

# Guide to the Alan Trachtenberg Papers

MS 2129



Sarah Lerner

February 2023

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2129

**CREATOR:** Trachtenberg, Alan

**TITLE:** Alan Trachtenberg Papers

**DATES:** 1957-2017

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 13.18 linear feet (31 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** Professional papers of Alan Trachtenberg, 1957-2017, that include texts and related material from conferences, lectures, and symposia, as well as writings, teaching material and course related files, correspondence, other papers and photographs, and audiovisual materials created and compiled by Trachtenberg. Collection materials document a broad range of Trachtenberg's professional activities, including his research on the Brooklyn Bridge, daguerreotypes and photography, and Walt Whitman, as well as his time as a professor of English and American Studies at Yale University. The papers provide insight into Trachtenberg's research process, teaching methods, and approach to understanding American cultural history.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2129>

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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 <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2129>.

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 Betty Trachtenberg, 2022.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 28-31: Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Alan Trachtenberg Papers (MS 2129). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Biographical / Historical

Alan Trachtenberg (1932-2020) was the Neil Gray Jr. Professor of English and professor emeritus of American Studies at Yale University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Temple University in 1954 and a Master of Arts in English from the University of Connecticut in 1956. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies at the University of Minnesota in 1962.

From 1961 to 1970, Trachtenberg taught at the Pennsylvania State University. He was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University from 1968 to 1969. He joined the faculty at Yale in 1969. In the 1970s, he served two terms as the American Studies department's director of graduate studies and one as department chair. He had visiting professorships in Leningrad, Kyoto,

and Doshisha Universities, as well as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rhode Island Institute of Technology, and Cooper Union. Trachtenberg retired in 2001.

Trachtenberg's book *Reading American Photographs: Images as History, Mathew Brady to Walker Evans, a study of American Photography from 1839 to 1938* (1990) won the Charles C. Eldredge Prize for outstanding scholarship in the field of American art. His other works include *Brooklyn Bridge: Fact and Symbol* (1965), *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (1982), and *Lincoln's Smile and Other Enigmas* (2007).

Alan Trachtenberg was married to Betty Trachtenberg (1933-2023), who served as Yale's Dean of Student Affairs from 1987 to 2007. The two had three children: Zev Trachtenberg, Elissa Trachtenberg, and Julie Trachtenberg.

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## Scope and Contents

Professional papers of Alan Trachtenberg, 1957-2017, that include texts and related material from conferences, lectures, and symposia, as well as writings, teaching material and course related files, correspondence, other papers and photographs, and audiovisual materials created and compiled by Trachtenberg.

Collection materials document a broad range of Trachtenberg's professional activities, including his research on the Brooklyn Bridge, daguerreotypes and photography, and Walt Whitman, as well as his time as a professor of English and American Studies at Yale University. The papers provide insight into Trachtenberg's research process, teaching methods, and approach to understanding American cultural history.

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## Arrangement

The Alan Trachtenberg Papers are arranged in six series: I. Conferences, Lectures, and Symposia, 1971-2013. II. Teaching Materials and Course Related Files, 1957-2013. III. Teaching Materials and Course Related Files, 1964-2013. IV. Correspondence, 1960-2017. V. Other Papers, 1973-2004. VI. Audiovisual Materials, 1973-2008.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Conferences, Lectures, and Symposia, 1971–2013

Series I contains printed event materials and relevant correspondence, as well as Trachtenberg's manuscript notes and typescript writings for presentations and other speaking engagements, 1971-2013.

Topics covered include the Brooklyn Bridge, cultural history, daguerreotypes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Indigenous peoples, photography, Walker Evans, and Walt Whitman.

Series I is arranged alphabetically by conference title, organization, or host institution.

|              |   |           |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| b. 1, f. 1   | "1930s (Legacy). Smith College April 1972"  | 1972      |
| b. 1, f. 2-3 | Albany Institute of History & Art   | 2010      |
| b. 1, f. 4-9 | America and the Book  | 1987–1989 |
| b. 1, f. 10  | <i>American Art of the Twentieth Century: Vision and Revision</i>   | 1987      |
| b. 1, f. 11  | American Historical Association 89th Annual Meeting   | 1974      |
| b. 1, f. 12  | American Historical Association 106th Annual Meeting  | 1991      |
| b. 1, f. 13  | American Historical Association 115th Annual Meeting  | 2001      |
| b. 1, f. 14  | American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch  | 1986      |
| b. 2, f. 1   | American Literature Association Symposium: Native American Literary Strategies for the New Millennium   | 1999      |
| b. 2, f. 2   | American Literature Association   | 2005      |
| b. 2, f. 3   | American Studies After 50 Years: Retrospective and Prospect at the University of Minnesota  | 1994      |
| b. 2, f. 4   | American Studies Association Annual Meeting   | 1983      |
| b. 2, f. 5   | American Studies Association Annual Meeting   | 1987      |
| b. 2, f. 6   | American Studies Association Annual Meeting   | 1994      |
| b. 2, f. 7   | American Studies Association Annual Meeting   | 2005      |
| b. 2, f. 8   | Amon Carter Museum of American Art  | 1986      |
| b. 2, f. 9   | Annual Longfellow Forum. The Maine Historical Society   | 2005      |
| b. 2, f. 10  | Ansel Adams at 100. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  | 2001      |
| b. 2, f. 11  | Adams, Ansel, Lecture on  | undated   |
| b. 2, f. 12  | Art in America  | 2000      |
| b. 3, f. 1   | Becoming and Being an American: Indians, Immigrants, and National Identity in the United States. Institute for Advanced Study at Indiana University | 1996      |
| b. 3, f. 2-5 | Bridge to the Future Symposium  | 1983      |

