

# Guide to the George A. Silver Papers

MS 1002



Compiled by Bruce P. Stark, Diane E. Kaplan, and Bella Z. Berson

October 1982

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1002

**CREATOR:** Silver, George A., 1913-2005

**TITLE:** George A. Silver papers

**DATES:** 1946-1999

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, speeches, reports, and other writings, which chiefly relate to George Silver's service as deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, as an executive associate at the National Urban Coalition, and as professor of public health at Yale University. The papers document Silver's concern for the quality and costs of medical care in the United States and in developing countries and his focus on comprehensive health care planning. The papers form part of the Contemporary Medical Care and Health Policy Collection.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1002>

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## 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.1002>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of George A. Silver in 1979, 1984, 1986, and 2001.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by George A. Silver has been transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu).

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### Preferred Citation

George A. Silver Papers (MS 1002). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

George Albert Silver's career focused on comprehensive health planning. His concern for the level and costs of medical care in the United States, particularly for children and the elderly, made him a leader in the fight for equitable health care and national health insurance. His interests expanded to expertise in international health, especially health policy in developing countries.

Silver was born in 1913 in Philadelphia, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1934, and received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in 1938. During World War II, Silver served as an officer with the 10th Field Hospital in the European theater. After spending thirty months overseas in war-ravaged countries, he found his interests had shifted. Rather than return to private medical practice, he chose to dedicate his career to social medicine and public health. He served for a year as regional medical officer in the migrant labor program of the United States Department of Agriculture. Silver was then awarded a National Foundation Fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, and received his M.P.H. in 1947.

From 1947 to 1951, he was a health officer in Baltimore and assistant professor in local health administration in the School of Hygiene at Johns Hopkins. For the next fifteen years, he was chief of the Division of Social Medicine at Montefiore Hospital in New York City and in charge of the Montefiore Medical Group, the Home Care program, and the Family Health Maintenance Demonstration. He also served on the faculties of Columbia University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the University of Michigan, teaching courses in public health administration and preventive medicine.

In March 1966, John Gardner, secretary of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, appointed Silver deputy secretary for health and scientific affairs, a position he retained until November 1968, when he joined Gardner at the National Urban Coalition, as an executive associate responsible for program planning in health matters. Silver began lecturing in public health at Yale University in 1965 and four years later, he was made a professor of public health in the Yale School of Medicine.

While at Yale Silver wrote three of his four books: *Family Medical Care: A Report on the Family Health Maintenance Demonstration* (1963), *Family Medical Care: A Design for Health Maintenance* (1974), *A Spy in the House of Medicine* (1976), and *Child Health, America's Future* (1978). He also published numerous articles and lectured widely in the United States and abroad on social medicine, group practice, medical care organization, health policy, and health problems in the third world. He also served as a consultant in comprehensive health planning.

Silver served on the Advisory Health Council of the American Arbitration Association, chair of the Committee on International Health of the American Public Health Association, and a member of the board of directors of the Health Manpower Development Corporation and the Jewish Home for the Aged in New Haven. For the Milbank Memorial Fund, he was a member of the Technical Board and of the Commission for the Study of Higher Education in Public Health.

Silver's many honors include the Martha Eliot Award of the American Public Health Association in 1980, appointment as Senior Member of the National Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1983, and a Rockefeller Bellagio Study Award in 1983. He was named professor emeritus in 1984.

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## Scope and Contents

Though the George Silver Papers span the years 1946 to 1999, the materials best document Silver's professional career from the time of his arrival at Yale in 1969. Through correspondence and writings, which Silver addressed to both the professional and the layman, the papers reflect Silver's opinions on and attempts to shape American health policy. They highlight his interests in issues such as health manpower, medical education, the problems of foreign medical graduates, and promotion of a socially responsible attitude among physicians and public health officials. The papers do not include administrative files from Silver's day to day activities at Montefiore Hospital, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, or the National Urban Coalition. There is also only a limited amount of material documenting Silver's teaching at Yale.

