

Guide to the Herman Kahn Papers

MS 1742



compiled by Matthew T. McLean

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Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1742

CREATOR: Kahn, Herman, 1907-1975

TITLE: Herman Kahn papers

DATES: 1953-1976

BULK DATES: 1966-1975

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, subject files, and photographs which document the professional life of Herman Kahn, especially during the years after he left the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library. The files mostly pertain to Kahn's involvement with professional organizations and his interest in issues affecting the archival profession as a whole.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1742>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1742>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Herman Kahn's office files at the time of his death, 1975.

Conditions Governing Access

While the collection as a whole is available for research, parts of it may be restricted. Any restricted material will be noted as such.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Herman Kahn Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Herman Kahn was born in Rochester, Minnesota in 1907. He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1928 and 1930, respectively. From 1931 to 1933 he was an assistant professor of history at Nebraska State Teachers College. Kahn then served as associate historian for the National Park Service until 1936. In 1936 he entered the archival profession and worked at the National Archives, serving as chief of the Division of Interior Department Archives from 1942 to 1947. From 1948 to 1961 Kahn was the director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York, after which he served as a special assistant to the National Archivist and Chief of Civil Archives. From 1964 to 1968 he was assistant archivist for Presidential Libraries for the National Archives Service. After a brief retirement in 1968, Kahn became associate librarian for Manuscripts and Archives in the Yale University Library, where he served until his death in 1975. Kahn was a forceful advocate of the idea that the archival profession did not merely serve the needs of historians, but was a profession in its own right. Occasionally he was called to testify before the United States Congress on matters relating to the profession. Kahn's specialties were presidential libraries and the history of the New Deal, and he wrote several articles on these and other topics.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, writings, subject files, and photographs which document the professional life of Herman Kahn, especially during the years after he left the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library. The files mostly pertain to Kahn's involvement with professional organizations and his interest in issues affecting the archival profession as a whole.

Arrangement

Arranged in six series: I. Correspondence, 1963-1975. II. Professional Organizations, 1962-1975. III. United States Government, 1950-1975. IV. Writings, 1953-1975. V. Yale University, 1968-1975. VI. Personal and Photographs, 1950-1976.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1963-1975

The series is arranged in alphabetical order by last name of correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	A [general]	1967-1974
b. 1, f. 2	Applegate, Howard	1969-1973
b. 1, f. 3	Artaud, Denise	1969-1973
b. 1, f. 4	B [general]	1967-1975, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Berkeley, Edmund, Jr.	1971, 1974
b. 1, f. 6	Berner, Richard C. [re: attempt to found a new archivists' organization]	1967
b. 1, f. 7	Blandi, Joseph	1972, 1974
b. 1, f. 8	Blum, John	1966-1973, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Bourne, Francis	1969-1970
b. 1, f. 10	Bowles, Chester	1971
b. 1, f. 11	Boyd, Julian	
b. 1, f. 12	Brewster, Kingman	1970
b. 1, f. 13	Brooks, Philip	1969-1975
b. 1, f. 14	Buckley, William F.	1972
b. 1, f. 15	Budington, William	1973-1974
b. 1, f. 16	Burns, James MacGregor	1966- 1974
b. 1, f. 17	Butterfield, L. H.	1971, 1973
b. 1, f. 18	C [general]	1968-1972, 1975
b. 1, f. 19	Campbell, Ann	1974-1975
b. 1, f. 20	Cappon, Lester	1969-1974
b. 1, f. 21	Caskey, Marie	1972-1973
b. 1, f. 22	Claus, Robert	1970- 1973
b. 1, f. 23	Collier, Christopher [re: Association for the Study of Connecticut History]	1969-1972
b. 1, f. 24	Cook, J. Frank	1974-1975
b. 1, f. 25	Culbert, David	1971
b. 1, f. 26	D [general]	1970-1973