|               |  |      |
|---------------|--|------|
| b. 3, f. 6    | The Broken Middle: Cultural Studies and the Liberal Imagination. Yale University, Whitney Humanities Center  | 1998 |
| b. 3, f. 7    | Brooklyn Public Library  | 2007 |
| b. 3, f. 8    | Centennial Conference. Roosevelt University  | 1990 |
| b. 3, f. 9    | Center for Cultural Analysis   | 2008 |
| b. 3, f. 10   | The Center for Government, Society, and the Arts and The American Studies Program. George Mason University   | 1982 |
| b. 3, f. 11   | Center for the Humanities at Wesleyan University   | 1989 |
| b. 3, f. 12   | The Changing Role of the Intellectual. Humboldt-University, Berlin   | 2000 |
| b. 3, f. 13   | The City. University of Southern Maine   | 1982 |
| b. 3, f. 14   | Conference on Gastronomy   | 1985 |
| b. 3, f. 15   | The Connecticut Academy for English, Geography and History   | 1992 |
| b. 3, f. 16   | Connecticut Historical Society   | 2000 |
| b. 4, f. 1    | Convention of the Modern Language Association  | 1984 |
| b. 4, f. 2    | Convention of the Modern Language Association  | 1987 |
| b. 4, f. 3    | Convention of the Modern Language Association  | 2002 |
| b. 4, f. 4    | Convention of the Modern Language Association  | 2013 |
| b. 4, f. 5-6  | Democracy and Culture Conference. Reynolda House Museum of American Art  | 1995 |
| b. 4, f. 7    | Edward S. Curtis Symposium. Claremont Graduate University  | 2000 |
| b. 4, f. 8    | Edwin Arlington Robinson Poetry Festival   | 1997 |
| b. 4, f. 9-10 | First Nations of North America: Politics and Representation. Conference of the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands and the Netherlands American Studies Association | 2002 |
| b. 4, f. 11   | Forum on Democracy and American Literature. The City University of New York Graduate Center  | 1986 |
| b. 4, f. 12   | <i>Ghost in the Shell: Photography and the Human Soul, 1850-2000</i> . Los Angeles County Museum of Art  | 1999 |
| b. 4, f. 13   | Harvard University   | 1978 |
| b. 4, f. 14   | <i>History Past, History Present: The Daguerreotype Portrait in America</i> . Palmer Museum of Art, The Pennsylvania State University  | 2001 |
| b. 4, f. 15   | House & Home Conference  | 2011 |
| b. 4, f. 16   | The Huntington Library   | 1999 |
| b. 5, f. 1-2  | Ideology and Resistance: The Construction of American Culture and its Reception at Home and Abroad   | 1990 |

|               |  |         |
|---------------|--|---------|
| b. 5, f. 3    | Intellectual Trajectories: Why People Study What They Do   | 2004    |
| b. 5, f. 4    | International Symposium on Urbanization in the Americas  | 1982    |
| b. 5, f. 5    | International Symposium on Urbanization in the Americas  | 1986    |
| b. 5, f. 6    | Interpreting Edison. Rutgers University  | 1996    |
| b. 5, f. 7    | Images Across Boundaries: History, Use, and Ethics of Photographs of American Indians. Museum of Indian Arts and Culture | 1993    |
| b. 5, f. 8    | Iowa Conference  | 1992    |
| b. 5, f. 9    | Jerome Liebling Memorial. Hampshire College  | 2011    |
| b. 5, f. 10   | Kenyon College   | 1993    |
| b. 5, f. 11   | "Kyoto Lectures"   | 1984    |
| b. 5, f. 12   | Learning to Look. The City University of New York Graduate Center  | 2002    |
| b. 5, f. 13   | Leaves of Grass: The 150th Anniversary Conference. University of Nebraska, Lincoln                                       | 2005    |
| b. 5, f. 14   | Leigh Briscoe Allen Collection. Port Gibson, Mississippi   | 1991    |
| b. 5, f. 15   | Machines and History: The Question of Technological Determinism. Massachusetts Institute of Technology                   | 1989    |
| b. 5, f. 16   | Melville, Whitman: Beginnings of a Cosmopolitan American Literature  | undated |
| b. 5, f. 17   | <i>Memory of Light: A Symposium Celebrating 150 Years of Photography</i> . The Detroit Institute of Arts                 | 1989    |
| b. 6, f. 1    | <i>The Modernist Tradition in American Watercolors, 1911-1939</i> . Block Gallery, Northwestern University               | 1991    |
| b. 6, f. 2    | Museum of Our National Heritage. Lexington, Massachusetts  | 1986    |
| b. 6, f. 3    | Narratives and Narrated Subjects of Colonialism. University of Turku   | 1992    |
| b. 6, f. 4    | <i>Native Land and Natural Scene: Paul Strand and Ansel Adams</i> . George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum               | 1991    |
| b. 6, f. 5    | New Orleans Museum of Art  | 2002    |
| b. 6, f. 6    | New Perspectives in American Jewish History. Columbia University   | 1990    |
| b. 6, f. 7    | New York University  | 2000    |
| b. 6, f. 8    | Newark Museum  | 2003    |
| b. 6, f. 9-10 | <i>Old and New Streets: Photography of the City</i> . San Francisco Museum of Modern Art                                 | 1992    |
| b. 6, f. 11   | On The Threshold of Change: The American 1890's. Washington & Lee Alumni College   | 1994    |
| b. 7, f. 1    | Organization of American Historians  | 1971    |



