papers are organized in the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), and a [Miscellany](#) consisting primarily of appointment books, awards, biographical material, and items related to organizations with which Agronsky was associated.

The [Correspondence](#) series contains primarily letters written by colleagues and the public to Agronsky in response to his newscasts. Incoming and outgoing letters and telegrams document communications between Agronsky and his network supervisors regarding news assignments.

The [Speeches and Writings File](#), especially the scripts of Agronsky's newscasts, forms the centerpiece of the papers. The material dates from his career as a foreign correspondent in Europe, Australia, and Asia during World War II and continues through the Cold War years. His coverage of the Adolf Eichmann trial in Israel won him the Alfred I. DuPont Award in 1962. Other scripts include his work on documentary films. The speech file contains correspondence, notes, and texts pertaining to his lectures on political and economic subjects. Research material includes news clippings, notes, and printed matter relating to the subjects on which Agronsky frequently lectured.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- Correspondence, 1907-1991, n.d.
- Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996, n.d.
- Miscellany, 1933-1999, n.d.

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-12

Correspondence, 1907-1991, n.d.

Correspondence and memoranda between Agronsky and his friends, colleagues, and the public relating to professional activities.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 13-74

Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996, n.d.

Broadcast and film scripts, magazine articles, research material, and speeches.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 75-79

Miscellany, 1933-1999, n.d.

Appointment books, awards, biographical material, lawsuits, and correspondence relating to organizations and television programs.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-12	Correspondence, 1907-1991, n.d. Correspondence and memoranda between Agronsky and his friends, colleagues, and the public relating to professional activities. Arranged chronologically.
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Correspondence, 1907-1991, n.d.

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Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996, n.d.

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Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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