

August Heckscher Papers

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Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of Lena Wiley and Chanté Wilson

Collection Summary

Title: August Heckscher Papers

Span Dates: 1931-1999

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1948-1976)

ID No.: MSS84727

Creator: Heckscher, August, 1913-1997

Extent: 23,000 items ; 64 containers ; 26 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Writer, arts consultant, social commentator, and journalist. Correspondence, speeches, writings, and miscellaneous papers relating primarily to Heckscher's work as arts consultant to President John F. Kennedy, editorial writer at the *New York Herald Tribune*, director of the Twentieth Century Fund, parks commissioner and Administrator of Recreation and Cultural Affairs for the city of New York, and his work with various educational and cultural institutions.

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

Heckscher, August, 1913-1997.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

American Council for Nationalities Service.

Council on Foreign Relations.

Fred L. Lavanburg Foundation.

International House (New York, N.Y.)

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (U.S.)

Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

New York (N.Y.). Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Administration.

Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Twentieth Century Fund.

United States. White House Office.

Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

Yale University.

Subjects

City and town life.

City planning.

Leisure.

Parks--New York (State)--New York.

Parks.

Public architecture.

Places

New York (N.Y.)

Titles

New York herald tribune.

Occupations

Authors.

Commentators.

Consultants.
Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of August Heckscher, writer, arts consultant, social commentator, and journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Claude Heckscher in 2000.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of August Heckscher in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved.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 August Heckscher 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, August Heckscher Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1913, Sept. 16	Born, Huntington, N.Y.
1929-1932	Attended St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.
1936	B.A., Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Published <i>These Are the Days</i> . New Haven: Yale Daily News
1939	M.A., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1939-1941	Instructor in government, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1941	Married Claude Chevreux
1942-1945	Intelligence service (civilian), Office of Strategic Services
1946-1948	Editor, <i>Auburn Citizen Advertiser</i> , Auburn, N.Y.
1947	Published <i>A Pattern of Politics</i> . New York: Reynal and Hitchcock
1948-1956	Editorial writer, <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> , New York, N.Y.; chief editorial writer, 1952-1956
1956	Edited <i>The Politics of Woodrow Wilson</i> . New York: Harper
1956-1967	Director, Twentieth Century Fund, New York, N.Y.
1957	Published with Raymond Aron <i>Diversity of Worlds</i> . New York: Reynal

1962	Published <i>The Public Happiness</i> , New York: Atheneum
1962-1964	Special consultant on the arts to President John F. Kennedy
1963-1964	Moderator, "Books for Our Time," television program
1967-1973	Parks commissioner and Administrator of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, New York, N.Y.
1974	Published <i>Alive in the City: Memoirs of an Ex-Commissioner</i> . New York: Scribner
1978	Published with Phyllis Robinson <i>Open Spaces: The Life of American Cities</i> , New York: Harper and Row and <i>When LaGuardia Was Mayor: New York's Legendary Years</i> . New York: Norton
1991	Published <i>Woodrow Wilson</i> . New York: Scribner
1997, Apr. 5	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of August Heckscher (1913-1997) span the years 1931-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1948 to 1976. The papers consist primarily of correspondence, speeches, writings, and miscellaneous papers relating to Heckscher's work as arts consultant to President John F. Kennedy, editorial writer at the *New York Herald Tribune*, director of the Twentieth Century Fund, parks commissioner and Administrator of Recreation and Cultural Affairs for the city of New York, and his work with various educational and cultural institutions. The papers are organized in two series: [Speeches and Writings](#) and a [Subject File](#).

The [Speeches and Writings File](#) is organized alphabetically by type of writing. The books file is organized alphabetically by title of the book. Heckscher's lifelong attachment to New York City is evident in his books *Alive in the City* and *When LaGuardia Was Mayor*. *Open Spaces* addresses his interest in urban life, city planning, public architecture, and parks. Heckscher edited a book of Woodrow Wilson's writings and late in life wrote a biography of Wilson. The books file consists primarily of correspondence, publicity, and reviews. There is very little draft material. The topics of Heckscher's books are found in the speeches and articles files as well. Articles, book reviews, and speeches are organized chronologically by the date of publication or the date that the speech was delivered. Related correspondence, news clippings, programs, and miscellaneous materials have been kept together with the relevant speech, article, or book review. The speech file is by far the largest grouping in the series.

The [Subject File](#) reflects Heckscher's career and involvement with many cultural and educational institutions as well as his personal research interests. Heckscher studied and wrote about urban life and its cultural institutions, New York City, Woodrow Wilson, and the uses of leisure in modern life. The Subject File also includes material concerning the organizations for which Heckscher worked: the New York City Parks and Recreation Department, the *New York Herald Tribune*, the Twentieth Century Fund, and the White House during the Kennedy administration. Other organizations with notable material in the Subject File include the American Council for Nationalities Service, Council on Foreign Relations, Fred L. Lavanburg Foundation, International House (New York, N.Y.), John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the international council of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and Yale University.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Speeches and Writings File, 1940-1999](#)
- [Subject File, 1931-1997](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-22

Series

Speeches and Writings File, 1940-1999

Articles, book reviews, book files, speeches, and other writings with attached correspondence, news clippings, and other related material.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein, except for the book file which is arranged alphabetically by title and type of material.

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Subject File, 1931-1997

Correspondence, memoranda, news clippings, photographs, printed matter, and reports.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.

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