

Guide to the Walter J. P. Curley Papers

MS 2009



compiled by Sahr Conway-Lanz and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2009

CREATOR: Curley, Walter J. P., 1922-2016

TITLE: Walter J. P. Curley papers

DATES: Circa 1918-circa 2014

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 12.25 linear feet (24 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers document Walter J. P. Curley's public service career and experiences abroad, in particular his service in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific and China during World War II and his work as United States ambassador to Ireland (1975-1977) and France (1989-1993). The papers consist of correspondence, public service papers, speeches, writings, and photographs.

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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/>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Ambassador Walter J. P. Curley, 2014.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research except for box 15 which is restricted until the materials are declassified.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Walter J. P. Curley Papers (MS 2009). Manuscripts and Archives. Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Walter J. P. Curley was a venture capitalist who served as U.S. ambassador to Ireland from 1975 to 1977 and to France from 1989 to 1993. He was born in Pittsburgh on September 17, 1922. He graduated from Yale College in 1943. During World War II, he served as a Marine Corps officer at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and in northern China. Curley died on June 2, 2016 in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

The papers document Walter J. P. Curley's public service career and experiences abroad, in particular his service in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific and China during World War II and his work as United States ambassador to Ireland (1975-1977) and France (1989-1993). The papers consist of correspondence, public service papers, speeches, writings, and photographs.

Curley's time in the Marines is documented in detail by letters he wrote to his parents about his experiences as an infantry officer in the Iwo Jima campaign and as a general's aide in Okinawa and northern China. Most of these letters have been published in Walter J. P. Curley, *Letters from the Pacific, 1943-1946*, but several have remained unpublished.

The materials concerning his Ireland ambassadorship primarily document the routine operations of the embassy including invitations, visitors, and assistance provided to Americans in Ireland. The Ireland papers include a file list which inventories all of Curley's office files, but not all of these files were included in this collection and archivists have simplified the organization of the remaining files to ease researcher access.

The correspondence and public service files regarding his ambassadorship in France contain less material concerning routine embassy operations and more material concerning U.S.-France relations, but the latter is still quite limited. Much of the correspondence is personal in nature but includes a small amount of correspondence with George H. W. Bush, James Baker, and French leaders which provides some insight into policy. Among the public service files, there are notes Curley wrote of a meeting between French president François Mitterrand and American vice president Dick Cheney. The materials concerning Curley's ambassadorship in France came to the archives with little original order.

The papers also provide insight into the role of and the controversies over politically-appointed ambassadors including a draft paper on the topic, a file concerning the Reagan-Bush presidential campaign, and correspondence from Curley's ambassadorships.

The speech files probably provide the best overview of his work as ambassador to Ireland and France in these papers. His writings include extensive memoir and autobiographical works covering virtually all aspects of his life from childhood.

The papers contain little from his career in business and venture capital.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in five series: I. Correspondence, Circa 1918-2001. II. Public Service Papers, 1944-circa 2014. III. Speeches, 1967-2006. IV. Writings, Circa 1985-circa 1997. V. Photographs, 1943-1993.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, Circa 1918-2001

General		
b. 1, f. 1	Bush, George H. W. and family	1996-2001
b. 1, f. 2	Bush, George W.	1998-2000
b. 1, f. 3	Europe	1938
b. 1, f. 4	India	1949-1950
b. 1, f. 5	Ireland	1985
b. 1, f. 6	Letter from Walter J. Curley (father) to Marguerite Curley [?]	Circa 1918
b. 1, f. 7	Post-ambassadorships	1993-2000
b. 1, f. 8	Snowden	1939, 1979
b. 1, f. 9-10	Yale	1947-1950
United States Marine Corps		
General		
b. 1, f. 11	General A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	February 1945
b. 1, f. 12	General A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	March 6, 1945- March 18, 1945
b. 1, f. 13	General A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	March 21, 1945- March 29, 1945
b. 1, f. 14	General A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	September 17, 1945-January 15, 1946
b. 1, f. 15	Correspondence to Walter and Marguerite Curley from family friends about Marine Corps letters A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1945
b. 1, f. 16	<i>Letters from the Pacific</i> English	1959-1960

Ambassador to Ireland		
b. 1, f. 17	A	1975-1977
b. 1, f. 18	B	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 1-2	C	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 3	Curley	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 4	D	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 5	E	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 6	F	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 7	Family correspondence	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 8	G	1976-1977
b. 2, f. 9	I, J	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 10	K, L	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 1	K, L	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 2	M	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 3	Mc	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 4	N	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 5	O	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 6	P, Q	1975-1977
b. 3, f. 7	R	1975-1977
b. 4, f. 1-3	S	1975-1977
b. 4, f. 4	T	1975-1977
b. 4, f. 5	X, Y, Z	1975-1977
b. 4, f. 6	Unidentified	1976-1977
b. 4, f. 7-9	Congratulatory mail	1975
b. 5, f. 1-8	Ambassador to France	1989-1993

Series II: Public service papers, 1944-circa 2014

Materials in box 15 are restricted until declassified by the federal government.

