

**The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts And Archives Division**

*Uncensored*

**Records, 1938-1941**

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Jun. 1981; Revised: Jan. 1997**

## Summary

- Title: *Uncensored* Records, 1938-41
- Size: 7.3 lin. ft. (20 archival boxes, 1 index file box)
- Source: Gifts of Sidney Hertzberg, 1945; and of Katrina Hertzberg and Hendrik Hertzberg, 1996
- Access: No special restrictions
- Description: The records which include correspondence, business and financial papers, typescripts of articles, notes, miscellaneous papers, and printed ephemera, document the work of the editors of *Uncensored*, a weekly newsheet sponsored by the Writer's Anti-War Bureau. The Bureau advocated non-intervention in the war in Europe which had broken out in 1939. The newsheet was edited by Sidney Hertzberg and Cushman Reynolds.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1939, following the outbreak of war in Europe, an informal group of journalists and publicists under the leadership of Sidney Hertzberg, publicity director of the America First Committee, joined together to form the Writer's Anti-War Bureau. The principal purpose of the Bureau was the publication in mimeograph form of a weekly newsheet entitled *Uncensored* which sought to analyze the news and to expose the propaganda and hidden biases of those who advocated America's intervening in the war on the side of the Allies. Intervention, it was feared, would lead to a concentration of presidential power at the expense of democratic freedoms. Its "editorial sponsors" included Harry Elmer Barnes, Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, John Chamberlain, Stuart Chase, John T. Flynn, C. Hartley Grattan, Hubert Herring, Quincy Howe, George R. Leighton, Ernest L. Meyer, Burton Rascoe, Selden Rodman, and Oswald Garrison Villard.

Edited by Sidney Hertzberg and his assistant, Cushman Reynolds, the newsheet appeared weekly from October 7, 1939 until December 6, 1941, the date of the last issue. It was mailed to newspaper editors, columnists, radio commentators, and other molders and shapers of public opinion with the hope that by "influencing the influencers" public sentiment against intervention could be strengthened and the country spared the tragedy of another war. Although it was short-lived the newsheet was widely respected for the high quality of its reporting and analysis. Conducted on a very slender budget, much of the routine work of the publication was undertaken by volunteer staff. The paid staff consisted of the editors and Frank C. Hanighen, a part-time Washington correspondent. Its total circulation appears to have been in the neighborhood of two thousand issues per week.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records include general correspondence of the editors with editorial sponsors and others opposed to America's entry into the war in Europe; subscriptions correspondence; miscellaneous business and financial papers; typescript drafts of articles by various authors; research notes; and printed ephemera including a virtually complete file of *Uncensored*. Included is correspondence addressed to Milton S. Mayer from readers of his anti-interventionist article "I Think I'll Sit This One Out" which was published in the October 7, 1939 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

## NOTE ON PROVENANCE

The bulk of the records were donated to the Library in 1945 by Sidney Hertzberg. In 1996 additional records relating to *Uncensored* were transferred from a collection of Sidney Hertzberg's personal papers which were donated to the Library in that year by Katrina Hertzberg and Hendrik Hertzberg, Sidney Hertzberg's daughter and son. These additional records have been interfiled in the records of *Uncensored*.

## **NOTE ON RELATED SOURCE MATERIALS**

The Library's Manuscripts and Archives Division has custody of the personal papers of Sidney Hertzberg, which are described in a separate inventory.

A complete run of *Uncensored* is located in the Library's General Research Division under classmark \*DA.

## **NOTE ON ARRANGEMENT**

The records are arranged into seven series: I. Correspondence; II. Business and Financial Papers; III. Typescripts; IV. Notes; V. Miscellaneous Papers; VI. Letters to Milton S. Mayer; and VII. Printed Ephemera. The series are described in sequence below.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series I. Correspondence (Containers #1-8)**

The correspondence is arranged into general correspondence and subscriptions correspondence both of which are arranged alphabetically in the period 1939-41 with a few letters dating to 1938.

