Charles E. Bohlen Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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Collection Summary

Title: Charles E. Bohlen Papers
Span Dates: 1862-1978
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1973)
ID No.: MSS13102
Creator: Bohlen, Charles E. (Charles Eustis), 1904-1974
Extent: 9,350 items; 36 containers plus 2 classified and 2 oversize; 14.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Diplomat, executive, and author. Correspondence, speeches and lectures, writings, drafts, notes, research material, appointment books, interviews, subject files, photographs and photograph albums, and other papers largely relating to Bohlen's diplomatic career and his book *Witness to History, 1929-1969*.

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
Acheson, Dean, 1893-1971.
Bohlen, Charles E. (Charles Eustis), 1904-1974.
Bohlen, Charles E. (Charles Eustis), 1904-1974. Witness to history, 1929-1969. 1973.
Eustis, James B. (James Biddle), 1834-1899.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972.

Organizations
Yalta Conference (1945)

Subjects
Diplomatic and consular service, American--France.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Philippines.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.
World War, 1939-1945--Diplomatic history.
World War, 1939-1945--Peace.

Places
Berlin (Germany)--Description and travel.
France--Foreign relations--United States.
Japan--Description and travel.
Philippines--Foreign relations--United States.
South Korea--Description and travel.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--France.
United States--Foreign relations--Philippines.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations
Authors.
Diplomats.
Executives.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Charles E. Bohlen, diplomat, executive, and author, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Bohlen and his wife, Avis H. Bohlen, in 1974. Mrs. Bohlen deposited further papers in 1981. In 1982, Bohlen's daughter, Avis Bohlen Calleo, gave more papers to the Library and all former deposits were converted to a gift.

Processing History

The papers of Charles E. Bohlen were arranged and described circa 1982. The finding aid was revised in 1994. Portions of the papers were reprocessed and the finding aid revised in 2011.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Audio recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Charles E. Bohlen Papers.

Other Repositories

Charles E. Bohlen presented his official papers to the National Archives and Records Administration where they are housed as part of the records of the Department of State.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles E. Bohlen is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles E. Bohlen 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1904, Aug. 30	Born, Clayton, N.Y.
1927	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1929	Entered the Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.
1929-1931	Vice consul, Prague, Czechoslovakia

1934	Third secretary, Department of State, Moscow, Soviet Union
1935	Married Avis Thayer (died 1981)
1935-1938	Assigned to Division of Eastern European Affairs, Department of State
1938-1939	Consul, Moscow, Soviet Union
1940-1941	Second secretary, Department of State, Tokyo, Japan
1943	Attended Moscow Conference, Moscow, Soviet Union
1943-1944	First secretary, Department of State, Moscow, Soviet Union
1944	Interpreter for Franklin D. Roosevelt, Tehran Conference, Tehran, Iran
1945	Interpreter for Franklin D. Roosevelt, Yalta Conference, Yalta, Crimea Interpreter for Harry S. Truman, Potsdam Conference, Potsdam, Germany Political and liaison officer, United Nations Delegation, San Francisco, Calif.
1946	Special assistant to secretary of state
1947	Counselor, Department of State
1948	Minister, Paris, France
1953-1957	Ambassador to the Soviet Union
1957-1959	Ambassador to the Philippines
1959-1961	Special assistant to secretary of state for Soviet affairs
1961	Published *The Foreign Service and the Panorama of Change*. Washington, D.C.: Department of State
1962-1969	Ambassador to France
1969	President, Italamerica, S.A. Published *The Transformation of American Foreign Policy*. New York: Norton
1969-1973	Member of international council, Morgan Guaranty & Trust Co.
1973	Published *Witness to History, 1929-1969*. New York: Norton
1974, Jan. 1	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Eustis ("Chip") Bohlen (1904-1974) span the years 1862-1978, with the bulk of the material dating from 1940 to 1973. The papers are organized into the following series:

Appointment Books, Speeches and Writings, Miscellany, Addition I, Addition II, Classified, and Oversize.