General		
b. 6, f. 1	<i>A Conversation with Ambassador Walter Curley</i> English	1998
b. 6, f. 2	Biographical information	Circa 2014
b. 25-27	Oral history interview of Walter J. P. Curley, National WWII Museum <i>1 Optical Disc (DVD)</i> Unprocessed electronic record. Closed until processed.	2009
b. 6, f. 3	Personal resume	Circa 1948
b. 6, f. 4	Reagan-Bush campaign and the Irish-American electorate	1980
United States Marine Corps		
b. 6, f. 5	Cerificates and citations	1943-1945
b. 6, f. 6	Handbooks, regulations, and Japanese language materials	1944-1945
b. 6, f. 7	<i>Japan and the Japanese</i> English	1944
b. 6, f. 8-13	Japanese lessons	Circa 1944-circa 1946
b. 6, f. 14	Japanese slide ruler	Undated
b. 7, f. 1	<i>Marine's Handbook</i> English	1940
b. 7, f. 2	Personal orders	1945
b. 24, f. 1	Stockade forms and maps in Japanese	Circa 1945
b. 7, f. 3	Stockade sign	Circa 1945
b. 7, f. 4	Stockade sketches-Iwo Jima	Undated
b. 7, f. 5	World War II letter by unidentified author	1944
Ambassador to Ireland		
b. 7, f. 6-7	General	1976
b. 7, f. 8	Art in the embassies	1974-1976
b. 7, f. 9	Articles	1976
b. 7, f. 10	Automobile	1976-1977
b. 7, f. 11	Banks	1975-1977
b. 7, f. 12	Bicentennial	1975-1976

Ambassador to Ireland (continued)

b. 7, f. 13	Biographical data	1973-1976
b. 15, f. 1	Biographical data on Irish personalities Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1974-1977
b. 8, f. 1-2	Briefing	1973-1975
b. 8, f. 3	Chief of Mission briefing book	1975
	Chronological files	
b. 8, f. 4	June 27, 1975-September 15, 1975	June 27, 1975- September 15, 1975
b. 8, f. 5	September 18, 1975-October 31, 1975	September 18, 1975-October 31, 1975
b. 8, f. 6	November 1975	November 1975
b. 8, f. 7	December 1975	December 1975
b. 8, f. 8	January 1976	January 1976
b. 8, f. 9	February 1976	February 1976
b. 8, f. 10	March 1976	March 1976
b. 9, f. 1	April 1976	April 1976
b. 9, f. 2	May 1976	May 1976
b. 9, f. 3	June 1976	June 1976
b. 9, f. 4	July 1976	July 1976
b. 9, f. 5	August 1976	August 1976
b. 9, f. 6	September 1976	September 1976
b. 9, f. 7	October 1976	October 1976
b. 9, f. 8	November 1976	November 1976
b. 9, f. 9	December 1976	December 1976
b. 9, f. 10	January 1977	January 1977
b. 9, f. 11	February 1977	February 1977
b. 9, f. 12	March 1977	March 1977
b. 10, f. 1	April 1977	April 1977
b. 10, f. 2	Clubs	1975-1977
b. 10, f. 3	Congratulations	1975-1976

Ambassador to Ireland (continued)

b. 10, f. 4	Credentials	1975
b. 10, f. 5	Curley family	1974-1977
b. 10, f. 6	European Chiefs of Mission meeting briefing	1975
b. 10, f. 7	File list	Circa 1976
b. 10, f. 8-9	Guest lists	1975-1977
b. 10, f. 10	Hospitalization	1975-1976
b. 10, f. 11	Insurance	1976-1977
b. 11, f. 1	Invitations	Undated
b. 15, f. 2	Memorandum of conversation with Garret FitzGerald Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1976
b. 11, f. 2	<i>Monarchs in Waiting</i> English	1975-1977
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b. 11, f. 3	Northern Ireland background material	1971
b. 11, f. 4	Northern Ireland conflict	1975-1977
b. 11, f. 5	Notes on Northern Ireland	1977
b. 15, f. 4	Official correspondence Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1975-1976
b. 11, f. 6-7	Party invitees	1974-1977
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b. 11, f. 12	Residence	1976-1977
b. 11, f. 13	Resignation [1 of 2]	1976-1977
b. 12, f. 1	Resignation [2 of 2]	1976-1977
b. 15, f. 5	Resignation letter Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1977
b. 12, f. 2	Rosyvera	1965, 1975-1977
	Schedules	