|                |   |         |
|----------------|---|---------|
| b. 7, f. 2     | Organization of American Historians   | 1993    |
| b. 7, f. 3     | <i>Perspectives in American Life and Art</i> . The Denver Art Museum                                    | 1976    |
| b. 7, f. 4     | <i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>   | 1992    |
| b. 7, f. 5     | <i>The Photograph and the American Dream</i> . Van Gogh Museum  | 2001    |
| b. 7, f. 6     | Photography: Object/Idea/Theory. A Symposium at The J. Paul Getty Museum                                | 1991    |
| b. 7, f. 7     | Place & American Indian History, Literature & Culture: The 27th Meeting of the American Indian Workshop | 2006    |
| b. 7, f. 8     | Pomona College  | 1985    |
| b. 7, f. 9     | Porter, Katherine Anne, Lecture on  | undated |
| b. 7, f. 10    | Reading America. Fulbright American Studies Institute on the United States through Literature           | 2002    |
| b. 7, f. 11    | Reading Lessons: The Story of a Daguerreotype. Wexner Center for the Arts                               | 1998    |
| b. 7, f. 12    | The (R)Evolution of Walt Whitman. Texas A&M University  | 2004    |
| b. 7, f. 13    | San Francisco State University  | 2003    |
| b. 7, f. 14-17 | Sapporo Seminar in American Studies   | 1993    |
| b. 8, f. 1     | Second Annual Visual Studies Symposium. The George Washington University                                | 2000    |
| b. 8, f. 2     | Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting  | 1990    |
| b. 8, f. 3     | South American Studies Association  | 1993    |
| b. 8, f. 4     | Springfield Art Museum  | 1991    |
| b. 8, f. 5     | Taubman Museum of Art   | 2011    |
| b. 8, f. 6     | Telling the People's Story. Port Gibson, Mississippi  | 2004    |
| b. 8, f. 7     | <i>Thirties America: Images and Ideas</i> . Kresge Art Museum   | 2005    |
| b. 8, f. 8     | <i>The Tumultuous Fifties</i> . Harn Museum, University of Florida                                      | 2004    |
| b. 8, f. 9     | Tunxis Community College Spring Humanities Symposium  | 1982    |
| b. 8, f. 10    | University of California, Berkeley  | 2003    |
| b. 8, f. 11    | University of California, Los Angeles American Studies Conference                                       | 1989    |
| b. 8, f. 12    | University of California, Santa Barbara   | 1999    |
| b. 8, f. 13    | University of Delaware  | 1987    |
| b. 8, f. 14    | University of Iowa  | 2005    |
| b. 8, f. 15    | University of Missouri, St. Louis   | 1981    |
| b. 8, f. 16    | University of Utah  | 1989    |

|             |  |               |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| b. 9, f. 1  | Vanderbilt University  | 2004          |
| b. 9, f. 2  | Vernacular Reframed. Boston University                                   | 2004          |
| b. 9, f. 3  | The Visiting Artists Program. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago | undated       |
| b. 9, f. 4  | When Modern was Modern. Yale University School of Architecture           | 2004          |
| b. 9, f. 5  | Whitman Conference. University of Pennsylvania                           | 1992          |
| b. 9, f. 6  | Whitman, Walt, Lecture on  | undated       |
| b. 9, f. 7  | Wright Morris Symposium. Yale University Art Gallery                     | 1994          |
| b. 9, f. 8  | Yiddish on the American Scene. University of California, Los Angeles     | 2000          |
| b. 9, f. 9  | Unidentified lectures  | 1987          |
| b. 9, f. 10 | Unidentified speaking engagement flyers                                  | 1976, undated |

## Series II: Writings, 1957–2013

Series II contains books; articles, essays, and other writings; and book reviews by Alan Trachtenberg, as well as writings by others. It is comprised of typed and handwritten manuscripts, research notes and materials, and related correspondence.

Topics covered include the Brooklyn Bridge, cultural history, daguerreotypes, Edward Weston, the Gilded Age, Lewis Hine, Abraham Lincoln, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Indigenous peoples, photography, Walker Evans, and Walt Whitman.

Series II is arranged into four subseries: Books; Articles, Essays, and Other Writings; Book Reviews; and Writings by Others.