The general correspondence is that of the editors, Sidney Hertzberg and his assistant, Cushman Reynolds, mainly with editorial sponsors and advisors, and with others who sought to prevent America's entry into the war in Europe. Included is substantial correspondence with Frank C. Hanighen, the newsheet's Washington correspondent and with Ferdinand Lundberg, its editorial advisor and idea man, relating to behind-the-scenes political gossip in Washington, and to the analysis of contemporary political events. There is some correspondence relating to Sidney Hertzberg's proposal to launch a new magazine entitled "American Current" which would incorporate *Uncensored*. Other correspondents include Harry Elmer Barnes, Charles A. Beard, William Benton, Chester Bowles, Stuart Chase, Babette Deutsch, Allan Devere, John T. Flynn, C. Hartley Grattan, Quincy Howe, B.W. Huebsch, George R. Leighton, Milton S. Mayer, H. L. Mencken, Richard Neuberger, Thomas Vernon Rankin, Burton Rascoe, Porter Sargent, Clarence Senior, Norman Thomas, Oswald Garrison Villard, Burton K. Wheeler, Edmund Wilson, and Bertram D. Wolfe. There is also substantial correspondence with Keep American Out of War Congress, National Council for Prevention of War, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A complete listing of the correspondents is contained in the "Alphabetical Index to the General Correspondence" on pages 7-11 of this inventory.

The subscriptions correspondence is that of Sidney Hertzberg and Cushman Reynolds and the office managers, Estelle Ross and Mrs. Alice Stark. The correspondence is mainly with readers, subscribers, librarians, editors and well-wishers, relating to routine matters, such as orders, payments, address changes, requests for information, and exchanges with other publications. Some of the in-coming letters contain comments on current events.

### **Series II. Business and Financial Papers (Containers #9-10)**

These records include certificate of incorporation, lease agreement, correspondence with the printer, income and expense records, financial statements, bank statements, journal, ledger, cash receipts, bills paid, and canceled checks.

### **Series III. Typescripts (Container #11)**

The typescripts consist of drafts of articles arranged alphabetically by subject or title, prepared by various authors. Some of the scripts are unidentified as to author. Scripts by authors represented in the general correspondence are filed in that series. These scripts are noted on the Alphabetical Index of Correspondents (pages 7-11 of this inventory) by a "+" sign following the name entry.

**Series IV. Notes (Containers #12-14)**

The notes which are holograph and typewritten are arranged topically. Included are a mass of miscellaneous notes and an index card file of names and addresses.

**Series V. Miscellaneous Papers (Container #15)**

Included in the miscellaneous papers which are arranged topically are papers relating to "American Current", a news magazine which was intended as a successor to *Uncensored*; make-up sheets for *Uncensored*; papers relating to the radio committee; and editorial memoranda. Included in the editorial memoranda are memoranda relating to anti-interventionist peace organizations.

**Series VI. Letters to Milton S. Mayer (Container #16)**

These letters, which are arranged alphabetically, were addressed to Milton S. Mayer from members of the public in response to his strongly anti-interventionist article entitled "I Think I'll Sit This One Out" which was published in the Oct. 7, 1939 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*. Virtually all of the letters express an anti-interventionist point of view. Included is a cable (10/6/39) from F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In April of 1940 Mr. Mayer, who was then assistant to Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago, transferred the letters to the editors of *Uncensored* for whatever value they might have for enlarging the list of subscribers and contributors to the newsheet.

**Series VII. Printed Matter (Containers #17-21)**

The printed matter is arranged into a topical file of newsletters, bulletins, brochures, flyers and press releases issued mainly by anti-interventionist organizations; a file of loose clippings (1939-41); and a virtually complete file (#1-110, 112-114 - #111 is missing) of issues of *Uncensored*.

## Container List

Container No.