Bruce Stark completed the original arrangement and first finding aid to the Silver Papers in 1982. After Silver gave more materials for the collection, Bella Berson rearranged the materials slightly in order to integrate these additions. This finding aid reflects the changes she has made.

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## General note

Forms part of the Contemporary Medical Care and Health Policy Collection.

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## Arrangement

Collection is arranged in three series: I. General Files, 1955-1999; II. Writing and Teaching, 1951-1999; III. Personal Papers, 1946-1998.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: General Files, 1955-1999, undated

Series I includes proposals relating to George Silver's research and consultations, correspondence, and reports. Silver's correspondence is with professional colleagues in the health care field, political figures concerned with health policy, institutions, organizations, government agencies, journals, and publishers. It constitutes the bulk of the material in the series. The files are arranged in a single alphabetical order by person or organization.

The series documents Silver's broad professional activities, including his chairmanship of an American Public Health Association committee on international health, his efforts on a subcommittee of the Committee for Economic Development to plan a national health care system, and his recommendations to the Milbank Memorial Fund concerning higher education for public health practitioners. These files also contain material relating to his leadership in planning and implementing a new Jewish Home for the Aged in New Haven and his association with the National Urban Coalition for improving medical care for the poor in inner cities.

Files concerning Silver's tenure in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare contain proposals for new programs, while the John Gardner files reflect a personal friendship and deal less with the on-going work at HEW or National Urban Coalition. While the series includes some files concerning the Yale School of Medicine, these relate to fairly routine administrative matters and are not particularly reflective of the debate concerning the public health curriculum in the school during this period.

b. 1, f. 1 - 2	A	1972-1984
b. 1, f. 3	Abel-Smith, Brian	1971-1981
b. 1, f. 4 - 5	American Arbitration Association	1968, 1972-1977, undated
b. 1, f. 6	American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, A.F.L.-C.I.O.	1973
b. 1, f. 7 - 11	American Public Health Association See also: <a href="#">Series I. General Files, 1955-1999, n. d. Folder 44</a> See also: <a href="#">Series I. General Files, 1955-1999, n. d. Folder 127</a> See also: <a href="#">Series I. General Files, 1955-1999, n. d. Folder 82</a>	1966, 1972-1996
b. 1, f. 12	Appalachian Regional Hospitals	1971-1973
b. 1, f. 13	Arbona, Guillermo	1974-1975
b. 1, f. 14	Axelrod, Solomon J.	1972-1982
b. 1, f. 15 - 16	B	1974-1994
b. 1, f. 17	Belmar, Roberta	1983
b. 1, f. 18	Breslow, Lester	1972-1973
b. 1, f. 19	Brewster, Kingman	1970, 1973
b. 1, f. 20	Brittain, Roger D.	1972-1978
b. 1, f. 21	Brotherston, John	1971-1980

b. 1, f. 22	Btesh, Shimon	1970-1973
b. 2, f. 23 - 24	C	1970-1996
b. 2, f. 25	Carstairs, George Morris	1972-1973, undated
b. 2, f. 26	Center for Health Administration Studies	1976-1979
b. 2, f. 27	Cherkasky, Martin	1971-1981
b. 2, f. 28	Clark, Duncan W.	1983
b. 2, f. 29	Cohen, Wilbur J.	1967, 1977-1986
b. 2, f. 30 - 32	Committee for Economic Development	1971-1973
b. 2, f. 33	Committee on Community Health Services	1972-1975, undated
b. 2, f. 34	Commonwealth Fund	1971-1983
b. 2, f. 35	Congregation Mishkan Israel	1977-1978
b. 2, f. 36	Connecticut Institute for Health Manpower Resources, Inc.	1973-1977, undated
b. 2, f. 37	Cook, Fred I.	1974-1975
b. 2, f. 38	La Cooperativa Agrícola del Pueblo de Tierra	1970-1975
b. 3, f. 39	Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. "On Health Care of the People"	1966
b. 3, f. 40	D	1972-1988
b. 3, f. 41	Democratic Advisory Council Committee on Health Policy	1960
b. 3, f. 42	DuBois, Robert	1974-1978, undated
b. 3, f. 43	E	1972-1983
b. 3, f. 44	Emergency Committee to Save Chilean Health Workers	1971-1976, undated
b. 3, f. 45	<i>Encyclopedia of Bioethics</i> English	1994
b. 3, f. 46	Esse Associates	1979, undated
b. 3, f. 47 - 48	F	1971-1999
b. 3, f. 49	Falk, Leslie A.	1973-1978
b. 3, f. 50	Field, Mark G.	1976-1982
b. 3, f. 51	Ford Foundation	1971-1979
b. 3, f. 52	Furstenberg, Frank F.	1972-1977

