The papers of W. Sprague Holden, Chairman of Wayne State University's Department of Journalism, were placed in the University Archives in November of 1974 by Mrs. Sheila Holden. They were opened for research in May of 1981.

Willis Sprague Holden was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1909. His education included public schools in that city, an A.B. from the University of Michigan in 1930, a M.A. from Columbia University in 1932, and graduate courses taken in the 1960's through the University of Michigan with the intention of working toward a Ph.D degree. He married Edna Richart—known as Sheila—in 1934.

Between 1926 and 1936, he wrote for the Grand Rapids Herald, Detroit Free Press, Time, and San Francisco Argonaut. He was editorial writer for the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal, 1936-1940, and the Detroit Free Press, 1940-1946. Holden then became professor of journalism at Wayne State University in 1946. He served as chairman of the journalism department from its establishment in 1949 until his death in 1973. He continued to contribute frequently to newspapers and magazines during that time.

A major focus of Holden's interest was Australian journalism. Under a Fulbright grant, he and his wife travelled to Australia in 1956-1957. His study of its metropolitan newspapers resulted in his book, Australia Goes to Press, published by Wayne State University in 1961.

In 1966, the Holdens made a second Australian trip, with the support of another Fulbright award and a Ford Foundation grant. The purpose of this sabbatical was to study the Australian conciliation-arbitration system, particularly as it related to newspaper disputes.

The papers of W. Sprague Holden concentrate on his 1966 study of the Australian arbitration method of handling newspaper disputes as compared to the American experience with newspaper disputes in the 1960s. Included among the correspondents is Oswald Garrison Villard, an influential American newspaper editor and publisher from 1897 to the 1940s. Villard's correspondence includes a discussion of American isolationism, and domestic and foreign policy during World War II. The collection includes Holden manuscripts, addresses, publications, and correspondence pertaining to the Australian trips, as well as some personal materials relating to his Fulbright Awards.
Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- American industrial relations, 1959-1969
- American isolationism, 1935-1949
- American newspaper disputes, 1933-1969
- Australia's compulsory arbitration system, 1900-1969
- Australian newspaper disputes, 1911-1969
- Australian newspapers, general, 1911-1967
- Journalism, 1935-1969

Among the important correspondents are:

(an index to the location of these letters will be found on the last page of the guide)

Syd Crosland
Sir Richard C. Kirby
C.B. Lavin
Rupert Murdoch
Rohan Rivett
Oswald Garrison Villard

Contents

8 manuscript boxes

Series I, Australian project material, 1900-1969; Boxes 1-4, Box 5 (folders 1-3) Clippings, correspondence, pamphlets and other materials relating to Holden's 1966 study of the Australian conciliation-arbitration system, specifically with regards to newspaper disputes

Series II, American project material, 1958-1969; Box 5 (folders 4-28), Box 6, Box 7 (folders 1-5) Primarily clippings, with some other materials such as reports, relating to American labor relations, newspapers, and newspaper disputes, predominantly in the 1960s.

Series III, Holden works and personal papers, 1951-1968; Box 7 (folders 6-33), Box 8 (folders 1-11) Manuscripts, addresses, publications, and other personal material of W. Sprague Holden. Personal materials relate to Holden's 1956 and 1966 Fulbright Awards and 1960s graduate studies program. Manuscripts as well as a few miscellaneous works.

Series IV, Correspondence, 1935-1966; Box 8 (folders 12-39) Correspondence to and from Holden from 1935 to 1967 (predominantly 1956-1962) usually discussing journalism or Holden's publications.

Non-manuscript material

Eight photographs of W. Sprague Holden, O.G. Villard, Rohan Rivett, and Australian newspapers have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collections.
Abbreviations