|               |   |                       |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|
|               | Books<br>Arranged alphabetically by title.  | 1974–2012             |
| b. 10, f. 1-3 | <i>America &amp; Lewis Hine</i> , correspondence  | 1975–1977             |
| b. 10, f. 4   | <i>Brooklyn Bridge: Fact and Symbol</i> , correspondence and licensing agreement                                | 1976–1979             |
| b. 10, f. 5   | <i>A Different Nature: The Reappearance of Photography, 1940-1955</i> , proposal                                | 2012                  |
| b. 10, f. 6   | <i>The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age</i> , preface                            | approximately<br>1982 |
| b. 10, f. 7   | <i>Lincoln's Smile and Other Enigmas</i> , preface  | 2005                  |
| b. 10, f. 8   | <i>Our America: The Cultural Logic of National Identity in the United States</i> , proposal                     | undated               |
| b. 10, f. 9   | <i>Photography</i> (volume in The Technosphere Series edited by Jonathan Benthall), correspondence and contract | 1974–1980             |
| b. 10, f. 10  | <i>Shades of Hiawatha: Staging Indians, Making Americans, 1880-1930</i> , preface                               | approximately<br>2004 |
|               | Articles, Essays, and Other Writings<br>Arranged alphabetically by title.                                       | 1957–2013             |
| b. 10, f. 11  | "America and Lewis Hine"  | undated               |
| b. 10, f. 12  | "The American Democrat by James Fenimore Cooper"  | 1957                  |
| b. 10, f. 13  | "American Impressionism: Urbanity as Gentility"   | undated               |
| b. 10, f. 14  | "American Scholars Today"   | undated               |
| b. 10, f. 15  | "American Studies and the Politics of Culture"  | undated               |
| b. 10, f. 16  | [Barnardo, Dr. Thomas John, Essay on]   | 1974                  |
| b. 10, f. 17  | "Being and Becoming American: Natives, Strangers, and Nationality"  | 1999                  |
| b. 10, f. 18  | "Between Quarrel and Gratitude: Culture, Democracy, America"  | undated               |
| b. 10, f. 19  | "Bullets Tore Holes in the Water"   | 1994                  |
| b. 10, f. 20  | "Camera Work: Notes toward an Investigation"  | 1978                  |

## Articles, Essays, and Other Writings (continued)

|               |  |           |
|---------------|--|-----------|
| b. 10, f. 21  | "The Civil War in the Camera Eye"  | undated   |
| b. 10, f. 22  | "Conceivable Aliens: Henry James and the Cultural Logic of American Identity"  | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 1   | "Contrapuntal Design: The Sequences of Photographs in the First and Second Editions of <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i> " | 2006      |
| b. 11, f. 2   | "Critics of Culture: Literature and Society in the Early Twentieth Century"  | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 3-4 | "Cultural Revisions in the Twenties: Brooklyn Bridge as 'Usable Past'"   | 1977      |
| b. 11, f. 5   | "The Daguerrean Mystique: From Likeness to Identity"   | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 6   | "The Daguerreotype"  | 1995?     |
| b. 11, f. 7   | "The Daguerreotype: An American Icon"  | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 8   | "The Daguerreotype and Ante-Bellum America"  | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 9   | "Dark Patches and Solitude: Whitman's American Noir"   | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 10  | "The Darwinian Metaphor in America"  | 1982      |
| b. 11, f. 11  | [Disfarmer, Mike, Notes for essay on]  | 1994      |
| b. 11, f. 12  | [Dixon?, Essay on]   | undated   |
| b. 11, f. 13  | "Dreaming Indian: Patria and Paradox"  | undated   |
| b. 12, f. 1-2 | "Edward Weston: The Final Years"   | undated   |
| b. 12, f. 3-4 | [ <i>Edward Weston: Forms of Passion</i> , Correspondence and notes for]   | 1984-1986 |
| b. 12, f. 5   | "From Image to Story: Reading the FSA File"  | undated   |
| b. 12, f. 6   | "Hawthorne's Daguerreotypist: Photography and Cultural Authority in Antebellum America"                                      | undated   |
| b. 12, f. 7   | [Henderson, Harry, Preface for work on]  | 1973      |
| b. 12, f. 8   | "Henry Miller, American Pilgrim"   | undated   |
| b. 12, f. 9   | "'History on the Side': Henry Miller's American Dream"   | undated   |
| b. 12, f. 10  | [Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Essay on]   | 1991      |
| b. 12, f. 11  | "Illegible Cities: An Urban Tradition for American Writing"  | 1981      |
| b. 12, f. 12  | "Image and Ideology: An Approach to the Cultural Study of Photographs"   | 1977      |
| b. 12, f. 13  | "Images, Inc.: Visual Domains of the Corporation"  | 1998      |
| b. 12, f. 14  | "The Intellectual as Cultural Critic in America"   | 1985      |
| b. 12, f. 15  | "Jefferson's <i>Notes on Virginia</i> "  | 1958      |
| b. 12, f. 16  | "Jerome Liebling's Minnesota"  | 1996      |
| b. 12, f. 17  | "Jewish Photography?"  | 2002      |