b. 3, f. 53 - 54	G	1971-1993
b. 3, f. 55 - 56	Gardner, John	1966-1992
b. 3, f. 57	George Washington University	1971-1979
b. 4, f. 58	Giamatti, A. Bartlett	1980-1985, undated
b. 4, f. 59	H	1962-1985
b. 4, f. 60	Haskell, Benjamin	1974-1975
b. 4, f. 61	Hatch, Robert	1975-1976
b. 4, f. 62	Holman, Halsted Reid	1972
b. 4, f. 63	I	1973-1981
b. 4, f. 64	Institute of Social Medicine	1973
b. 4, f. 65	J	1975-1979
b. 4, f. 66	Jensen, Jens and Marie-Louise	1975-1983
b. 4, f. 67 - 70	Jewish Home for the Aged	1970-1983
b. 4, f. 71	Jimmy Carter Presidential Campaign	1976
b. 4, f. 72	Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation	1970-1978
b. 4, f. 73	K	1971-1981
b. 4, f. 74	Kelman, Sander	1975-1978
b. 4, f. 75	Kennedy, Edward M.	1972, 1974, 1980
b. 4, f. 76	Kissick, William L.	1977-1980
b. 4, f. 77	Klutznick, Phillip M.	1977-1981
b. 4, f. 78	Knouss, Robert	1975
b. 5, f. 79	Knowles, John M.	1968-1975
b. 5, f. 80 - 81	L	1971-1985
b. 5, f. 82	Lee, Philip Randolph	1967-1992
b. 5, f. 83	Lee, Sidney S.	1975
b. 5, f. 84	Levine, Robert J.	1972
b. 5, f. 85 - 86	M	1963-1999
b. 5, f. 87	Marcus, Abraham	1977-1983
b. 5, f. 88	McWilliams, Carey	1971-1975
See also: <a href="#">Series I. General Files, 1955-1999, n. d. Folder 97</a>		



b. 5, f. 89	MEDCOM	1972-1973, undated
b. 5, f. 90 - 91	Milbank Memorial Fund	1963-1982
b. 5, f. 92	Montefiore Hospital	1958, 1981
b. 5, f. 93	Morris, Jeremy N.	1975-1980
b. 5, f. 94	Mullan, Fitzhugh	1978-1984
b. 5, f. 95 - 96	N	1971-1985
b. 6, f. 97	<i>Nation</i> English See also: <a href="#">Series I. General Files, 1955-1999, n. d. Folder 88</a>	1978-1979
	National Urban Coalition	
b. 6, f. 98 - 106	General	1969-1980
b. 6, f. 107	Health Manpower Development Corporation	1971-1976, undated
b. 6, f. 108	National Welfare Rights Organization	1970
b. 6, f. 109	<i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> English	1972-1981
b. 6, f. 110	New York. Report of the Governor's Steering Committee on Social Problems on Health and Hospital Services and Costs	undated
b. 6, f. 111	Noback, Richardson K.	1975-1976
b. 7, f. 112	O	1970-1983
b. 7, f. 113 - 114	P	1970-1998, undated
b. 7, f. 115	Pepper, Max	1977-1979
b. 7, f. 116	Public Broadcasting Service	1978-1980
b. 7, f. 117	Public Citizen Health Research Group	1979
b. 7, f. 118	R	1970-1999, undated
b. 7, f. 119	Rasmussen, John E.	1971-1973
b. 7, f. 120	Ravitch, Mark M.	1974-1980, undated
b. 7, f. 121	Reader, George G.	1979-1981
b. 7, f. 122	Ribicoff, Abraham A.	1972-1978
b. 7, f. 123	Richmond, Julius B.	1977-1979