b. 1, f. 27	Donovan, Robert	1972-1974
b. 1, f. 28	E [general]	1970- 1974
b. 1, f. 29	Emerson, Katherine	1974-1975
b. 1, f. 30	Ericson, Jack	1970-1974
b. 1, f. 31	Evans, Frank	1969- 1974
b. 1, f. 32	F [general]	1968- 1975
b. 1, f. 33	Faries, Elizabeth	1967
b. 1, f. 34	Finch, Herbert	1972, 1974, undated
b. 1, f. 35	G [general]	1967, 1970-1975, undated
b. 1, f. 36	Gorham, Alan	1969, 1971
b. 1, f. 37	Grele, Robert	1972, 1974
b. 1, f. 38	H [general]	1968-1975
b. 1, f. 39	Ham, F. Gerald	1969-1975
b. 1, f. 40	Hanke, Louis	1974
b. 1, f. 41	Hanson, Christina	1974
b. 1, f. 42	Hess, J. William	1973-1974
b. 1, f. 43	Hinding, Andrea	1972-1974
b. 2, f. 44	Hirsch, Felix E.	1967, 1971-1972
b. 2, f. 45	Holmes, Oliver Wendell	1968-1974
b. 2, f. 46	I [general]	1969, 1971-1972
b. 2, f. 47	J [general]	1969, 1971-1973
b. 2, f. 48	Jaffe, Irma	1971-1972, undated
b. 2, f. 49	Johnson, A. K.	1971-1972
b. 2, f. 50	K [general]	1963, 1968-1975
b. 2, f. 51	Kahn, David and Betty	1967
b. 2, f. 52	Kefauver, Weldon	1969-1970
b. 2, f. 53	Kennedy, Jacqueline	1966-1969, undated
b. 2, f. 54	Kissinger, Henry A.	1972

b. 2, f. 55	Knowles, John H.	1973
b. 2, f. 56	L [general]	1968-1974
b. 2, f. 57	Lash, Joe	1969
b. 2, f. 58	Leuchtenberg, William	1966-1970
b. 2, f. 59	Lucas, Paul	1974
b. 2, f. 60	M [general]	1968-1975, undated
b. 2, f. 61	Maginnis, Paul	1972
b. 2, f. 62	Manchester, William	1968-1972
b. 2, f. 63	Marshall, Burke	1969, undated
b. 2, f. 64	Maslyn, David	1971-1974, undated
b. 2, f. 65	Mason, Philip	1970-1975, undated
b. 2, f. 66	Massa, William R., Jr.	1974
b. 2, f. 67	Matloff, Maurice	1972, 1975
b. 2, f. 68	McCoy, Donald	1966, 1974
b. 2, f. 69	McCree, Mary Lynn	1971
b. 2, f. 70	McFeely, William	1971-1973
b. 2, f. 71	Morton, Louis	1970, 1975
b. 2, f. 72	N [general]	1969-1972
b. 2, f. 73	O [general]	1970, 1973
b. 2, f. 74	O'Neill, James	1970- 1974
b. 2, f. 75	P [general]	1970-1974
b. 2, f. 76	Paul, Rodman	1973-1975
b. 2, f. 77	Peters, Charles	1970
b. 2, f. 78	Pinkett, Harold	1971
b. 2, f. 79	Preston, Jean F.	1974
b. 2, f. 80	R [general]	1966-1975
b. 2, f. 81	Reed, Daniel J.	1968- 1974
b. 2, f. 82	Reingold, Nathan	1971, 1973
b. 2, f. 83	Rhoads, James B. [Archivist of the United States]	1968-1975

b. 2, f. 84	Rogers, Rutherford [Yale University Librarian]	1969-1974, undated
b. 3, f. 85	S [general]	1968-1974, undated
b. 3, f. 86	Sampson, Arthur	1973-1975
b. 3, f. 87	Schlesinger, Arthur Jr.	1967-1975, undated
b. 3, f. 88	Shelley, Fred	1970- 1975
b. 3, f. 89	Smith, Jane	1970
b. 3, f. 90	Smith, Wilfred I.	1974-1975
b. 3, f. 91	Sorenson, Theodore	1971
b. 3, f. 92	Stave, Bruce	1970
b. 3, f. 93	Stewart, John	1968-1973, undated
b. 3, f. 94	Stewart, William J.	1969, 1971
b. 3, f. 95	T [general]	1968- 1974, undated
b. 3, f. 96	Thompson, Allan [re: declassified documents]	1975
b. 3, f. 97	V [general]	1971-1972
b. 3, f. 98	Viola, Herman	1970-1971
b. 3, f. 99	W [general]	1967-1975
b. 3, f. 100	Walton, Clyde	1973
b. 3, f. 101	Ward, Paul	1966- 1974
b. 3, f. 102	Weldon, Edward	1973-1974
b. 3, f. 103	Wray, Claire Leeds	1967
b. 3, f. 104	Yergin, Daniel	1974
b. 3, f. 105	Unidentified	1967-1973, undated

Series II: Professional Organizations, 1962-1975

The series is arranged in alphabetical order by organization, and contains materials of various professional committees, organizations, and conferences with which Kahn worked. Materials relating to conferences and to specific archives are grouped together in alphabetical order under those headings.