The Speeches and Writings File series is the largest and includes speeches given during Bohlen's ambassadorships to the Soviet Union, Philippines, and France, and lectures given after his retirement in 1969. Topics include foreign policy and Soviet relations. The writings mostly center around his book *Witness to History, 1929-1969*, and include various drafts and revisions, along with research material, notes, transcriptions of tapes, and correspondence. Other speeches and writings are in Addition I and Addition II.

The Appointment Books, including those in Addition II, roughly cover Bohlen's years as the ambassador to France.

Addition I contains congratulatory correspondence relating to his ambassadorial appointments and appointments to other United States Department of State positions. Included also are subject files containing biographical information on Bohlen and his grandfather, James Biddle Eustis, who also was an ambassador and United States senator; official logs of the trips to Berlin, Germany, and the Yalta Conference, in 1945, by presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman; and transcripts of addresses given by Dean Acheson. The photograph albums and scrapbooks mostly depict ceremonies that took place while Bohlen was the ambassador to France, but also the peace conferences held during and after World War II, and a trip to South Korean and Japan in 1951.

Addition II contains both family and general correspondence, including a separate file of letters with George F. Kennan. Further material includes interviews, awards, estate papers, passports, and reports on visits to Soviet schools in 1955.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- Appointment Books, 1963-1968
- Speeches and Writings File, 1934-1973
- Miscellany, 1940-1972
- Addition I, 1906-1975
- Addition II, 1862-1978
- Classified, 1957-1973
- Oversize, 1943-1947

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-2	Appointment Books, 1963-1968 Appointment books kept by secretary. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3-28	Speeches and Writings File, 1934-1973 Speeches, lectures, drafts of books, research notes, and galley proofs. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 28	Miscellany, 1940-1972 Subject file and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization.
BOX 29-35	Addition I, 1906-1975 Correspondence, subject files, speeches and writings, near print and printed matter, and photograph albums and scrapbooks. Arranged by type of material or topic.
BOX 34-36	Addition II, 1862-1978 Correspondence, speeches and statements, interviews, memorabilia, and other papers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX CL 1	Classified, 1957-1973 Correspondence and memoranda. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX TS 1	Top Secret, 1973 Correspondence with enclosure dated 1946. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1943-1947 Photograph albums. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-2	Appointment Books, 1963-1968
	Appointment books kept by secretary.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1963-1965
	(3 vols.)
BOX 2	1966-1968 *See also Container 36, same heading*
	(3 vols.)
BOX 3-28	Speeches and Writings File, 1934-1973
	Speeches, lectures, drafts of books, research notes, and galley proofs.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 3	Speeches
BOX 3	Chronological
BOX 3	1957-1964
	(7 folders)
BOX 4	1965-1967
	(4 folders)
BOX 4	1968
	(3 folders)
BOX 5	(5 folders)
BOX 6	(7 folders)
BOX 7	(1 folder)
BOX 7	1969
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1969-1971, undated
BOX 7	Lectures
BOX 7	Contracts and scheduling, 1969-1971
BOX 7	"Divided Countries," a series of three lectures, circa 1969
	(2 folders)
BOX 7	"Russian-American and American-Soviet Relations," De Pauw University, Greencastle, Ind., 1969, Sept. 19
BOX 8	"The Transformation of American Foreign Policy," a series of three lectures, circa 1969
BOX 8	Writings
BOX 8	Books
BOX 8	*Witness to History, 1929-1969*
BOX 8	Drafts
BOX 8	Photocopied drafts with revisions, chapters
BOX 8	1-25
	(4 folders)
BOX 9	26-29
BOX 9	First draft, chapters

