SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creator
Richard Hofstadter

Title and dates
Richard Hofstadter Papers, 1944-1970

Abstract
Correspondence, manuscripts and notes of Richard Hofstadter.

Size
29 linear feet (47 document boxes and 5 record storage cartons of books)

Call number
MS# 0603

Location
Columbia University
Butler Library, 6th Floor
Rare Book and Manuscript Library
535 West 114th Street
Biographical Note

The historian Richard Hofstadter was a core member of the group of postwar Columbia intellectuals that included Lionel Trilling, Jacques Barzun, Robert Merton, and Daniel Bell. At a time when politics were assumed essentially to reflect economic interests, Hofstadter began studying alternative explanations for political conduct: unconscious motives, status anxieties, irrational hatreds, paranoia. Hofstadter wrote some of the most influential books to appear in American political and cultural history, among them *The Age of Reform* (1955) and *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life* (1963), both recognized with Pulitzer Prizes, and the celebrated *The Paranoid Style in American Politics* (1965). His *American Political Tradition* (1948), an enduring classic, remains today a standard work in both college and high-school history classes and has been read by millions outside the academy.

After earning his MA and PhD from Columbia, Hofstadter joined the faculty in 1946. He was named the DeWitt Clinton Professor of American History in 1959 and remained at the University until his untimely death from leukemia in 1970. Many of Hofstadter’s graduate students have gone on to important scholarship and teaching. One of them, Eric Foner, the current DeWitt Clinton Professor, says, “He played brilliantly the role of intellectual mentor so critical to any student’s graduate career. For all his accomplishments, he was utterly without pretension, always unintimidating, never too busy to talk about one’s work.” In 1968, following the campus disruptions that spring, Hofstadter delivered the commencement address, in which he defended Columbia as “a center of free inquiry and criticism—a thing not to be sacrificed for anything else.”

Description

Correspondence, manuscripts and notes. Hofstadter authored numerous important books and articles relating to American history and this collection contains his manuscripts for most of them. In addition, there are copies of many of his book reviews, plus articles by other authors, analyzing the impact of his interpretations of American history. The correspondence includes letters from and to Henry Steele Commager, C. Vann Woodward, Stuart Bruchey, Samuel Eliot Morison, and Clarence Ver Steeg, Alfred A. Knopf, Helen Frankenthaler, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and others. Included in the collection are two manuscripts for "Anti-intellectualism". There are also 70 books from his library.

ACCESS AND USE

Access
This collection has no restrictions.

The following boxes are located off-site: Books, boxes 1-5. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

Provenance and Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Richard Hofstadter, 1971; 1974; 1984
Transfer for Burgess Carpenter, 1986

Accrual of Records

No additions are expected.

PROCESSING AND OTHER INFORMATION

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Bernard Crystal, 1971. Finding aid written by Bernard Crystal, 1971.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Encoding

Finding aid written in English.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Richard Hofstadter Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

Subject Headings

These papers have been indexed in the Columbia University Library online catalog using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

Academic freedom--History
Barnes, Harry Elmer, 1889-1968
Barzun, Jacques, 1907-
Beard, Charles Austin, 1874-1948
Boorstin, Daniel J. (Daniel Joseph), 1914-2004
Bruchey, Stuart Weems
Caldwell, Taylor, 1900-1985
Carman, Harry J. (Harry James), 1884-1964
Clemens, Cyril, 1902-
Commager, Henry Steele, 1902-1998
Curti, Merle Eugene, 1897-
Dupee, F. W. (Frederick Wilcox), 1904-
Education, Higher--United States--History
Fox, Dixon Ryan, 1887-1945
Frankenthaler, Helen, 1928-
Haydn, Hiram Collins, 1831-1913
Historians
Howe, Irving
Intellectuals--United States
Knopf, Alfred A., 1892-1984
Kazin, Alfred, 1915-1998
Morison, Samuel Eliot
Moynihan, Daniel P. (Daniel Patrick), 1927-2003
Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971
Politics, Practical
Potofsky, Jacob S. (Jacob Samuel), 1894-1979
Progressivism (United States politics)
Public opinion--United States
Right and left (Political science)
Schapiro, Meyer, 1904-
Social evolution
Sociology--United States--History
Student movements
Trilling, Diana
United States--Civilization
United State--History
United States--Politics and government
United States--Territorial expansion
Ver Steeg, Clarence Lester, 1922-
Ward, Barbara, 1914-1981
Woodward, C. Vann (Comer Vann), 1908-1999
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  Dupee, Frederick Wilcox
  Fox, Dixon Ryan
  Frankenthaler, Helen
  Goodrian, Paul
  Haydn, Hiram
  Howe, Irving
  Jackson, Barbara Ward (Lady)
  Kazin, Alfred
  Knopf, Alfred A.
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  Lerner, Max
  Malone, Dumas
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  Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr.
  Trilling, Diana

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## ADDITIONAL 1

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Gift of Fritz Stern.

## BOOKS

The 5 record storage cartons of books are located off-site.

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*The business establishment* / edited by Earl F. Cheit. New York; London; Sydney: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., c1964 Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley


Box 2:


*The American political tradition*. Spanish. La tradicion politica americana: y los hombres que la forjaron / Richard Hofstadter; [traduccion?n de Rafael Albisu]. Barcelona: Editorial Seix Barral, 1969 3 copies. Biblioteca breve de bolsillo; libros de enlace

Box 3:


Box 4:


Box 5


Ver Steeg, Clarence L. A people and a nation / Clarence L. Ver Steeg; Richard Hofstadter. New York; Evanston; London: Harper & Row, c1971