## Articles, Essays, and Other Writings (continued)

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| b. 12, f. 18    | "The Journey Back: Myth and History"  | 1967       |
| b. 13, f. 1     | [Labor Day, Article for New York Times]   | 1995       |
| b. 13, f. 2     | [Liebling, Jerome, Essay on]  | 1982-2008  |
| b. 13, f. 3     | "Likeness as Identity: Reflections on the Daguerrean Mystique"  | undated    |
| b. 13, f. 4     | "Lincoln's Smile: Ambiguities of the Face in Photography"   | 1999       |
| b. 13, f. 5     | "Literature and National Identity in America"   | undated    |
| b. 13, f. 6     | ["Lyrical documentary photography", Essay on]   | 1983       |
| b. 13, f. 7     | "The Machine Age in America 1918-1941"  | undated    |
| b. 13, f. 8     | "Make It New: Modernism and Modernity in Early 20th Century America"  | 1994       |
| b. 13, f. 9     | "'Man-breaking City': W. Eugene Smith's Pittsburgh"   | 2001       |
| b. 13, f. 10    | "Marx and Engels on Literary Criticism: An Institutional Approach"  | 1957       |
| b. 13, f. 11-12 | "Mirror in the Marketplace: American Responses to the Daguerreotype, 1839-1851"                               | 1988       |
| b. 13, f. 13    | "The Modernist City of Film Noir: The Case of Murder My Sweet"  | 1998       |
| b. 13, f. 14    | "Morris Engel, 'Harlem Merchant' (1937)"  | undated    |
| b. 13, f. 15    | "On the Cultural Interpretation of Literature"  | 2000       |
| b. 13, f. 16    | Opposite the editorial page, New York Times   | undated    |
| b. 13, f. 17    | [Ottenstein, David, Foreword for]   | circa 2017 |
| b. 14, f. 1-2   | "Playing American: The Rodman Wanamaker Expeditions to the Indians"   | 1997-2005  |
| b. 14, f. 3     | [Poetry]  | 1963       |
| b. 14, f. 4     | "The Poet's Work and the Song of Labor: Whitman's Theory of 'Occupations'"                                    | undated    |
| b. 14, f. 5     | "The Politics of <i>The Machine in the Garden</i> : a Perspective after Fifty Years"                          | 2013       |
| b. 14, f. 6-7   | "The Presence of the Past: Photographs as Symbolic History"   | 1979       |
| b. 14, f. 8     | "The Presence of Walker Evans"  | 1975-1978  |
| b. 14, f. 9-10  | "The Reader-in-the-Work: Some Observations on Melville and Whitman"   | 1969       |
| b. 14, f. 11-12 | "Reading the Gilded Age City: From 'Mystery' to 'Realism'"  | undated    |
| b. 15, f. 1-3   | "Seeing and Believing: Hawthorne's Reflections on the Daguerreotype in <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> " | 1996       |
| b. 15, f. 4     | "Signifying the Real: 30s Documentary Photography"  | 2001       |
| b. 15, f. 5-6   | [ <i>Sister Carrie</i> , Correspondence and notes for]  | 1989-1992  |
| b. 15, f. 7     | [Smith's, Henry Nash <i>Virgin Land</i> , Essay on]   | undated    |

## Articles, Essays, and Other Writings (continued)

|                 |   |           |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| b. 15, f. 8     | "The Social and Cultural Context of Literature"                       | 1986      |
| b. 15, f. 9-11  | "Stephen Crane and the Common Life: An Interior Slice"                | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 1     | "Street Theatre: Helen Levitt's New York"                             | 1992      |
| b. 16, f. 2-3   | "The Student Rebellion: Dilemma for Faculty"                          | 1968-1969 |
| b. 16, f. 4     | "Thinking About the Gilded Age"                                       | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 5     | "Tomorrowland: More of the Same?"                                     | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 6     | "A Tribute to Liberty"  | 1985      |
| b. 16, f. 7     | "TVA and American Modernity: An Ambiguous Legacy"                     | 1986      |
| b. 16, f. 8     | "Unsung Heroes: History in the Making"                                | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 9-11  | "The Visionary Politics of Democratic Vistas"                         | 1969      |
| b. 16, f. 12-13 | "Walker Evans: Artist of the Real"                                    | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 14    | "Walker Evans's America: The Order of Things in American Photographs" | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 15    | "Walker Evans's Brooklyn Bridge"                                      | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 16    | "Walker Evans's Fictions of the South"                                | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 17    | "Walker Evans's Message from the Interior: A Reading"                 | undated   |
| b. 16, f. 18    | "Walt Whitman: Precipitant of the Modern"                             | 1992      |
| b. 16, f. 19    | "The Way of the Book: The Reading Experience in America"              | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 1-2   | "The West as America"   | 1991      |
| b. 17, f. 3     | "What is a Photograph?"   | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 4     | "Whitman at Night: 'The Sleepers' in 1855"                            | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 5     | "Whitman's American Noir"   | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 6     | "Whitman's Lesson of the City"  | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 7     | "Whitman's Visionary Politics"  | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 8     | [Whitman, Walt, Essay on]   | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 9     | [Whitman, Walt, Fragment from an essay on]                            | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 10    | "W. Eugene Smith's Pittsburgh: Rumors of a City"                      | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 11    | ["Writings on Photography: Logan Essays", Introduction for]           | undated   |
| b. 17, f. 12    | [Unidentified research materials]                                     | undated   |
|                 | Book Reviews<br>Arranged alphabetically by title.                     | 1974-1991 |

## Book Reviews (continued)

|              |  |               |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| b. 18, f. 1  | <i>The Architecture of Despair</i> by Margaret Morton  | 1993          |
| b. 18, f. 2  | <i>The Country and the City</i> by Raymond Williams  | 1974          |
| b. 18, f. 3  | <i>A Day in the Life of America</i> by Rick Smolan and David Cohen   | 1986          |
| b. 18, f. 4  | <i>Jews in the American Academy, 1900-1940: The Dynamics of Intellectual Assimilation</i> by Susanne Kingenstein | 1991          |
| b. 18, f. 5  | <i>The Morality of Spending: Attitudes toward the Consumer Society in America, 1875-1940</i> by Daniel Horowitz  | 1985          |
| b. 18, f. 6  | <i>Realism, Writing, Disfiguration: On Thomas Eakins and Stephen Crane</i> by Michael Fried                      | 1988          |
|              | Writings by Others<br>Arranged alphabetically by author.   | 1958–2004     |
| b. 18, f. 7  | Marx, Leo. "Charles Demuth's 'Incense of a New Church' (1921)"   | undated       |
| b. 18, f. 8  | Marx, Leo. Miscellaneous essays  | 2011, undated |
| b. 18, f. 9  | McManus, Jack. Miscellaneous poems   | 1967          |
| b. 18, f. 10 | Renner, Dennis. "Postcolonial Republicanism, Whitman, and the 'Third World' Experience"                          | 1989          |
| b. 18, f. 11 | Rosenblum, Walter. "Lewis Hine: A Personal Memoir"   | undated       |
| b. 18, f. 12 | Thomas, M. Wynn. "Whitman and the Dreams of Labor"   | undated       |
| b. 18, f. 13 | Winter, Oswald Le. <i>Atoms of Memory: Poems</i>   | 2004          |
| b. 18, f. 14 | Unidentified essays  | undated       |
| b. 18, f. 15 | Unidentified poems   | 1958–1970     |