b. 7, f. 124	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	1972-1994
b. 7, f. 125	Rockefeller Foundation	1972-1982
b. 7, f. 126	Roemer, John	1979-1981
b. 7, f. 127	Roemer, Milton Irwin	1973-1981, undated
b. 7, f. 128	Roemer, Ruth	1975-1982
b. 7, f. 129	Rogers, Paul G.	1973-1978
b. 7, f. 130	Rosen, George	1971-1975
b. 8, f. 131	Rosinski, Edwin F.	1977-1981
b. 8, f. 132 - 133	S	1971-1984, undated
b. 8, f. 134	Schaefer, Arnold E.	1970
b. 8, f. 135	Shenkin, Budd N.	1972-1980
b. 8, f. 136	Shenkin, Henry A.	1976-1979, undated
b. 8, f. 137	Sheps, Cecil G.	1973-1981
b. 8, f. 138	Sigerist, Henry Ernest	1955-1956
b. 8, f. 139	<i>Social Science and Medicine</i>	1980
b. 8, f. 140	<i>Social Work in Health Care</i>	1974-1976
b. 8, f. 141	Sun Valley Forum	1974-1983
b. 8, f. 142	Suter, James T.	1961
b. 8, f. 143	T	1971-1981
b. 8, f. 144	Tennessee. Department of Health	1977-1978
b. 8, f. 145	Terris, Milton	1978-1982
b. 8, f. 146	<i>Today Show</i>	1975
b. 8, f. 147	Tower One	1972-1975
b. 9, f. 148	Trinca, Carl E.	1975-1976
b. 9, f. 149	U	1973-1982
	United States	
b. 9, f. 150	Congress	1979-1980
b. 9, f. 151	Department of Education	1981

## United States (continued)

## Department of Health and Human Services

See: [Series I. General Files, 1955-1999, n. d., Folder 152](#)

## Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

b. 9, f. 152	General	1958-1994
	Proposals	
b. 9, f. 153 - 154	General	1958-1977
b. 9, f. 155 - 158	"Incidence and Location of Serious Hunger and Malnutrition and Health Problems Incident Thereto" English	1968
b. 9, f. 159	Career Development Program in Global Community Health	1972
b. 9, f. 160	National Center for Health Services Research	1975-1976
b. 9, f. 161	Department of Labor	1977-1978
b. 9, f. 162	Office of the President	1975-1980
b. 9, f. 163	United States Holocaust Memorial Council	1981-1983
b. 9, f. 164	University of the Negev	1973
b. 10, f. 165	V	1973-1982
b. 10, f. 166 - 167	W	1967-1985
b. 10, f. 168	<i>Washington Post</i>	1975-1977
b. 10, f. 169	White, Kerr	1971-1979
b. 10, f. 170	World Health Organization	1970-1985
b. 10, f. 171	Y	1981-1984
	Yale University	
b. 10, f. 172 - 174	General	1969-1984, undated
b. 10, f. 175 - 178	School of Medicine. Department of Epidemiology and Public Health	1970-1984, undated
b. 10, f. 179	Z	1978-1980
b. 10, f. 180	Unidentified	1977-1997, undated

## Series II: Writing and Teaching, 1951-1999, undated

The series contains copies of George Silver's journal articles, interviews, round table discussions, reports, letters to the editor, book reviews, lectures, and congressional testimony. Relevant correspondence with publishers and readers, publicity, and reviews are filed with the associated writing. The series also includes correspondence, contracts, reviews, and publicity relating to Silver's books, including one never published. The writings are arranged in one chronological order by date of publication, except for materials relating to books, which are arranged separately. Files relating to Silver's books do not include drafts.

