

Guide to the Harry W. Selden Right Wing Materials Collection

MS 2069



compiled by Eric Sonnenberg

February 2017

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2069

CREATOR: Selden, Harry Wythe, 1915-2003

TITLE: Harry W. Selden right wing materials collection

DATES: 1952-circa 2010s

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.83 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection comprises pamphlets, newsletters, and other materials collected by Harry W. Selden and concerning conservative and right-wing politics and activism from the 1950s to the 1980s. Materials include newsletters, pamphlets, mass mailings, flyers, press clippings and photocopies, correspondence, and other printed and published materials. The material covers a wide range of topics, including the United Nations, disarmament, anti-communism, and Republican and conservative politics, and represents a large number of right-wing organizations. The collection also includes pamphlets and flyers for political candidates, primarily Republicans, along with a small number of newsletters and pamphlets from left-wing organizations. Some materials have handwritten notes and underlining by an unidentified author, possibly Selden. The collection also includes a partial inventory, possibly prepared in the 2010s.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2069>

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/mssa.ms.2069>.

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

Transferred from the Kaplanoff Librarian for American History, 2016

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Harry W. Selden Right Wing Materials Collection (MS 2069). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University

Biographical / Historical

Harry Wythe Selden (1915-2003) was a Virginia farmer and John Birch Society member. Selden was born in Virginia on December 21, 1915 and worked on his family's dairy farm in Mathews County, Virginia (near Hampton) until 1947, when he moved to the Mechanicsville, Virginia area to farm. He returned to Hampton in 1991. Selden was a lifetime member of the John Birch Society and served as its state coordinator and official spokesman. He was a frequent writer of letters to newspaper editorial pages and an active teacher and officer in local churches. Selden married twice and had two daughters and four step-children. He died in 2003.

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises pamphlets, newsletters, and other materials collected by Harry W. Selden and concerning conservative and right-wing politics and activism from the 1950s to the 1980s. Materials include newsletters, pamphlets, mass mailings, flyers, press clippings and photocopies, correspondence, and other printed and published materials. The material covers a wide range of topics, including the United Nations, disarmament, anti-communism, and Republican and conservative politics, and represents a large number of right-wing organizations. The collection also includes pamphlets and flyers for political candidates, primarily Republicans, along with a small number of newsletters and pamphlets from left-wing organizations. Some materials have handwritten notes and underlining by an unidentified author, possibly Selden. The collection also includes a partial inventory, possibly prepared in the 2010s.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in five series: I. Pamphlets, newsletters, and other materials, circa 1950s-circa 1980s. II. Subject files, circa 1950s-circa 1980s. III. Correspondence, 1968-1969. IV. News clippings and reprints, 1959-1975. V. Ephemera, circa 1960s-circa 2010s.

Collection Contents

Series I: Pamphlets, newsletters, and other materials, 1952-1984

This series consists of pamphlets, newsletters, mass mailings, flyers, and other printed matter related to right-wing politics and activism. Materials cover a wide range of topics and represent a large number of organizations and publications. Also included are pamphlets and campaign materials for and against various political candidates, mostly Republicans. Materials also include reprints of speeches and bills from the Congressional Record, along with a small number of publications from left-wing organizations and political candidates.

Series I is arranged as received from the donor.

b. 1, f. 1-4	Materials	1952-1984, undated
b. 3, f. 1	Materials	1961-1970, undated

Series II: Subject files, 1958-1977

This series consists of pamphlets, newsletters, mass mailings, and other printed and published materials, sorted into subject files. Note that many of the materials in these files also contain information on other subjects, and substantial additional material on many of these subjects can be found in the other series in this collection.

Some subject groupings were in folders when received. Others were grouped together physically but not foldered; these were separated and foldered during processing.

Series II is arranged as received from the donor.

b. 2, f. 1	Disarmament	1962-1966, undated
b. 3, f. 2	Disarmament	1963-1966
b. 2, f. 2	Education	1961-1966, undated
b. 3, f. 3	Education	circa 1966
b. 2, f. 3	Foreign aid	1958-1969, undated
b. 3, f. 4	Foreign aid	circa 1967
b. 2, f. 4	Institute for American Democracy (I.A.D.)	1967-1969, undated
b. 2, f. 5	Liberty Amendment	circa 1963-circa 1964
b. 2, f. 6	Liberty Lobby	1964-1974, undated
b. 2, f. 7	Roberts, Archibald E.	1962-1971, undated
b. 3, f. 5	Roberts, Archibald E.	circa 1961-circa 1966
b. 2, f. 8	Sensitivity training	1968-1969, undated
b. 2, f. 9-10	Wallace, George C.	1967, undated
b. 3, f. 6	Wallace, George C.	1967-1970, undated
b. 2, f. 11	Women's movement	1972-1975
b. 3, f. 7	Women's movement	1973-1977

Series III: Correspondence, 1968-1969

This series consists of a small amount of correspondence, primarily drafts or copies of letters to the editorial page of local newspapers, sent by Selden or others. In some cases, a newspaper clipping of the published letter is attached. Some similar correspondence can be found in the Sensitivity Training subject file in Series II.

Correspondence was mixed with other loose materials and was separated and arranged during processing.

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 12

Correspondence

1968-1969

Series IV: News clippings and reprints, 1959-1975

This series consists of a small number of newspaper and magazine clippings and reprints. Materials relate to a variety of topics, including national security, law enforcement, and right-wing politics and organizations.

Clippings were interfiled with other loose materials, and were separated during processing.

Series IV is arranged as received from the donor.

b. 2, f. 13

Clippings and reprints

1959-1975

Series V: Ephemera, circa 1960s-circa 2010s

This series consists of a cardboard sign and a partial collection inventory. The cardboard sign (or poster) advertises a Carl McIntire speaking event in Colonial Heights, Virginia. The sign is incomplete; it has been cut into a smaller size, apparently for use as a file divider. The partial collection inventory appears to have been created in the 2010s, possibly by a manuscript dealer.

Series V is arranged as received from the donor.

b. 3, f. 8	Ephemera	circa 1960s-circa 2010s
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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

Anti-communist movements -- United States
Conservatism -- United States
Right and Left (Political Science)

Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations
United States -- Politics and government

Names

Selden, Harry Wythe, 1915-2003

Corporate Bodies

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United Nations