### Series III: Teaching Materials and Course Related Files, 1964–2013

Series III contains syllabi, exams, lecture notes, and research materials compiled and assembled by Alan Trachtenberg while teaching at Yale University.

The earliest materials in the series relate to courses at Pennsylvania State University. Material for courses at The City of New York Graduate School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are also present, as well as seminars and institutes sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Folder titles assigned by Alan Trachtenberg have been retained. Supplied titles for folders received without labels are in brackets. Names of host institutions are provided in parentheses when known.

Series III is arranged chronologically with unidentified material filed at the end.

|                 |  |             |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| b. 19, f. 1     | City course  | 1969        |
| b. 19, f. 2     | [English 59]   | 1970 Fall   |
| b. 19, f. 3     | [History 35a: Politics and American Culture] (Yale University)   | 1970        |
| b. 19, f. 4     | [American Studies 192a] (Yale University)  | 1972 Fall   |
| b. 19, f. 5     | [American Studies 59b: American Literature in the Twentieth Century] (Yale University)   | 1973 Spring |
| b. 19, f. 6     | [English 154b: Studies in American Literature: Poe, Melville, Whitman] (Yale University)   | 1976 Spring |
| b. 19, f. 7     | City course (Yale University)  | 1977–1979   |
| b. 19, f. 8     | [History 74c/American Studies 92-1c: The New World Idea in the Literature of the Americas] (Yale University)   | 1977 Summer |
| b. 19, f. 9     | [American Studies 600a: Readings in Cultural Criticism] (Yale University)  | 1978 Fall   |
| b. 19, f. 10    | [NEH Summer Seminar] (Yale University)   | 1978        |
| b. 19, f. 11    | [English 856b/American Studies 601b: Studies in American Realism] (Yale University)  | 1979 Spring |
| b. 19, f. 12    | [American Studies 205b: Photography in American Culture/American Studies 605a: Readings in Cultural History and Criticism: Photography, Literature, and Modernity] (Yale University) | 1978–1982   |
| b. 19, f. 13    | [American Studies 260a/English 290a] (Yale University)   | 1981–1985   |
| b. 19, f. 14-15 | [NEH Summer Seminar: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age] (Yale University)  | 1982        |
| b. 19, f. 16    | [NEH Summer Seminar] (Yale University)   | 1984        |
| b. 19, f. 17    | [American Studies 260b/English 290b: American Literature: Early 20th Century] (Yale University)  | 1985 Spring |
| b. 19, f. 18    | [English U 848.02: American Culture] (The City of New York Graduate School)  | 1986        |
| b. 19, f. 19    | [American Studies 605b/English 881b: Photography and Culture in the United States] (Yale University)   | 1987 Spring |



|               |  |                       |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 19, f. 20  | [American Studies 605a: Readings in Cultural History, Theory, Criticism] (Yale University)   | 1988 Fall             |
| b. 19, f. 21  | [American Studies 608b: Consensus and Contest: Antebellum American Writing and Culture] (Yale University)  | 1990 Spring           |
| b. 19, f. 22  | [American Studies 205b: Photography in America: History and Criticism] (Yale University)   | 1990 Spring           |
| b. 19, f. 23  | [American Studies 608a/English 854a: Literature, Democracy, Culture in Antebellum America] (Yale University)   | 1990 Fall             |
| b. 20, f. 1   | [American Studies 605b: Photography and History in America] (Yale University)  | 1991 Spring           |
| b. 20, f. 2   | [English 270b/American Studies 250b: Readings in American Literature, 1830-1860: Poe, Hawthorne, Melville] (Yale University)                               | 1991 Spring           |
| b. 20, f. 3-6 | Film Noir (Yale University)  | 1992-1997             |
| b. 20, f. 7   | [NEH Summer Institute: The Thirties: American Literature, Art, and Culture in Interdisciplinary Perspective] (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) | 1994                  |
| b. 20, f. 8   | [American Studies 608a/English 854a: Antebellum Fictions] (Yale University)  | 1992 Fall             |
| b. 20, f. 9   | [American Studies 601a/English 852a: Poe, Melville, Whitman] (Yale University)   | 1993 Fall             |
| b. 20, f. 10  | [SVA MFA Photography: Interpretations of the History of Photography]   | 1993 Fall             |
| b. 20, f. 11  | [American Studies 310/English 441: The Indian in American Literature and Culture] (Yale University)  | 1996-2001             |
| b. 20, f. 12  | "Oxford Seminar"   | 2007                  |
| b. 20, f. 13  | [English 422/American Studies 417 01: The Private Eye: Crime, Detection and the City] (Yale University)  | 2013 Spring           |
| b. 20, f. 14  | [Film Noir] (Yale University)  | 2013                  |
| b. 20, f. 15  | [American Studies 605: Photography as Culture]   | undated               |
| b. 20, f. 16  | [Reading lists]  | 1978-1982             |
| b. 20, f. 17  | [Materials for photography courses taught by others]   | 1973-1986             |
| b. 21, f. 1   | [Unidentified course lectures]   | undated               |
| b. 21, f. 2   | Miscellaneous lecture notes  | 1964-1966             |
| b. 21, f. 3   | [Unidentified notes]   | 1970-1971,<br>undated |
| b. 21, f. 4   | [Unidentified notes]   | 1993, undated         |
| b. 21, f. 5   | [Unidentified essays by others]  | 1988-1993             |

