

David Atlee Phillips Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

2004

Revised 2010 April

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009050>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm88075637>

Prepared by Bradley E. Gernand
Revised and expanded by Karen Linn Femia

Collection Summary

Title: David Atlee Phillips Papers

Span Dates: 1929-1989

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1943-1988)

ID No.: MSS75637

Creator: Phillips, David Atlee, 1922-1988

Extent: 840 items ; 6 containers ; 2.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Intelligence officer, author, and newspaper publisher. Correspondence, research material, drafts of books and articles, court transcripts, and other papers primarily relating to Phillips's career as an intelligence officer with the Central Intelligence Agency.

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.

People

Goulden, Joseph C.--Correspondence.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Assassination.

Letelier, Orlando--Assassination.

Niehous, William Frank, 1931-2013.

Phillips, David Atlee.

Organizations

United States. Central Intelligence Agency.

Subjects

Kidnapping--Venezuela.

Terrorism--Venezuela.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, German.

Places

Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.

Occupations

Authors.

Intelligence officers.

Publishers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of David Atlee Phillips, intelligence officer, author, and newspaper publisher, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Virginia Phillips, in 1988. An addition to the collection was given by Joseph C. Goulden in 2003.

Processing History

The papers of David Atlee Phillips were arranged and described in 1995. The addition was organized and the register revised in 2004.

Transfers

Audio and video recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Newspapers have been transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the David Atlee Phillips Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of David Atlee Phillips in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of David Atlee Phillips are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, David Atlee Phillips Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1922, Oct. 22	Born, Fort Worth, Tex.
1940-1941	Student, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
1941-1942	Student, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Tex.
1943-1945	United States Army Air Corps
1944	Prisoner of war, Germany
1948	Married Helen Hausman Haasch (divorced 1967) Moved to Chile
1948-1949	Student, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile
1948-1954	Owned and edited <i>South Pacific Mail</i> , Chile
1950-1954	Contract agent, Central Intelligence Agency, Chile
1954	Directed Central Intelligence Agency clandestine radio service to Guatemala during Arbenz coup
1955	Converted from nontenured contract agent to career officer, Central Intelligence Agency
1955-1957	Covert assignments, Central Intelligence Agency, Cuba and Lebanon
1958-1961	Owned and operated David A. Phillips Associates public relations firm, Cuba
1960-1961	Directed Central Intelligence Agency clandestine radio service to Cuba
1961	Joined State Department

1961-1965	Assigned to Mexico
1965-1967	Assigned to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
1968-1969	Assigned to Washington, D. C.
1969	Married Virginia Pederson Simmons
1970-1972	First secretary, United States embassy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1972	First secretary, United States embassy, Caracas, Venezuela
1973-1975	Reassigned to Washington, D. C. Chief, Central Intelligence Agency Latin American operations
1975	Retired from State Department and Central Intelligence Agency; founded Association of Former Intelligence Officers
1975-1988	Lecturer, Potomac Lecture Bureau
1977	Published <i>The Night Watch</i> . New York: Atheneum
1984-1988	Owned and operated Stone Trail Press
1988	Central Intelligence Agency Seal Medal Published <i>Secret Wars Diary</i> . Bethesda, Md.: Stone Trail Press
1988, July 7	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of David Atlee Phillips (1922-1988) span the years 1929-1989 and include correspondence, reports, court documents, literary works, and miscellaneous papers. While documenting most phases of his life beginning with his army service in 1943, the papers especially reflect Phillips's long association with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) beginning about 1950 and ending with his retirement in 1975.

The general correspondence file chiefly concerns family and personal matters. A small subject file contains correspondence as well as court documents, reports, articles, and miscellaneous material regarding published charges that Phillips, as a CIA operative, participated in, planned, or otherwise engaged in the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and former Chilean foreign minister Orlando Letelier. Phillips brought legal actions against those who made these accusations. Also included among the subject material are items concerning Phillips's captivity and escape from a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp during World War II, and papers, reports, and interviews he compiled under commission by the William Niehous family to write a history of the events surrounding Niehous's kidnaping and captivity by Venezuelan guerrillas in 1976. Niehous, an American corporate executive, was held hostage abroad longer than any other American before him.

The writings file contains miscellaneous writings, a speech, unpublished typescripts of short stories, and book-length manuscripts. The subjects include American prisoners of war in Germany, Americans in Latin America, and the CIA.

A miscellaneous file includes biographical notes, certificates, clippings, passports, and a book regarding the CIA from which Phillips clipped passages because he disagreed with the text. These passages were considered examples of erroneous reporting on the CIA and were used by Phillips in presentations defending the agency.

An addition to the papers consists primarily of material relating to the publication of Phillips's final book, *Secret War Diaries*, and his correspondence with Joseph C. Goulden. The correspondence covers Goulden's efforts to help with libel actions against persons who accused Phillips of involvement in the Kennedy assassination and also represents a continuing discussion of the various writing projects of both men, including *Secret War Diaries*.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged as general correspondence, writings, miscellany, and an addition, then alphabetically by type of material or topic.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1929-1985
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Kennedy, John F., assassination, 1976-1987 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Letelier, Orlando, assassination, 1975-1987 (3 folders)
BOX 2	(4 folders)
BOX 2	Niehous, William F., kidnaping and captivity, 1976-1979 (5 folders)
BOX 3	(2 folders)
BOX 3	Prisoner of war in Germany, 1943-1986 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Writings
BOX 3	"Behind Hitler's Wire, the Story of American P.O.W.s in Nazi Germany," undated
BOX 3	"Double-Blind," undated (1 folder)
BOX 4	(2 folders)
BOX 4	"Inside the Secret CIA," undated
BOX 4	Miscellaneous short stories and articles, 1943, 1976-1986, undated
BOX 4	"Popcorn in the Andes," circa 1954
BOX 4	"The Snow Job," circa 1945-1947
BOX 4	Speech on Chile, circa 1954-1955
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Biographical notes, 1965-1986
BOX 5	Certificates, 1968
BOX 5	Clippings, 1943-1982
BOX 5	Passports, 1976-1984
BOX 5	Photographs, circa 1970s
BOX 5	Promotional advertisements for books, 1943-1982
BOX 5	Quirk, John Patrick, <i>The Central Intelligence Agency</i> , with passages removed by Phillips, 1986
BOX 5	Addition
BOX 5	Correspondence with Joseph Goulden, 1976-1984, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1975-1982, undated
BOX 5	Obituary notices, 1988
BOX 6	Quirk, John Patrick, 1988-1989
BOX 6	<i>Secret Wars Diary</i>
BOX 6	Correspondence and miscellany, 1988, undated
BOX 6	Page proofs, incomplete
BOX 6	Annotated, 1988, undated
BOX 6	Not anotated, 1988