b. 4, f. 1	American Jewish Historical Society	1974
	Archives	
b. 4, f. 2	New York State Archives	1970
b. 4, f. 3	Wesleyan University	1972-1975
b. 4, f. 4	Miscellaneous	1966-1972, undated
b. 4, f. 5 - 6	Association of Research Libraries Committee on Access to Manuscripts and Rare Books	1974-1975
	Conferences	
b. 4, f. 7 - 8	Conference on National Archives and Statistical Research	1968
b. 4, f. 9	Government Secrecy	1973
b. 4, f. 10	International Council on Archives Extraordinary Congress	1966
b. 4, f. 11	National Archives Conference on Captured German and Related Records	1968
b. 4, f. 12	New World Balance and the Search for Peace in the Middle East	1972-1973
b. 4, f. 13	Miscellaneous	1969-1974
b. 5, f. 14	<i>Historical Methods Newsletter</i> English	1968-1971, undated
b. 5, f. 15	Joint Organization of American Historians-American Historical Association-Society of American Archivists Committee on Historians and Archives	1974-1975
b. 5, f. 16	National Archives Advisory Council	1974-1975
b. 5, f. 17	Social Science Research Council	1965, 1968, 1974
b. 5, f. 18	Territorial papers project	1962-1963, undated

Series III: United States Government, 1950-1975

The series contains materials pertaining to Kahn's involvement with the United States government, and is arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

Congress		
b. 6, f. 1	Correspondence [re: pending legislation; includes correspondence with Birch Bayh and Bella Abzug]	1972, 1974
b. 6, f. 2	Legislation	1955, 1966, 1973-1974
b. 6, f. 3	Testimony	1972, 1974
b. 6, f. 4	Court cases	1966-1967, 1975
b. 6, f. 5	Executive orders and proclamations	1950- 1967
General Services Administration		
b. 6, f. 6	Government Archives [publications relating to contents of]	1968-1970
b. 6, f. 7	News releases	1971
b. 6, f. 8	Records preservation [policies and regulations]	1964- 1975
b. 6, f. 9	Immigration and Naturalization Service papers	1960, 1972-1975
Presidential libraries		
b. 6, f. 10	Administration	1965-1975, undated
b. 6, f. 11	Eisenhower, Dwight D.	1972
b. 6, f. 12	Johnson, Lyndon B.	1968-1971
Kennedy, John F.		
b. 7, f. 13	Acquisitions	1966-1974, undated
b. 7, f. 14	Administration	1969-1973, undated
Archives		
b. 7, f. 15	Dean Markham papers	1973
b. 7, f. 16	Public reports	1968-1974, undated
b. 7, f. 17 - 18	Screening and opening of papers	1968-1974, undated
b. 7, f. 19	Construction	1970-1975, undated

Presidential libraries > Kennedy, John F. (continued)

b. 7, f. 20	Monthly and quarterly reports	1968, 1970-1972, undated
b. 7, f. 21	Oral history program	1969-1971, undated
b. 7, f. 22	Roosevelt, Franklin D.	1972
b. 7, f. 23	Records management	1960-1967, undated

Series IV: Writings, 1953-1975

The series contains various published articles and written speeches by Kahn. The first folder contains several bibliographies of his writings.

b. 8, f. 1 - 2	General	1953- 1975, undated
b. 8, f. 3	Bibliographies [of Kahn's writings]	undated
b. 8, f. 4	<i>Yale Alumni Magazine</i> [re: Manuscripts and Archives]	1972
b. 8, f. 5	<i>Yale Review</i> [book review]	1969
b. 8, f. 6	Letters to the editor	1973-1974

Series V: Yale University , 1968-1975, undated

The series contains material related to Kahn's time at Yale University, and is arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

Series V is restricted until January 1, 2025, as established by [Yale Corporation regulations](#).

b. 9, f. 1	General	1968, 1970-1974
b. 9, f. 2	de Suvich, Fulvio	1969
b. 9, f. 3 - 5	History department	1968-1975, undated
b. 9, f. 6	Job placement	1969-1970, undated
Library		
b. 9, f. 7	General	1972-1975, undated
b. 9, f. 8	Appointment to Manuscripts and Archives	1968
b. 9, f. 9	Report of the Library Committee of the Department of History	1969

Series VI: Personal and Photographs, 1950-1976

The series contains material related to Kahn's personal life. There is one folder of photographs at the end of the series.

b. 10, f. 1-2	Calendars	1968-1974
	Death	
b. 10, f. 3	Memorial service	1975-1976
b. 10, f. 4	Obituaries	1975
b. 10, f. 5	Sympathy correspondence	1975
b. 10, f. 6	Get well cards	1975
b. 10, f. 7	Interviews	1972-1975, undated
b. 10, f. 8	Resume	1969-1970, undated
b. 10, f. 9	Photographs	1950-1972, undated

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.

Subjects

Archivists
Presidential libraries

Names

Kahn, Herman, 1907-1975