Container	*Contents*
BOX 9	1-12
	(4 folders)
BOX 10	13-29
	(4 folders)
BOX 10	Second draft with revisions, marked as B, chapters
BOX 10	1-4
BOX 11	4-17
	(5 folders)
BOX 12	18-33
	(5 folders)
BOX 13	First draft, complete book, marked as B2, chapters 1-31
	(5 folders)
BOX 14	Second draft, complete book, chapters 1-29
	(3 folders)
BOX 14	Final copy, complete book, carbons, chapters 1-29
	(3 folders)
BOX 15	Typed copy with revisions, chapters
BOX 15	1-24
	(5 folders)
BOX 16	25-29
BOX 16	First set with revisions, chapters
BOX 16	1-13
	(4 folders)
BOX 17	15-27
	(2 folders)
BOX 17	Second set without revisions, chapters 1-23
	(4 folders)
BOX 18	Rough draft, chapters, 1972, Oct. 25
BOX 18	1-25
	(5 folders)
BOX 19	26-end, notes
BOX 19	Incomplete, chapters, 1-17 (pages 1-424)
	(2 folders)
BOX 19	Incomplete, chapters
BOX 19	1-5 (pages 1-145)
BOX 20	5-22 (pages 146-583, notes)
	(3 folders)
BOX 20	First copies with revisions, chapter 2
BOX 20	First copies, carbons, chapters 3-9
BOX 21	Typed draft, first draft, chapters 13-19
BOX 21	Handwritten copy, chapters 1-11
BOX 21	Rough copies, chapters 1-3, 1969, July 31
BOX 21	First revision of index, pages 1-72
BOX 21	Tape transcription without revisions, chapters 3-7 (1759x13 to 7467x88)
BOX 21	Tape transcription, tape no. 2 (notes): side 1, chapters 17-18; side 2, chapter 18, Berlin blockade
BOX 21	Loose draft pages

Container	*Contents*
BOX 22	Galley proofs, 1972-1973
	(2 folders)
BOX 23	(2 folders)
BOX 24	Research material
BOX 24	By chapters
BOX 24	Chapters 1-15, odds and ends, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 24	Chapters 1-5
	(5 folders)
BOX 25	Chapters 6-15
	(10 folders)
BOX 26	Chapters 16-31
	(14 folders)
BOX 27	Chapters 32-33
	(2 folders)
BOX 27	Correspondence, 1966-1972, undated
BOX 27	Foreign policy chapters, 1969-1971, undated
BOX 27	General records of the Department of State, Decimal File, telegrams, 1939-1940
BOX 27	Kennan, George, F., letters, 1945
BOX 27	Miscellaneous, 1970, undated
BOX 27	Moscow, Soviet Union, memories, 1934
BOX 27	Notes
BOX 27	Chapters 1-26, undated
BOX 27	Chapters 1-33, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 28	(1 folder)
BOX 28	Questions, undated
BOX 28	Soviet atomic progress, undated
BOX 28	*The Transformation of American Foreign Policy*, circa 1969
BOX 28	Miscellany
BOX 28	Article on Harry S. Truman, 1966-1967
BOX 28	Interview of Bohlen regarding John F. Kennedy, 1964
BOX 28	Miscellany, 1940-1972
	Subject file and printed matter.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization.
BOX 28	Population Crisis Committee, 1970, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 28	Printed matter, 1940, 1968-1972
BOX 29-35	Addition I, 1906-1975
	Correspondence, subject files, speeches and writings, near print and printed matter, and photograph albums and scrapbooks.
	Arranged by type of material or topic.
BOX 29	General correspondence

Container	*Contents*
BOX 29	Congratulatory appointment letters
BOX 29	Ambassador to France, 1962 (2 folders)
BOX 29	Ambassador to Soviet Union, 1953 (2 folders)
BOX 30	Counselor to the State Department, 1947 (2 folders)
BOX 30	Under secretary of state, 1968
BOX 30	Departure from Manila, Philippines, and reassignment to Washington, D.C., 1958-1962 *See also Classified*
BOX 30	Reassignment from Moscow, Soviet Union, 1955-1959 *See also Classified*
BOX 30	*Witness to History, 1929-1969*, 1973
BOX 30	Miscellaneous personal letters, 1949-1975
BOX 30	Subject file
BOX 30	Biographical data, 1906, 1923, 1961, 1968
BOX 30	Eustis, James Biddle, 1962-1968
BOX 30	President's official log, trip to Berlin, Germany, 1945
BOX 31	President's official log, trip to the Yalta Conference, Yalta, Crimea, and Great Bitter Lake, Egypt, 1945
BOX 31	Acheson, Dean, typescripts of addresses, circa 1957-circa 1962 (3 folders)
BOX 31	Speeches and writings
BOX 31	Thompson, Llewellyn, eulogy, 1972
BOX 31	United States-Soviet relations, speech notes, undated
BOX 31	"Views on U.S.S.R.," memorandum of opinion, 1957 *See also Classified*
BOX 31	Miscellany
BOX 31	Autographs of diplomatic corps, Moscow, Soviet Union, 1957
BOX 31	Photographs, photograph albums, and scrapbooks
BOX 31	Korea (South) and Japan, 1951
BOX 32	Veterans of Foreign Wars of America, award to Georges Pompidou, 1965
BOX 32	Liberation Day, Strasbourg, France, 1964
BOX 32	American Legion ceremony, Paris, France, 1965
BOX 33	Liberation Day, 20th anniversary, Colmar, France, 1965
BOX 33	John F. Kennedy Memorial Garden dedication, France, 1965
BOX 33	Peace conferences
BOX 33	Tehran, Iran, through Yalta, Crimea, Nov. 1943-Feb. 1945 *See Oversize*
BOX 33	Post Yalta, Crimea, Mar. 1945-1947 *See Oversize*
BOX 34-36	Addition II, 1862-1978
	Correspondence, speeches and statements, interviews, memorabilia, and other papers.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 34	Correspondence
BOX 34	Family