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b. 12, f. 3	1975 English	1975
b. 12, f. 4	1976 English	1976
b. 12, f. 5	1977 English	1977
b. 12, f. 6	Section chiefs briefing	1975
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b. 12, f. 8	Spaulding, Vivian	1975-1976
b. 12, f. 9	Speaking engagements/invitations	1975-1976
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b. 12, f. 10	Brussels	1975-1976
b. 12, f. 11	Cork	1976-1977
b. 12, f. 12	Future, reference	1975-1977
b. 13, f. 1-2	Future, reference	1975-1977
b. 13, f. 3	Galway/Inisboffin	1976-1977
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b. 13, f. 5	London	1976
b. 13, f. 6	United States of America	1976
b. 13, f. 7	Vestal, A. A.	1975-1977
b. 13, f. 8	Visit of Russell Train	1976
b. 13, f. 9	Visitors	1975-1976
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b. 13, f. 10	Appointment book	1989
b. 13, f. 11	Bulgaria/Hungary restoration	1991-1992
b. 15, f. 6	Comprehensive settlement of the Cambodia conflict Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1991
b. 13, f. 12	Confirmation hearing	1989
b. 13, f. 13	Congressional delegations	1991-1992
b. 14, f. 1	Farmers protest	1992
b. 14, f. 2	Franco-American organizations	1990-1991
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b. 14, f. 4	Guest lists	1993 February 4
b. 14, f. 5	Honorary committees	1979, 1989-1992
b. 14, f. 6	Inspector's evaluation report of Walter J. P. Curley	1992
b. 15, f. 7	Letter to James A. Baker III Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1992
b. 15, f. 8	Martinique summit Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1991
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b. 15, f. 10	Meeting of President Bush and President Mitterrand Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1990
b. 14, f. 7	Memoranda	1989-circa 1993
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b. 15, f. 16	Mitterrand, François Restricted until declassified by the federal government.	1989
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b. 14, f. 9	Press release on President Bush's 1991 budget	1990
b. 14, f. 10	Tourism, exports, and investments	1992
b. 14, f. 11	Visit of Roland Dumas to Washington	1992

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b. 16, f. 1	1967 English	1967
b. 16, f. 2	1974 English	1974
b. 16, f. 3	1974-1976	1974-1976
b. 16, f. 4-7	1975-1977	1975-1977
b. 16, f. 8	1976 English	1976
b. 16, f. 9-10	1977 English	1977
b. 16, f. 11	1978 English	1978
b. 17, f. 1	1978-1980	1978-1980
b. 17, f. 2-3	1989-1990	1989-1990
b. 17, f. 4-8	1989-1993	1989-1993
b. 18, f. 1	1990 English	1990
b. 18, f. 2-3	1990-1991	1990-1991
b. 18, f. 4-7	1990-1993	1990-1993
b. 19, f. 1-3	1990-1993	1990-1993
b. 19, f. 4	Circa 1990-circa 1993	Circa 1990-circa 1993
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b. 19, f. 10	1993-2006	1993-2006
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b. 20, f. 1	1995 English	1995
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b. 20, f. 3	1999 English	1999
b. 20, f. 4	2001 English	2001

	Oral history interview, National World War II Museum Closed until processed.	Circa 2009
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Series IV: Writings, Circa 1985-circa 1997

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b. 21, f. 2	Draft forewords to "Mister Wu and Other Shadows"	1992-1993
	"How Long Does a Tattoo Last? An American Life East and West of Suez" English Closed until processed.	2014
b. 21, f. 3-4	"Marine Corps Diary" draft English	Undated
b. 21, f. 5-9	Memoir drafts	Circa 1990
b. 21, f. 10	Memoir manuscripts on his childhood	Undated
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b. 22, f. 1	"Stories for James" English	Circa 1997
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b. 23, f. 1-2	Prints	Undated
b. 23, f. 3	Negatives	Undated
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b. 23, f. 5-6	Ambassador to Ireland	Circa 1975-circa 1977
b. 23, f. 7	Marine Corps	1943

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

World War, 1939-1945

Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations -- France

United States -- Foreign relations -- Ireland

Names

Curley, Walter J. P., 1922-2016

Acquired From

Curley, Walter J. P., 1922-2016 , donor