

Angelo Patri Papers

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Prepared by Martin Elzy

Collection Summary

Title: Angelo Patri Papers

Span Dates: 1904-1962

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1924-1962)

ID No.: MSS47167

Creator: Patri, Angelo, 1876-1965

Extent: 30,000 items ; 90 containers ; 35.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Educator and author. Professional and personal correspondence, copies of Patri's syndicated column Our Children, radio scripts, and other writings and papers reflecting his role as an educator and popularizer of progressive educational principles.

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

Dewey, John, 1859-1952.

Patri, Angelo, 1876-1965.

Subjects

Child rearing.

Children.

Education--New York (State)--New York.

Education.

Newspapers--Sections, columns, etc.

Progressive education.

Public schools--New York (State)--New York.

Radio scripts.

School principals--New York (State)--New York.

Occupations

Authors.

Educators.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Angelo Patri, educator and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Frank P. Merolla, executor of the Patri estate, in 1966.

Processing History

The papers of Angelo Patri were arranged and described in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Angelo Patri Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Angelo Patri is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Angelo Patri 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, Angelo Patri Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1876, Nov. 26	Born in Italy
1881	Emigrated to the United States
1897	A.B., College of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
1898-1908	Teacher in public schools, New York, N.Y.
1904	A.M. Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1908-1913	Principal of Public School No. 4, New York, N.Y.
1911	Publication by Eugenio Cherubini of Patri's translation of <i>Pinocchio in Africa</i> . Boston: Ginn
1913-1944	Principal of Public School No. 45, New York, N.Y.
1917	Published <i>Schoolmaster of the Great City</i> . New York: Macmillan
1922	Published <i>Child Training</i> . New York: D. Appleton
1923	Published <i>Talks to Mothers</i> . New York: D. Appleton Began writing syndicated column, Our Children
1924	Published <i>The Spirit of America</i> . New York: American Viewpoint Society
1925	Published <i>School and Home</i> . New York: D. Appleton
1926	Published <i>The Problems of Childhood</i> . New York: D. Appleton, edited by Clinton E. Carpenter
1926	Published <i>What Have You Got to Give</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Page
1928	Published <i>Pinocchio in America</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran
1929	Published <i>Pinocchio's Visit to America</i> . Boston: Ginn

1930	Publication by C. Collodi (Carlo Lorenzi) of Patri's translation of <i>The Adventures of Pinocchio</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran
1939	Appointed to New York City Radio Board, New York, N.Y., by Fiorello H. LaGuardia
1940	Published <i>The Parents Daily Counselor</i> . New York: Wise-Parslow
1942	Appointed to Mayor's War Council, New York, N.Y., by Fiorello H. LaGuardia
1943	Published <i>Your Children in Wartime</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday
1944	Became director of American Relief for Italy
1948	Published <i>How to Help Your Child Grow Up</i> . Chicago: Rand McNally
1951	Published <i>Biondino, an Italian Reader</i> . New York: S. F. Vanni
1965, Sept. 13	Died, Danbury, Conn

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Angelo Patri (1876-1965) are dated 1904-1962, although the bulk of the material is from 1924 to 1962. The material reflects Patri's role as a popularizer of John Dewey's progressive educational principles and indicates the evolving nature of education and child rearing from the 1920s to the 1960s. Almost no papers relating to Patri's personal life or role in civic affairs are included. The collection is organized into four series: [Personal Correspondence](#); [Professional Correspondence](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); and [Miscellany](#).

The [Personal Correspondence](#) includes letters exchanged with friends, advertisers, and publishers. The [Professional Correspondence](#) consists of letters to Patri from people seeking child-rearing advice. Although this correspondence covers the period 1924-1962, the bulk of the letters is dated 1924-1939. Patri invited those who read his syndicated column *Our Children* and who heard his radio programs to write him about their family problems. He then responded personally to each request for assistance. Patri claimed in 1934 that he received as many as five thousand letters each month from the public. The letters from troubled parents disclose the problems of child rearing during the 1920s and 1930s. Many of Patri's correspondents questioned various practices of public and private schools; a few sought marital advice. Several of the letters illustrate family hardships caused by the Depression.

More than half of the [Speech, Article, and Book File](#) consists of typewritten copies of Patri's syndicated column from its inception in 1923 to the last column in 1962. Another large segment is composed of radio scripts dated 1928-1943. Supplementing the column articles and radio scripts are product endorsements, a pageant, children's short stories, and an unpublished typewritten autobiography of Patri's years as a public junior high school principal in New York City.

Included in the biographical material in the [Miscellany](#) series are biographical articles and a few items documenting his social life, as well as a registration book from Columbia University indicating that John Dewey was one of his professors. The financial material consists of account books, bills and receipts, and income tax material.