Container	*Contents*
BOX 34	Bohlen, Avis Thayer (wife), 1934-1965, undated (2 folders)
BOX 34	Bohlen, Celestine Eustis (mother), 1932-1940
BOX 34	Bohlen children, 1954-1969, undated
BOX 34	General, 1943-1978, undated *See also Classified* (3 folders)
BOX 34	Kennan, George F., 1951, 1959-1960, 1970, undated
BOX 34	Interviews, 1964-1968
BOX 35	Speeches and statements, 1953-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 35	Miscellany
BOX 35	Awards, circa 1943-circa 1972
BOX 35	*Witness to History, 1929-1969*, contract and book reviews, 1968-1973
BOX 36	Appointment books, 1961-1962 *See also Containers 1-2, same heading* (2 folders)
BOX 36	Autographed letter, William Makepeace Thackery to Torben de Bille, Danish minister to England, ante 1862, Feb.
BOX 36	Estate papers, 1942-1943, 1961
BOX 36	Notebooks, undated
BOX 36	Passports, circa 1923-circa 1971
BOX 36	Pass, card, and fragment, 1945-1957, undated
BOX 36	Reports on visits to Soviet schools, 1955
BOX 36	Speeches by others, 1947, 1957
BOX 36	Tolstoy Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1961-1962
BOX CL 1	Classified, 1957-1973
	Correspondence and memoranda.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX CL 1	Addition I
BOX CL 1	General correspondence
BOX CL 1	Departure from Manila, Philippines, and reassignment to Washington, D.C., 1958-1962 (Container 30)
BOX CL 1	Reassignment from Moscow, Soviet Union 1959 (Container 30)
BOX CL 1	Speeches and writings
BOX CL 1	"Views on U.S.S.R.," memorandum of opinion 1957 (Container 31)
BOX CL 1	Addition II
BOX CL 1	Correspondence
BOX CL 1	General, 1957-1973 (Container 34)
BOX CL 1	Braadland, Erik
BOX CL 1	Alphand, Hervé
BOX CL 1	Burden, William
BOX CL 1	Heeney, A. D. P. (Arnold Danford Patrick)
BOX CL 1	Vones, Lewis
BOX CL 1	Livingston, Merchant T.
BOX CL 1	Reilly, Patrick

Container	*Contents*
BOX CL 1	Drumright, Everett F.
BOX CL 1	Yergin, Daniel to Maxwell M. Hamilton, 1973 *See Top Secret*
BOX TS 1	Top Secret, 1973
	Correspondence with enclosure dated 1946.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX TS 1	Yergin, Daniel, to Maxwell M. Hamilton, 1973 (Container 34)
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1943-1947
	Photograph albums.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Addition I
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Photographs, photograph albums, and scrapbooks
BOX OV 1	Peace conferences
BOX OV 1	Tehran, Iran, through Yalta, Crimea, Nov. 1943-Feb. 1945 (Container 33)
BOX OV 2	Post Yalta, Crimea, Mar. 1945-1947 (Container 33)