**Series IV: Correspondence, 1960–2017**

Series IV contains letters addressed to Alan Trachtenberg. Among those appearing most frequently are Lakota author Ronald Goodman, poet and photographer James H. Hiner, filmmaker Jay Leyda, historian Leo Marx, poet Robert Mezey, and photographer Jerry L. Thompson.

Letters are professional, relating to the teaching, writing, and research of Trachtenberg and his peers, as well as personal.

Correspondence with American historian Lewis Mumford--originally grouped into one folder by Trachtenberg--is filed separately.

Series IV is arranged chronologically.

|               |                     |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| b. 22, f. 1   | 1960                | 1960                |
| b. 22, f. 2   | 1961                | 1961                |
| b. 22, f. 3-9 | Mumford, Lewis      | 1962–1980           |
| b. 22, f. 10  | 1963                | 1963                |
| b. 22, f. 11  | 1964                | 1964                |
| b. 22, f. 12  | 1965                | 1965                |
| b. 22, f. 13  | 1966                | 1966                |
| b. 22, f. 14  | 1967                | 1967                |
| b. 22, f. 15  | 1968                | 1968                |
| b. 22, f. 16  | 1970                | 1970                |
| b. 22, f. 17  | 1973                | 1973                |
| b. 22, f. 18  | 1976                | 1976                |
| b. 22, f. 19  | 1977                | 1977                |
| b. 22, f. 20  | 1978                | 1978                |
| b. 22, f. 21  | 1979                | 1979                |
| b. 22, f. 22  | 1980                | 1980                |
| b. 22, f. 23  | 1981                | 1981                |
| b. 22, f. 24  | 1982                | 1982                |
| b. 22, f. 25  | 1983                | 1983                |
| b. 22, f. 26  | 1984                | 1984                |
| b. 22, f. 27  | 1985 February-March | 1985 February-March |
| b. 22, f. 28  | 1985 May-July       | 1985 May-July       |

|              |                         |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| b. 22, f. 29 | 1985 August-December    | 1985 August-December    |
| b. 23, f. 1  | 1986 February-September | 1986 February-September |
| b. 23, f. 2  | 1986 October-December   | 1986 October-December   |
| b. 23, f. 3  | 1987                    | 1987                    |
| b. 23, f. 4  | 1988                    | 1988                    |
| b. 23, f. 5  | 1989 June-September     | 1989 June-September     |
| b. 23, f. 6  | 1989 October-December   | 1989 October-December   |
| b. 23, f. 7  | 1990                    | 1990                    |
| b. 23, f. 8  | 1991                    | 1991                    |
| b. 23, f. 9  | 1992                    | 1992                    |
| b. 23, f. 10 | 1993 February-July      | 1993 February-July      |
| b. 23, f. 11 | 1993 September-October  | 1993 September-October  |
| b. 23, f. 12 | 1993 November-December  | 1993 November-December  |
| b. 23, f. 13 | 1994 January-March      | 1994 January-March      |
| b. 23, f. 14 | 1994 April-October      | 1994 April-October      |
| b. 23, f. 15 | 1994 November-December  | 1994 November-December  |
| b. 24, f. 1  | 1995 February-June      | 1995 February-June      |
| b. 24, f. 2  | 1995 July-October       | 1995 July-October       |
| b. 24, f. 3  | 1995 November-December  | 1995 November-December  |
| b. 24, f. 4  | 1996 January-May        | 1996 January-May        |
| b. 24, f. 5  | 1996 June-August        | 1996 June-August        |

|              |                         |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| b. 24, f. 6  | 1996 October-December   | 1996 October-December   |
| b. 24, f. 7  | 1997 January-February   | 1997 January-February   |
| b. 24, f. 8  | 1997 March-May          | 1997 March-May          |
| b. 24, f. 9  | 1997 June-July          | 1997 June-July          |
| b. 24, f. 10 | 1997 August-September   | 1997 August-September   |
| b. 24, f. 11 | 1997 October-December   | 1997 October-December   |
| b. 24, f. 12 | 1998 January-May        | 1998 January-May        |
| b. 24, f. 13 | 1998 April-June         | 1998 April-June         |
| b. 24, f. 14 | 1998 July-December      | 1998 July-December      |
| b. 25, f. 1  | 1999 February-May       | 1999 February-May       |
| b. 25, f. 2  | 1999 June-August        | 1999 June-August        |
| b. 25, f. 3  | 1999 September-December | 1999 September-December |
| b. 25, f. 4  | 2000                    | 2000                    |
| b. 25, f. 5  | 2001 January-April      | 2001 January-April      |
| b. 25, f. 6  | 2001 August             | 2001 August             |
| b. 25, f. 7  | 2002                    | 2002                    |
| b. 25, f. 8  | 2003                    | 2003                    |
| b. 25, f. 9  | 2004                    | 2004                    |
| b. 25, f. 10 | 2005                    | 2005                    |
| b. 25, f. 11 | 2006                    | 2006                    |
| b. 25, f. 12 | 2007                    | 2007                    |
| b. 25, f. 13 | 2008                    | 2008                    |
| b. 25, f. 14 | 2009                    | 2009                    |
| b. 25, f. 15 | 2010                    | 2010                    |