Although Patri's writings, especially his syndicated columns, reflect his advocacy of the principles of progressive education associated with John Dewey, there is almost no material in the papers demonstrating Patri's practical application of Dewey's principles as a school administrator.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Personal Correspondence, 1904-1957](#)

- Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962
- Miscellany

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Personal Correspondence, 1904-1957</u> Letters received and carbons of letters sent. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereafter.
BOX 2-37	<u>Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962</u> Letters received and carbons of letters sent consisting of requests for child-rearing advice and Patri's replies. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 38-86	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962</u> Typewritten and printed copies of radio scripts, newspaper and serial articles, pamphlets, tracts, and books. Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder where possible. Some undated radio dramatizations have been arranged alphabetically by title and undated articles have been left unarranged.
BOX 87-90	<u>Miscellany</u> Biographical material, mailing lists, financial material, printed matter, student writings, and a teacher survey. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Personal Correspondence, 1904-1957 Letters received and carbons of letters sent. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereafter.
BOX 1	A-Z
BOX 2-37	Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962 Letters received and carbons of letters sent consisting of requests for child-rearing advice and Patri's replies. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	Jan. 1924-15 Mar. 1925
BOX 3	16 Mar. 1925-Jan. 1926
BOX 4	Feb.-Nov. 1926
BOX 5	Dec. 1926-Mar. 1928
BOX 6	Apr.-8 Aug. 1928
BOX 7	9 Aug.-Dec. 1928
BOX 8	Jan.-26 Mar. 1929
BOX 9	27 Mar.-27 May 1929
BOX 10	28 May-22 Aug. 1929
BOX 11	23 Aug.-12 Nov. 1929
BOX 12	13 Nov. 1929-15 Jan. 1930
BOX 13	16 Jan. 1930-Jan. 1931
BOX 14	Feb.-Mar. 1931
BOX 15	Apr.-May 1931
BOX 16	June-Aug. 1931
BOX 17	Sept. 1931-14 June 1932
BOX 18	15 June-July 1932
BOX 19	Aug.-22 Sept. 1932
BOX 20	23 Sept.-24 Oct. 1932
BOX 21	25 Oct.-21 Nov. 1932
BOX 22	22 Nov. 1932-19 Jan. 1933
BOX 23	20 Jan.-14 Feb. 1933
BOX 24	15 Feb.-Nov. 1933
BOX 25	Dec. 1933-12 Feb. 1934
BOX 26	13 Feb.-11 Mar. 1934
BOX 27	12 Mar.-4 Apr. 1934
BOX 28	5 Apr.-8 May 1934
BOX 29	9 May-June 1934
BOX 30	July 1934-4 Mar. 1936
BOX 31	5 Mar.-26 Aug. 1936
BOX 32	27 Aug. 1936-May 1937

Professional Correspondence, 1924-1962

Container

Contents

BOX 33 June 1937
BOX 34 Mar.-May 1938
BOX 35 23 Sept.-6 Nov. 1938
BOX 36 7 Nov. 1938-July 1939
BOX 37 Aug. 1939-1962, undated

BOX 38-86

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962

Typewritten and printed copies of radio scripts, newspaper and serial articles, pamphlets, tracts, and books.

Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder where possible. Some undated radio dramatizations have been arranged alphabetically by title and undated articles have been left unarranged.

BOX 38 Radio scripts
BOX 38 Partial list of scripts
BOX 38 Scripts
BOX 38 8 Jan. 1928-1931
BOX 39 Jan.-Apr. 1932
BOX 40 May 1932-Mar. 1933
BOX 41 Apr. 1933-2 Dec. 1943
BOX 41 Undated
BOX 41 Campbell's Soup Co.
BOX 41 Child Training Association
BOX 41 Eastman-Kodak
BOX 41 National Education Association
BOX 42 Dramatizations
BOX 42 A-P
BOX 43 Q-Z
BOX 43 Public addresses
BOX 43 Articles
BOX 43 Our Children, syndicated column
BOX 43 Partial list of titles
BOX 43 1923-Apr. 1925
BOX 44 May 1925-May 1926
BOX 45 June 1926-May 1928
BOX 46 June 1928-Sept. 1929
BOX 47 Oct. 1929-Dec. 1930
BOX 48 31 Aug. 1931-Mar. 1933
BOX 49 Apr. 1933-June 1934
BOX 50 July 1934-Sept. 1935
BOX 51 Oct. 1935-Dec. 1936
BOX 52 Jan. 1937-Mar. 1938
BOX 53 Apr. 1938-June 1939
BOX 54 July 1939-Dec. 1940
BOX 55 Jan. 1941-June 1942
BOX 56 July 1942-Sept. 1943
BOX 57 Oct. 1943-Dec. 1944