Since the papers do not include a complete bibliography of Silver's publications, the writing files are useful as a record of Silver's public statements. Autobiographical sketches can be found in "Some Scenes from a Life in Public Health," prepared for response to remarks made at "Silver Day" at the Yale School of Medicine, June 1, 1984, and "Sketches from the Biography of an Unreasonable Man," presented at the American Public Health Association's Honor Ceremony, Medical Care Section, in 1980.

The series also includes a limited amount of documentation of Silver's teaching experience at the Montefiore Hospital and Yale University.

Writings		
b. 11, f. 1 - 12	1951-1971	
b. 12, f. 13 - 18	1972-1974	
b. 13, f. 19 - 26	1975-1977	
b. 14, f. 27 - 36	1978-1981	
b. 15, f. 37 - 45	1982-1999	
b. 16, f. 46 - 49	n.d.	
b. 16, f. 50	<i>Family Medical Care: A Report on the Family Health Maintenance Demonstration</i> English	1963-1973, undated
b. 16, f. 51	<i>Family Medical Care: A Design for Health Maintenance</i> English	1972-1981
b. 16, f. 52	<i>Child Health: America's Future</i> English	1975-1994
b. 16, f. 53	<i>A Spy in the House of Medicine</i> English	1976-1978
b. 16, f. 54	"Health Policy in Historical Perspective" [unpublished] English	1990-1991
Teaching		
b. 17, f. 55	Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center. Internship and Residency Program in Social Medicine	1973-1974
	Yale University	
b. 17, f. 56	Jonathan Edwards College seminar on international health  Yale School of Medicine	1979

## Teaching &gt; Yale University &gt; Yale School of Medicine (continued)

b. 17, f. 57	Biology 114a: Comparative Health Systems	1982
b. 17, f. 58	EPH 100a, 110a, 500a, 510a, 511b; HSA 141b, 545b	1975-1992, undated
b. 17, f. 59	HSA 170a, Introduction to Health Services	1973
b. 17, f. 60	HSA 541b, Introduction to International Health	1978-1981
b. 17, f. 61	HSA 570a, Introduction to Health Services	1979-1983
b. 17, f. 62	HSA 571b, Medical Care in the United States	1979-1984
b. 17, f. 63	PHP Introduction to Health Services	1971-1972

**Series III: Personal Papers, 1946-1998, undated**

Series III contains Silver's appointment calendars from the 1970s, brochures, and announcements of professional meetings where he was an active participant. In addition to the résumés included in the biographical data folder, there are many personnel action forms documenting changes in his employment. The only images of Dr. Silver are in clippings about his work.

b. 18, f. 1 - 4	Appointment books	1970-1976
b. 18, f. 5	Biographical data	1966-1998
b. 18, f. 6	Certificates	1969-1978, undated
b. 18, f. 7 - 9	Clippings	1958-1985, undated
b. 18, f. 10 - 13	Conference programs	1958-1978
b. 19, f. 14	Conference programs	1980-1994, undated
b. 19, f. 15	Honors, tributes	1972-1982
b. 19, f. 16	Invitations	1982, undated
b. 19, f. 17 - 18	Personnel action statements	1946-1982

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## 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

Health insurance  
Health planning  
Medical care -- Law and legislation  
Medical students, Foreign  
Medicine  
Public health

### Occupations

Health services administrators

### Preferred Titles

*Contemporary Medical Care and Health Policy  
Collection*

### Names

Gardner, John W. (John William), 1912-2002  
Silver, George A., 1913-2005

### Corporate Bodies

American Public Health Association  
Committee for Economic Development  
Jewish Home for the Aged (New Haven, Conn.)  
Milbank Memorial Fund  
National Urban Coalition (U.S.)  
United States. Department of Health,  
Education, and Welfare  
Yale University. Department of Public Health  
Yale University -- Faculty