### I. CORRESPONDENCE

#### A. General Correspondence

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1 | A-G |
| 2 | H-K |
| 3 | L-R |
| 4 | S-Y |

#### B. Subscriptions Correspondence

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 5 | A-F |
| 6 | G-M |
| 7 | N-T |
| 8 | U-Z |

### II. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PAPERS

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 9  | Addressograph-Multigraph Co.<br>Bank statements<br>Bills paid<br>Cash receipts; petty cash<br>Certificate of incorporation<br>Financial statements<br>Form letters<br>Income and expenses<br>Journal<br>Lease<br>Ledger |
| 10 | Canceled checks   |

11            III. TYPESCRIPTS

12-14       IV. NOTES

- 15            V. MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS  
                  American Current  
                  Lists  
                  Make-up sheets  
                  Memoranda  
                  Miscellany  
                  Radio Committee
- 16            VI. LETTERS TO MILTON S. MAYER
- VII. PRINTED MATTER
- (Topical File)
- 17            "A"  
                  America First Committee  
                  "B"  
                  "C"  
                  Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies  
                  Communist Peace Efforts  
                  Conscription
- 18            Council for Democracy  
                  "D", "E"  
                  "F"  
                  Federal Union  
                  Fight for Freedom  
                  Foreign Agents  
                  G, H, I  
                  Japan
- 19            "L"  
                  "M"  
                  Miscellaneous  
                  "N"  
                  National Council for Prevention of War  
                  "O", "P"  
                  "R", "S"  
                  "T", "U"  
                  "W", "Y"
- 20            (Clippings)
- (Uncensored)
- 21            Issues #1-#114 [missing: #111]; Index



## Alphabetical Index to the General Correspondence

[Note: Numbers in brackets indicate number of letters; "+" sign indicates typescript(s) included]

Abel, Hilde [3] (See also: Writings by Others)  
 Allard, Gerry [7]  
 Allen, Devere [18]  
 Amalgamated Bank of New York [1]  
 America First Committee [9]  
 American Friends Service Committee [12]  
 Anderson, Sherwood [2]  
 Arbitrator, The [3]  
 Armstrong, Eunice Burton (Mrs. Douglas Budd Armstrong) [22]  
 Armstrong, O.K. [5]  
 Baldwin, Hanson [4]  
 Barmore, Isabel Black [20]  
 Barnes, Harry Elmer [45] (See also: Britt, George)  
 Barnes, Katrina [3]  
 Bastine & Co. [2]  
 Beals, Carleton [1]  
 Beard, Charles A. [16]  
 Benton, William [16]  
 Berding, Andrué [3] (See also: Writings by Others)  
 Bingham, Alfred M. [10] (See also: Writings by Others)  
 Blanchard Press [2]  
 Blankenhorn, Mary Dewhurst [3]  
 Bliven, Bruce [5]  
 Block, S. John [1]  
 Boeckel, Florence Brewer -SEE: National Council for Prevention of War  
 Borchard, Edwin [11]  
 Boss, Charles F. [4]  
 Bowles, Chester [18]  
 Brenner, Anita [1]  
 Bright, Leonard - SEE: Keep America Out of War Congress  
 Britt, George [17]  
 Bromley, Dorothy Dunbar [16]  
 Brooks, Van Wyck [4] (letters to Brooks)  
 Bryson, Lyman [5]  
 Burrelle's Radio Reporter [2]  
 Butterfield, Roger [5]  
 Caldwell, Taylor  
 Call, The - SEE: Allard, Jerry  
 Campaign for World Government [1]