A - [The Australian]
ACTU - Australian Council of Trade Unions
AFL-CIO - American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations
AFR - Australian Financial Review
AGTP - Australia Goes to Press
AJA - Australian Journalists' Association
ALP - Australian Labor Party
ANC - Australian Newspapers Council
ANPA - American Newspaper Publishers Association
API - American Press Institute
Aust'la - Australia
Aust'ln - Australian
B'ham - [Birmingham]
CAB - Current Affairs Bulletin
CCAC - Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission
DN - Detroit News
DT - Daily Telegraph
E&P - Editor and Publisher
FP - Detroit Free Press
ILIR - Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University
IPI - International Press Institute
ITU - International Typographical Union
MFA - Michigan Press Association
NDP - [a neo-Nazi political party in Australia]
NSW - New South Wales
NYC - New York City
PIEU - Printing Industry Employees' Union
PKIU - Printing and Kindred Industries Union
SA - Southern Australia
SMH - Sydney Morning Herald
SR - Saturday Review
US - United States
WA - Western Australia
WSH - Willis Sprague Holden
Clipping, correspondence, pamphlets, and other materials related to Holden's 1966 Australian sabbatical. Holden collected material on Australian labor relations, Australian newspapers, their unions and disputes, and the Australian system of compulsory arbitration.

The files are divided into the following subseries:

1. General materials for the Holden project (folders 1:1-1:8)
2. Materials collected from geographic regions (1:9-1:19)
3. General information on newspapers (folders 1:20-2:14)
4. Newspaper unions (folders 2:15-2:26)
5. Newspaper disputes (folders 3:1-3:19)
7. General information on labor relations (folders 4:18-5:3)

Within each subseries, folders are arranged from general topics to more specific topics. Arrangement with the topic is chronological.

Dates such as "1951-1963" do not necessarily indicate a complete run but rather, that materials from 1951, 1963, and various dates inbetween are included.

Box 1

3. WSH project - correspondence, Dec, 1966-Jan, 1969
7. Printing and stationery industries; statistics, 1963-1964
16-17. Western Australia - publications, 1963-1966
18. -miscellaneous manuscript, 1963-1967
22. -summer school booklets, 1965-1967
23. Cadet journalists, WA; memos, Jan, 1966
Box 2

1. Cadet journalists - transcript, Oct 26, 1966
2. Libel and censorship - clippings, March-Aug, 1966
8. New South Wales Country Press Assoc'n competition, 1966
10. John Fairfax Ltd. - Annual Report, 1965
13. API - proposed Australian seminar; correspondence, June, 1968-Feb, 1969
15. PIEU and PKIU - pamphlets, clippings, 1960-1966
17-18. Printing industry awards and agreements, 1949-1965
19. AJA - presidential minutes, n.d.
20. - history, 1911-1967
23. - Victoria: Annual Report and Balance Sheet, Sept 1965
26. - general, memo, Oct 27, 1967

Box 3

1. Broadcaster - AJA claims, federal and state awards, n.d.
3. 1912 newspaper strikes, WA; notes, clippings, n.d., 1964
4. 1944 newspaper strike, Sydney; notes, n.d.
5. 1955 AJA dispute, Sydney; notes, n.d.
7. 1960 AJA strike, Newcastle; notes, n.d.
8. AJA strike, Perth; note, clippings, n.d., June, 1966
11. -Printing Trades Journal, March, April, 1966
12. PIEU vs. newspaper - hearing; notes, March 14-April 28, 1966
13. AJA strike - July-Oct, 1967
20-21. A New Province for Law and Order, 1922
Box 3 (Cont'd)

25. O'Dea, R. - arbitration; manuscript, clippings, July, 1966-Aug, 1967

Box 4

2. "Total Wage - An Analysis"; June 1968
3. Laffer, Kingsley - basic wage determination; article, n.d.
8. - arbitration or bargaining; article, March, 1965
9. - Aust'In arbitration; manuscript, correspondence, n.d., Feb, 1966
15. Commonwealth Industrial Court - notes, n.d.
16. Industrial Commission, NSW, WA; miscellaneous, Aug, 1900-Jan 1968
18. Industrial and Trade Unions - list, May, 1965
23. Kirby - director/employee relationships, manuscript, Feb, 1966
24. Industrial Relations Conference, NSW - preliminaries, 1967
25. - "The Place of Legislation..."; 1967
26. - "...Challenge of Development"; 1967
27. - Riordan address, 1967

Box 5

1. Industrial Relations Conference, New South Wales - "...Changes in... Labor Force", 1967
2. Postal strikes - booklet, clippings, April, 1966-March, 1969

Series II

American project material, 1958-1969
Box 5 (folders 4-28), Box 6, Box 7 (folders 1-5)

Mainly clippings as well as pamphlets and reports relating to American labor relations, newspapers, and newspaper disputes, predominantly in the 1960's. A few files compare the United States to other nations, such as Australia.
The files are divided into the following subseries:
1. Newspapers (folders 5:4-5:14)
2. Labor relations (folders 5:15-6:1)
3. Newspaper disputes (folders 6:2-7:5)
Within each subseries, folders are arranged from general topics to more specific topics. Arrangement within the topic is chronological.