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962

Container

Contents

BOX 58	Jan. 1945-Mar. 1946
BOX 59	Apr. 1946-June 1947
BOX 60	July 1947-Sept. 1948
BOX 61	Oct. 1948-Dec. 1949
BOX 62	Jan. 1950-Mar. 1951
BOX 63	Apr. 1951-June 1952
BOX 64	July 1952-Sept. 1953
BOX 65	Oct. 1953-Dec. 1954
BOX 66	Jan. 1955-Mar. 1956
BOX 67	Apr. 1956-June 1957
BOX 68	July 1957-Sept. 1958
BOX 69	Oct. 1958-Dec. 1959
BOX 70	Jan. 1960-Mar. 1961
BOX 71	Apr. 1961-Mar. 1962
BOX 72-75	Undated
BOX 76	Printed 19 June 1950-29 Dec. 1951
BOX 77	"Wherever Children Are"
BOX 77	"What's the Trouble?"
BOX 77	Product endorsements
BOX 77	Appalachian Apple Service
BOX 77	<i>The Book of Knowledge</i>
BOX 77	Leo Burnett Co.
BOX 77	National Tariff Committee
BOX 77	Television Association
BOX 77	Timely Toys Co.
BOX 77	Treasury Department
BOX 77	Walton School of Commerce, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 77	Newspapers
BOX 77	<i>Brooklyn Daily Eagle</i> , undated
BOX 77	<i>Chicago Daily News</i> , undated
BOX 77	<i>Cincinnati Enquirer</i> , 29 Apr. 1946
BOX 77	<i>Colorado Weekly</i> , 8 Dec. 1923
BOX 77	<i>Hartford Times</i> , 20 May 1952
BOX 78	<i>Oakland News</i> , 28 Mar. 1939
BOX 78	<i>Perth Amboy Evening News</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Richmond Times</i> , undated
BOX 78	Magazines and periodicals
BOX 78	<i>Children's Activities</i> , 1927, 1946-1951, undated
BOX 78	<i>Advertisement</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>American Magazine</i> , 1925, 1926, undated
BOX 78	<i>Child Study</i> , Dec. 1930
BOX 78	<i>Christian Herald</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Christian Science Sentinel</i> , 25 Apr. 1953
BOX 78	<i>City College Alumnus</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Collier's</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Delineator</i> , 1921, 1923-1925, undated

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962

Container

Contents

BOX 78	<i>Eagle Magazine</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Faith</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Farmer's Wife</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>L'Americolo</i> , 1926
BOX 78	<i>Liberty</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>McCall's</i> , 1926, undated
BOX 78	National Education Association publication, 25 May 1939
BOX 78	<i>New Near East</i> , Oct. 1924
BOX 78	<i>New York Supervisor</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Parents Magazine</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Recreation</i> , undated
BOX 78	<i>Red Cross Magazine</i> , 1919-1920, undated
BOX 79	<i>Redbook</i> , 1926-1927, 1937-1938, 1941-1942, 1944-1951, undated
BOX 79	<i>Rotarian</i> , undated
BOX 79	<i>Saturday Review of Literature</i> , undated
BOX 79	<i>Selected Books for Juniors</i> , undated
BOX 79	<i>This Day</i> , undated
BOX 79	<i>Woman's Day</i> , undated
BOX 79	<i>Young Wives</i> , 1936-1937, 1939-1941, 1945-1952, undated
BOX 79	<i>Youth Today</i> , 1938-1939, 1941, undated
BOX 80	Miscellaneous articles for magazines, newspapers, and periodicals
BOX 80	Feb.-May 1940
BOX 80	Undated
BOX 81	Undated
BOX 82	Undated
BOX 82	Forewords to books
BOX 82	Forewords to <i>Lippincott Lifetime Library</i> series
BOX 82	"Sex Instruction"
BOX 82	Tracts
BOX 82	Children's book
BOX 82	<i>Nino</i>
BOX 82	<i>The Singing Candle</i>
BOX 83	Children's short stories
BOX 83	Children's pageant
BOX 83	Unpublished autobiography
BOX 83	<i>Problems of Childhood</i> , introduction
BOX 83	Books
BOX 83	<i>Your Children in Wartime</i>
BOX 83	<i>Pinocchio in America</i>
BOX 83	First aid book
BOX 83	Book chapter, unidentified
BOX 84	Miscellaneous writings
BOX 84	Questions and answers for possible book
BOX 85	Questions and answers for possible book
BOX 85	Radio scripts proposed for articles
BOX 85	Essays selected for reissuance

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1962

Container

Contents

BOX 86	Essays selected for reissuance
BOX 86	Letters to children proposed for book
BOX 86	Chart of childhood characteristics
BOX 86	Printed articles and Christmas greetings
BOX 86	Article in Italian
BOX 87-90	Miscellany Biographical material, mailing lists, financial material, printed matter, student writings, and a teacher survey. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 87	Survey of teachers
BOX 87	Mailing lists
BOX 87	1932-1934
BOX 88	1934-1935
BOX 88	Answers to questionnaire
BOX 88	Autobiography of a sixteen-year old student, 1936
BOX 88	"George Washington: My Diary," by an eleven-year old student
BOX 88	Printed matter
BOX 88	Letters of recommendation
BOX 88	Biographical material
BOX 89	Account books
BOX 89	Banking material
BOX 89	Bills and receipts
BOX 89	Income tax material
BOX 90	Income tax material
BOX 90	State and national income tax returns
BOX 90	Notes and notations