Chamberlain, John [14]  
 Chase, Stuart [45] SEE also: Britt, George  
 Childs, Marquis W. [15]  
 Clapper, Raymond [2]  
 Clark, Miriam (Mrs. Bennett Champ Clark) [1]  
 Coleman, McAlister [1]  
 Collier, Oliver B. [1]  
 Columbia Broadcasting System [3]  
 Committee on Militarism [5]  
 Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies [6]  
 Cooper, Edward - SEE: Wheeler, Burton K.  
 Corey, Lewis [2]  
 Council for Democracy [5]  
 Cousins, Norman [1]  
 Curts, H. P. [2]  
 Cuthbertson, Kenneth - SEE: Keep America Out of War Congress  
 Daniels, Jonathan [3]  
 Darling, Maus [2]  
 Davenport, Walter [6]  
 Davis, Elmer [1]  
 Delson, Bob [2]  
 Delson, Max [2]  
 Democratic National Committee [5]  
 Denny, Ludwell [1]  
 Department of State [7]  
 De Silver, Margaret [17]  
 Detzer, Dorothy - SEE: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
 Deutsch, Babette [8]  
 Dilliard, Irving [2]  
 Dodge, Alice - SEE: Keep America Out of War Congress  
 Donovan, William J. [5]  
 Dos Passos, John [1] (letter to Dos Passos)  
 Dreiser, Theodore [1]  
 Driscoll, Joseph [1]  
 Duffield, Marcus [6]  
 Dupee, Mary [6]  
 Durant, Will [2]  
 Earle, E. M. [2]  
 Eliot, George Fielding [3]  
 Ernst, Morris L. [3]  
 Fellowship of Reconciliation [16]  
 Ferber, Edna [2]  
 Fight for Freedom [1]  
 Finnegan, Les [3]

Fisher, Dorothy Canfield [4]  
 Fisher, Sterling [3]  
 Flynn, John T. [25] (See also: Britt, George)  
 Fox, Dixon Ryan [3]  
 Gannett, Lewis [6]  
 Gassner, John W. [1]  
 Gipson, J. H. [1]  
 Granik, Theodore [7]  
 Grattan, C. Hartley [33] + scripts  
 Gunther, John [4]  
 Hamilton, Albert W. [5]  
 Hanighen, Frank C. [c190] + scripts  
 Harlow, S. Ralph [6]  
 Hartmann, George W. [2]  
 Herring, Hubert [6]  
 High, Stanley [2]  
 Hirschmann, I. A. [25]  
 Howe, Quincy [22] + scripts (See also: Fisher, Sterling)  
 Huebsch, B. W. [25] (See also; Britt, George)  
 Hutchins, Robert W. [1] (fragment of letter to Hutchins)  
 Hutchinson, Paul [2]  
 International Relief Association [4]  
 International Workers Front Against the War [1]  
 Isaacs, Leo [2]  
 Jean Jaurès Group of French Socialists in London [1]  
 Jensen, Oliver [2]  
 Johnson, Clara Sturgis [11]  
 Johnson, James Wood [3]  
 Keep America Out of War Congress [c100] + minutes and miscellaneous papers  
 Kidder, Peabody & Co. [1]  
 Klingberg, Elizabeth W. [14]  
 La Farge, Oliver [4]  
 La Follette, Robert M. [1] (letter to La Follette)  
 La Guardia, Fiorello H. [1] (letter to La Guardia)  
 Lasky, Abram Victor [3]  
 Lee, Kendrick Raymond [1]  
 Leighton, George R. [28]  
 Lengel, William C. [2]  
 Le Paquet au Front [1]  
 Levenstein, Aaron [3]  
 Lewis, Alfred Baker [9]  
 Lewis, Sinclair [1] (letter to Lewis)  
 Libby, Frederick J. - SEE: National Council for Prevention of War  
 Lipsig, James (7)