Occasionally material on subjects will overlap. For example, Detroit newspaper disputes will be found in the general folder file labelled "Newspaper disputes" as well as in the folder labelled "Detroit newspaper disputes." Dates such as "1951-1963" do not indicate a complete run, but rather that material from 1951, 1963, and various dates inbetween are included.

Box 5

8-10. Sigel - newspaper readers; report, tables, [1965]
11. Newspaper readers' study - clippings, Sept 1, 1967
14. "Reporting the Detroit Riot"; booklet, April, 1968
16. Klein and Bloch - labor relations; interviews, July 1967
19. - clippings, May, Nov, 1967
20. Profit sharing - clippings, Feb, May, 1968
28. Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations - Project comparing collective bargaining in selected nations, 1968-1969

Box 6

5. "Mass Media Use During a Newspaper Strike" - manuscript, Aug, 1962
8. Criticism of newspapers and their strikes - clippings, pamphlets, April, 1962-April, 1967
17. - effect on retailers; study, Sept, 1964
18. - survey on its effect, Sept, 1964
19. - Governor Romney's statement, Oct 30, 1964
20. - Nov, 1964
23. - clippings, April-Aug, 1968, 1969

Box 7


Series III
Holden works and personal papers, 1951-1968
Box 7 (folders 6-33), Box 8 (folders 1-11)

This series includes personal materials of W. Sprague Holden such as his curriculum vita, Fulbright applications, and 1960s graduate studies program as well as some of his published and unpublished works.

The files are divided into the following subseries:
1. Personal material (folders 7:6-7:16)
2. Published and unpublished works by Holden related to his 1966 study of the Australian arbitration system, 1966-1968 (folders 7:17-8:2)
3. Miscellaneous published and unpublished works by Holden, 1951-1968 (folders 8:3-8:11)

Within the first subseries, folders are arranged from general topics to more specific topics. Arrangement within the topic is chronological. In the second and third subseries, arrangement is chronological.
16. Writing assignments - correspondence, notes, 1941, 1965-1969
17. "Australia, We Love You" - manuscript, n.d.
19. Australian printing unions - book review manuscript, 1966
22. Settling newspaper disputes - manuscript, correspondence, Sept, 1966
25. "Newspaper Strikes are Nearly Obsolete in Australia" - address, Jan, 1967
26. "How to stop newspaper strikes" - IEAD address, June, 1967
27. US and Aust'ln newspaper disputes - manuscript, correspondence, 1968
30. - miscellaneous notes, n.d.
32. Aust'ln arbitration system - manuscript, clipping, correspondence, 1966, 1968
33. "Why not compulsory arbitration?" series - manuscript, May-June, 1968

Box 8

2. "Instead of Newspaper Blackouts" - manuscript, Oct, 1968
3. "The Woolf Liz was Afraid of" - manuscript, n.d.
5. Bronze statue; manuscripts, 1951
6. Published articles - clippings, 1957-1965
7. Introduction to G. Pierrot address, Dec, 1961
9. "..Mutations in Language" - address, 1965
10. Cassandra, journalist - book review manuscript, correspondence, 1968
11. ...Power in Washington, - book review manuscript, correspondence 1968
Correspondence from 1935 to 1967 (predominantly 1956-1962) usually discussing journalism or Holden's publications. Arrangement is alphabetical according to the name of the individual or institution.

Of special importance is the correspondence from Oswald Garrison Villard from 1935 to 1949. Villard, descendant of William Lloyd Garrison and Henry Villard, was an influential American newspaper editor and publisher from 1897 to the 1940s. His correspondence with Holden is rich with discussion of journalistic responsibility, American isolationist sentiment and war policy, the interment of the Japanese, the Roosevelt cabinet, election campaigns, and other subjects.

Box 8

29. Reese, M. - reporting a trial; correspondence, clippings, March 23-April 25, 1958
34-36. - journalism, politics; correspondence, April, 1938-May, 1943
37. - Correspondence, June, 1943-Oct, 1949
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