

The Valery Burati Collection
Papers, 1932-1976 (predominantly 1948-1971)
9 Manuscript Boxes, 1 Oversize Box
4.5 linear feet

Accession Number 1351
LC Number MS

The papers of Valery Burati were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in January and February of 1988 and opened for research in July, 1989. Mr. Burati's career in labor spanned some five decades, from the 1930s as a labor organizer, until 1973, when he retired from the U.S. Civil Service as a desk officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). Valery Burati died in 1988.

Born on April 12, 1907 in the alpine village of Coman in Austrian Tyrol (now part of Italy), Valery Burati became a U.S. citizen after his parents, Michel Ermen Burati and Gisella Agnes (Donati) Burati, immigrated to America in 1909, and were naturalized in 1921.

A working-class family, Burati's parents settled on a small farm in Massachusetts, and Valery Burati spent his childhood here. He attended grammar school and high school in New England. While attending high school in Athol, Massachusetts, from 1920-1924, Burati did household chores, odd jobs, and also worked in a textile mill. It was during high school that Valery Burati indicated an aptitude for writing, and after graduating, he planned to attend college and pursue a course of study for a career in journalism.

Mr. Burati worked for four years, 1924-1928, in Springfield, Massachusetts as a clerk during the day and at night as a local sports reporter. He finally saved enough money to finance his higher education at Bates College, a small liberal arts school in Maine. Besides numerous extracurricular activities, Burati was politically active at this early date. He led a campaign which resulted in relaxing the "Blue Laws," or nuisance ordinances, on campus.

Upon graduation in 1932, during the Great Depression, Burati took a job as a reporter and a feature writer for the Springfield [Massachusetts] Union. During this time he took an active role in union organizing as well, eventually becoming the chairman of the New England Council of the American Newspaper Guild.

From 1937 until 1942, Valery Burati was New England CIO publicity director, and active in organizing locals, negotiating contracts, and settling grievances. By 1940, he had been transferred to New York and was serving as national editor and public relations director for the Textile Workers of America. Also in 1940, he married Idamae Beaudry, and was father to a stepson, Victor.

Mr. Burati was drafted into the army in September, 1942. He initially served in the air corps as an armorer and as a squadron intelligence specialist as an enlisted man. In 1944, Burati was commissioned as a lieutenant and served briefly in the Philippines, and then as a public relations officer for occupation forces in Japan.

After the Second World War, Valery Burati worked as the industrial relations director for Bellanca Aircraft in Delaware, and as the education director for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in Boston. In 1948, he was assigned to the Labor Division, Economic & Scientific Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander, Allied Powers (ESS, GHQ, SCAP), in Japan as a labor relations specialist—a job he had applied for while on active duty in the army in Japan.

In 1951 Mr. Burati was transferred out of Japan and sent to the Philippines as labor relations specialist serving the Mutual Security Agency, Foreign Operations Administration, Office of Labor Affairs (MSA, FOA). Valery Burati left government service in 1953, losing his job through the politically motivated reduction in strength dismissals undertaken by the new Eisenhower administration.

From 1953 until 1955, Burati worked as a free-lance writer, public relations consultant, and ultimately as executive director of the American Travel Association. In 1955, he became a consultant for the Economic Productivity Agency (EPA) in Europe, specializing in labor-management relations. Burati returned to government service in 1960 as a consultant to the International Cooperation Administration (ICA) and to AID, the Agency for International Development.

In 1962 Valery Burati became the Morocco Desk Officer for AID. In this capacity he acted as the liaison between the U.S. mission in Morocco and AID's Washington, DC headquarters and the Bureau for Africa-Europe, and coordinated policies and procedures of the foreign aid program. Mr. Burati held this post until his retirement in June of 1973.

The papers of Valery Burati reflect his work in international labor, and highlight the influence of U.S. economic policy on postwar Japan, Asia, and Africa.

Important subjects covered by this collection include:

- U.S. economic stabilization of Japan & Asia
- Unions & unionism in Japan & Asia
- Dismissal of suspected subversive workers in Japan
- Japanese Public Service Legislation
- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- Strikes and demonstrations in postwar Japan

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Important correspondents include:

George Baldanzi
Saxton Bradford
Richard L-G Deverall
Jay Lovestone
Asahi Okura
J.H. Oldenbroek

Jacob S. Potofsky
Victor Reuther
Michael Ross
Harold E. Stassen
Philip B. Sullivan

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1 oversize box

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Series II, Private Sector, 1955-1960, Box 9

Correspondence which documents Valery Burati's tenure in the private sector as a labor advisor in Europe with the Economic Productivity Agency (EPA).

Subseries A: Personal Papers, 1932-1976, Box 9,

Correspondence, clippings and other records that document Mr. Burati's career.

Series III, Scrapbook & Oversized Material, 1943-1950

One scrapbook of articles written by Valery Burati as an man in the Army during World War II; promotional picture Japan Hokkaido: Its Face and Heart, 1950; one oversized concerning the Red Purge in Japan; and one chart of the principal unions in Japan as of April, 1950, produced by the Labor Bureau of the Labor Ministry.

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report

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Non-manuscript Material:

Five photograph albums of labor activities, people and scenery in Japan, loose photographs concerning the Hashimoto case, and four May Day posters (c. 1951) have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collection.

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Series I
Government Service, 1946-1973, Boxes 1-9

Correspondence, memos, minutes, reports, newspaper clippings, press releases and other records of Mr. Burati's work as a labor advisor in Japan with the Labor Division, Economic & Scientific Section of General Headquarters, Supreme Commander, Allied Powers (ESS, GHQ, SCAP); in the Philippines as labor advisor with the Mutual Security Agency, Foreign Operations Administration, Office of Labor Affairs; and in Washington, DC and abroad as a labor advisor and desk officer with the International Cooperation Administration (ICA) and the Agency for International Development (AID). Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and documents chronologically within the file folders.

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Series II
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Subseries A, Personal Papers, 1932-1976, Box 9

Correspondence, clippings, and other records which document Mr. Burati's career. Included are clippings of Valery Burati's achievements in government service as a labor advisor as well as the clippings of Valery Burati, journalist. Pre-government employment and post-retirement correspondence are also included. Biographical information and employment history data may be found as well. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and documents are arranged chronologically within the file folders.

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One scrapbook of articles written by Valery Burati as an enlisted man in the Army during World War II; promotional picture book of Japan Hokkaido: Its Face and Heart, 1950; one oversized report concerning the Red Purge in Japan; and one chart of the principal unions in Japan as of April, 1950, produced by the Labor Policy Bureau of the Labor Ministry.

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