Lloyd, George [6]  
 Lundberg, Ferdinand [c95] + scripts (See also: Socialist Appeal)  
 Lyons, Eugene [2]  
 Lyons, Leonard [4]  
 McCallister, Frank [18]  
 McCormick, Katrina [1]  
 McDonald, Dwight [5]  
 Macliesh, A. Fleming [5] + script  
 Magin, Harold  
 Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee [6]  
 Marquand, John P. [3]  
 Marshall, Lenore G. [13] + scripts  
 Mayer, Milton S. [22] + scripts (See also: " Letters to Milton S. Mayer in Box.16)  
 Mellett, Lowell [6]  
 Mencken, H. L. [4]  
 Meyer, Ernest L. [8]  
 Moretti, Frank A. [3]  
 Munro, David A. [2] + scripts  
 National Council for Prevention of War (c110)  
 Neuberger, Richard [32]  
 Neutrality Coordinating Committee [2]  
 New Western Front, The [10]  
 New Yorker, The [4]  
 New York Post [1]  
 No Frontier News Service - SEE: Allen, Devere  
 Nye, Gerald P. [1]  
 Oak, Liston M. [1]  
 Ohio Peace Committee [2]  
 Oppenheimer, Edward J. [7]  
 Parker, George S. [1] (letter to Parker)  
 Patrick, Ted [9]  
 Perry, Ralph Barton [1]  
 Peterson, H. C. [1]  
 Pivert, Marceau [4]  
 Pratt, Fletcher [3]  
 Press Alliance, Inc. [1]  
 Pulse (student magazine) [4]  
 Rankin, Thomas Vernon [27]  
 Rascoe, Burton [c30] + script  
 Reader's Digest [9]  
 Realists, Inc. [2]  
 Redpath, Jr., Robert Upjohn [4]  
 Reed, D. Paul [1]  
 Regan, Lois [1]

Rexroth, Kenneth [2]  
 Reynolds, Cushman [8]  
 Rice, Elmer [3]  
 Rodman, Selden [12] + script  
 Rogers, Lee [1]  
 Rorty, James [2]  
 Rosenberg, Lucille [3]  
 Rosenberger, Coleman [1]  
 Roudybush, Franklin [20]  
 Rubin, Morris [2]  
 Ryan, William G. [3] +  
 Ryskind, Morris [14]  
 St. Louis Post-Despatch [5]  
 Sargent, Porter [55]  
 Schuyler, Jack [1]  
 Senior, Clarence [23]  
 Singer, Caroline [4]  
 Singh, Reginald B. [7] +  
 Smith, Harry T. [7]  
 Smyth, J. Hilton [2]  
 Socialist Appeal [4]  
 Socialist Workers Party [1]  
 Solon, S. L. [7]  
 Solow, Herbert [2]  
 Sonnenberg, Benjamin [3]  
 Spears, E. L. [1]  
 Stagner, Ross [5] +  
 Stein, Rose M. [8]  
 Stokes, Thomas L. [1]  
 Stolberg, Benjamin –  
     SEE: Keep America Out of War Congress (letters of 4/30/40 and 5/18/40)  
 Stone, Candace [1]  
 Streit, Clarence [2]  
 Sulzberger, Arthur Hays [3]  
 Swanton, John R. [1]  
 Swing, Raymond Gram [5]  
 Taylor, Bertram [2]  
 Taylor, Eleanor [12]  
 Thomas, Norman [11] + scripts  
 Thompson, Dorothy [7]  
 Times, The (of Chicago) [10]  
 Tresca, Carlo [2]  
 Tully, Jim [2]  
 Twentieth Century Fox Filming Corp. [2]

Van Dusen, Harry P. [1]  
Van Paassen, Pierre [6]  
Viereck, George Sylvester [9]  
Villard, Oswald Garrison [47] + scripts  
War Resisters League [7]  
Waterbury, Lester E. [18]  
Ways, Max [3]  
Weidman, Jerome [4]  
Weis, Max [3]  
Wheeler, Burton K. [19]  
White, Lillian [1] +  
Wilson, Edmund [4]  
Wingo, Otis Theodore [6]  
Winocour, Jack [1] + script  
WNEW (radio station) [5]  
WNYC (radio station) [2]  
Wolfe, Bertram D. [10]  
Wolfson, Victor [1]  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom [c62]  
Wynner, Edith [6]  
Youth Committee Against War [10]  
Unidentified