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Council for Research in the Humanities Records, 1926-1968 (Bulk dates: 1926-1936; 1966-1968) UA# 124

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creator

Council for Research in the Humanities

Title and dates

Council for Research in the Humanities Records, 1926-1968 (Bulk dates: 1925-1938; 1966-1968)

Abstract

This collection contains the minutes, correspondence, and reports of the Council for Research in the Humanities.

Size

2.73 linear feet (6 archival document boxes and 1 half-sized document box)

Call number

UA# 124

Location

Columbia University
University Archives and Columbian Library
210 Low Memorial Library
535 West 116th Street,
New York, NY 10027

Language(s) of material:

English, French, German, Italian

History of the Council for Research in the Humanities Records

The Council for Research in the Humanities was officially established by the University Council at its meeting on February 21, 1928. The Research Council's founding was inspired by findings at a Conference on the Status of Humanistic Studies in the U.S. (Washington, D.C., December 10 and 11, 1926) under the auspices of the General Education Board. In short, the conference found that researchers in the area of the humanities were in need of better funding to aid their research and eventual publication. Despite the fact that humanistic research was considered important and significant, it was not as high profile as that done in the social or physical sciences and, therefore, not as well funded. By establishing the Research Council, Columbia University was able to provide much needed financial aid to selected researchers in the humanities.

Allotments were to cover expenses incurred in the research process – everything from clerical assistance, to travel funds and photographic reproductions – and sometimes were extended to publishing costs. Initially this venture was funded by the General Education Board, through a three-year grant of \$112,500. When this grant ran out, funding was obtained from the Rockefeller Foundation. Later on, monies would also come from within the University itself. Many individuals received grants over the years, but among the more prominent researchers who received grants were Lynn Thorndike, Ruth Benedict, and Franz Boas. Grants continued to be distributed by the Research Council into the 1980s and very early 1990s.

The first Research Council consisted of nine members: Professors W.B. Dinsmoor, R.H. Fife, J.L. Gerig, L.R. Gray, G.P. Krapp, N.G. McCrea, S.B. Murray, H.W. Schneider, and Austin P. Evans. Professor Fife was elected Chairman and Professor McCrea was elected Secretary.

Description

The records are comprised primarily of correspondence concerning the proposals, reports, awards and financial allotments for specific projects. The correspondence files also include rejected projects arranged alphabetically by applicant. There is also some internal correspondence between the Council and the Secretary of the University, the Council and department chairs, meeting minutes and agendas, and annual reports of the Council.

Arrangement

The files are arranged in three series. Folders are arranged alphabetically by title within each series. If titles are the same, the files are arranged in chronological order.

Council for Research in the Humanities Records

Series I: Meetings, 1929-1937
Series II: Projects, 1927-1968
Series III: Reports, 1928-1967

PAGE 5
PAGES 5-7
PAGE 7

Series I: Meetings, 1929-1937.

Includes minutes, agendas and correspondence. Correspondence most often concerns meetings and the creation of minutes. A list of the original council membership is also found in this series. Three copies of the minutes from 1928-1937 have been kept as each version has unique handwritten notes in margins.

Series II: Projects, 1927-1968.

Includes award and rejection letters, budgets, and lists of projects for particular years. Project correspondence from the 1929-1933 includes some project proposals in addition to award letters and budgetary information. Correspondence concerning projects #1-108, spanning the years 1958-1964, were taken out of individual project files and placed together in three files. For these documents, when necessary, the project number from the folder was written in brackets at the top of the document. Multiple documents from one project file, even if they span more than one year, have been kept together. Correspondence is primarily with the Secretary of the University and/or the Chair of the Council.

Series III. Reports, 1928-1967.

Includes annual reports of the Council to the University Council, drafts of some of these reports (so one can examine the evolution of the document), reports sent to the General Board for Humanities Studies, and financial statements for the organization. Also includes a report from a conference held in 1926 that ultimately led to the creation of the Council. There is a gap in annual reports between 1957 and 1961 and no report for 1967.

ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

This collection has no restrictions.

This collection has no restrictions.

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the University Archivist.

Other Finding Aids

Council for Research in the Social Sciences, 1923-1970

Central Files: The Administrative Records of Columbia University, 1890-1971

ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

Provenance and Acquisition

Accession 1997.003. Some materials from the Historical Subject Files have been integrated.

PROCESSING AND OTHER INFORMATION

Processing Information

Collection was originally processed by Marilyn H. Pettit in February, 2004 and was re-processed by Jocelyn Wilk in June, 2006. This finding aid was adapted from a legacy finding aid. Additions were processed by Alyssa Nicole Meyers, GSAS 2009, in June 2007.

Descriptive Rules Used:

Finding aid content 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); Name of Collection, Box and Folder Number; University Archives, 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.

Benedict, Ruth, 1887-1948
Boas, Franz, 1858-1942
Coykendall, Frederick, b.1872
Fackenthal, Frank Diehl, 1883-1968
Fife, Robert Herndon, 1871-1958
General Education Board (New York, N.Y.)
Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1979-1966
McBain, Howard Lee, 1880-1936
Rusk, Ralph L. (Ralph Leslie), b. 1888
Rockefeller Foundation
Scarborough, Dorothy, 1878-1935
Schapiro, Meyer, 1904-
Thorndike, Lynn, 1882-1965

Series I: Meetings, 1929-1937

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- F. 1 Agenda, 1929-1936
- F. 2 Correspondence and Memos, 1929-1933
- Minutes
- F. 3 1928-1930 (copy 1)
- F. 4 1931-1937 (copy 1)
- F. 5 1928-1930 (copy 2)
- F. 6 1931-1937 (copy 2)
- F. 7 1928-1930 (copy 3)
- F. 8 1931-1937 (copy 3)
- F. 9 Resolutions, 1930s

Series II: Projects, 1927-1968

- Correspondence
- F. 10 1929-1937

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- F. 1 President Butler, 1930-1936
- F. 2 Capps-Research Council, 1929-1930
- F. 3 Frederick Coykendall, 1929-1930
- F. 4 F.D. Fackenthal, 1929-1933
- F. 5 Funding, 1928-1933
- F. 6 General Education Board, 1928-1933
- F. 7 P.M. Hayden, 1930-1936
- F. 8 C.J. Hayes, 1928
- F. 9 Waldo G. Leland, 1932
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- F. 11 C.A. Manning, 1929-1930
- F. 12 S.B. Murray, 1928-1932
- F. 13 Projects #1-35, 1958-1963
- F. 14 Projects #36-65, 1960-1965
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- F. 16 Rejected Projects, 1929-1935
- F. 17 Rockefeller Foundation, 1928-1933
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- F. 19 E.H. Wright, 1928

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- Correspondence and Budgets
- F. 1-4 1962-1967 (4 folders)
- F. 5 Projects #173-211, 1967-1968
- F. 6 Form Letters, 1928-1933
- F. 7 General Information, 1929
- F. 8 Internal Correspondence and Budgets, 1957-1966
- F. 9 Lists of Awards, 1928-1933, 1958-1967
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- Projects
- F. 11 Ayres, H.M. and W.C. Greet, 1928-1933: 1
- F. 12 Barry, F.P., 1929-1936: 30, 36

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F. 6	Financial Statements, 1930-1936
F. 7	Reports to the General Education Board in the Humanities, 1929-1930