|              |                 |           |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| b. 25, f. 16 | 2011            | 2011      |
| b. 25, f. 17 | 2012            | 2012      |
| b. 25, f. 18 | 2013            | 2013      |
| b. 25, f. 19 | 2015            | 2015      |
| b. 25, f. 20 | 2016            | 2016      |
| b. 25, f. 21 | 2017            | 2017      |
| b. 25, f. 22 | Undated         | undated   |
| b. 25, f. 23 | Empty envelopes | 1984-2011 |

**Series V: Other Papers, 1973–2004**

Series V contains notes, photographs, and miscellaneous materials created or assembled by Alan Trachtenberg.

Series V is arranged alphabetically with unidentified materials filed at the end.

|                 |  |                       |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 26, f. 1     | "AmSt--Theory"   | 1974–1975             |
| b. 26, f. 2     | Curriculum vitae   | 1989?                 |
| b. 26, f. 3     | Conversations on Walker Evans (transcription from video) | undated               |
| b. 26, f. 4     | "Fellowship materials"                                   | 1978                  |
| b. 26, f. 5     | "Waldo Frank clippings"                                  | 1973–1974             |
| b. 26, f. 6     | Interview transcript                                     | 1986 June 2           |
| b. 26, f. 7-8   | Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar                          | 1992–1993             |
| b. 26, f. 9     | Notebook   | undated               |
| b. 26, f. 10-15 | Loose notes  | 1973-1975,<br>undated |
| b. 27, f. 1-2   | Photographs  | 1993-2003,<br>undated |
| b. 27, f. 3     | Unidentified ephemera                                    | undated               |
| b. 27, f. 4     | Unidentified events                                      | 1988-2002,<br>undated |
| b. 27, f. 5     | Unidentified newspaper clippings                         | 1983-1992,<br>undated |
| b. 27, f. 6     | Unidentified printed materials                           | undated               |
| b. 27, f. 7     | Unidentified speeches by/about Trachtenberg              | 2004, undated         |
| b. 27, f. 8     | Unidentified speaking engagements (not Trachtenberg)     | undated               |

**Series VI: Audiovisual Materials, 1973–2008 September 3**

Series VI contains 3 reels, 9 audiocassette tapes, and 5 CD-Rs created by or relating to Alan Trachtenberg.

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Series VI is arranged by format and chronologically thereafter.

|             |   |                     |
|-------------|---|---------------------|
| b. 28, f. 1 | Lit + City Reel 2<br><i>1 Audiotape Reel</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | undated             |
| b. 28, f. 2 | Lit + City Reel 3<br><i>1 Audiotape Reel</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | undated             |
| b. 28, f. 3 | Lit + City Reel 4<br><i>1 Audiotape Reel</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | undated             |
| b. 29, f. 1 | Talking History / Air Week 11/28/05 Hiawatha<br><i>1 CD-R</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.   | 2005 November<br>28 |
| b. 29, f. 2 | Yale University Art Gallery Focus on Talk / The Photographs of Jerome Liebling by<br>Alan Trachtenberg<br><i>1 CD-R</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information. | 2008 September<br>3 |
| b. 29, f. 3 | A. Trachtenberg Presentation / Brave Hearts: Visions of Civil War Battlefields<br><i>1 CD-R</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.                         | undated             |
| b. 29, f. 4 | Hine.ppt lecture/final<br><i>1 CD-R</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.   | undated             |
| b. 29, f. 5 | MLA Talk 'actualities'<br><i>1 CD-R</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.   | undated             |
| b. 30, f. 1 | Susman-Trachtenberg-April 1973 / Seder, 1973<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | 1973                |

|             |  |                 |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 30, f. 2 | Lecture: Brooklyn Bridge Professor Alan Trachtenberg April 6, 1984<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information. | 1984 April 6    |
| b. 30, f. 3 | Section II Open Session Prof. Trachtenberg July 24, 1985<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.           | 1985 July 24    |
| b. 30, f. 4 | Norma Trachtenberg Conversations-1986<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.                              | 1986            |
| b. 30, f. 5 | Intellectual Trajectories Alan Trachtenberg 2/9/04<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.                 | 2004 February 9 |
| b. 30, f. 6 | Intellectual Trajectories Alan Trachtenberg 2/9/04<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.                 | 2004 February 9 |
| b. 30, f. 7 | Intellectual Trajectories Alan Trachtenberg 2/9/04<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.                 | 2004 February 9 |
| b. 31, f. 1 | Tulsa May 9<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | undated         |
| b. 31, f. 2 | Dnb conf.<br><i>1 Audiocassette</i><br>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested.<br>Consult Access Services for further information.  | 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**

American literature -- 20th Century -- History  
and criticism  
American literature -- Study and teaching  
Historians -- United States -- Archives  
History -- Study and teaching  
Photography, Artistic -- History and criticism  
Photography -- United States -- History

### **Geographic Names**

United States -- Study and teaching

### **Genres / Formats**

Lectures  
Photographs  
Sound recordings  
Syllabi

### **Occupations**

Historians -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Faculty

### **Acquired From**

Trachtenberg, Betty