



ArchivesSpace

## **Guide to the Ronald Aronson Papers WSP002445**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 26, 2016.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

---

## Table of Contents

---

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information .....        | 3 |
| History .....                    | 4 |
| Scope and Content .....          | 4 |
| Arrangement .....                | 5 |
| Administrative Information ..... | 5 |
| Related Materials .....          | 6 |
| Controlled Access Headings ..... | 6 |

---

## Summary Information

---

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Walter P. Reuther Library  |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Aronson, Ronald, 1938-   |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Ronald Aronson Papers  |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | WSP002445  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1977-2013  |
| <b>Date [bulk]:</b>              | bulk   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 5 Linear Feet 5 SB   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 39.3 Megabytes 3 folders   |
| <b>Physical Location:</b>        | 4S-H-13(4); 3W-K-1(6)  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | Material primarily in English, with some French and Spanish.   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | <p>Ronald Aronson, a Detroit native, was educated at Wayne State University, the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Michigan, and Brandies University, where he earned his PhD in the History of Ideas. A renowned expert on the work of Jean-Paul Sartre, Aronson's has actively worked to study the New Left and the nature of hope and its relation to political commitment. Aronson taught at Wayne State University from 1968 to 2013 in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, during which time he was actively involved in the Center for Democratic Values, the writing of a number of books, and the creation of two feature-length documentaries, <i>Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman</i> (2004) and <i>1st Amendment on Trial: The Case of the Detroit Six</i> (2005). This collection consists of material from throughout Ronald Aronson's professional career, including articles by and about him and his work; materials generated by the Center for Democratic Values; and research materials generated during the production of his two documentaries. The vast majority of the audio-visual materials included consist of interviews conducted for the documentaries, and a significant portion of the manuscript materials consist of interview transcripts. Other research materials include extensive copies of newspaper materials from the 1930s-50s, relating to Wellman and the Michigan Six trial.</p> |

## Citation Style

"Ronald Aronson Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## History

---

Ronald Aronson, a Detroit native, was educated at Wayne State University, the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Michigan, and Brandies University, where he earned his PhD in the History of Ideas. A renowned expert on the work of Jean-Paul Sartre, Aronson's has actively worked to study the New Left and the nature of hope and its relation to political commitment. Aronson taught at Wayne State University from 1968 to 2013 in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, during which time he was actively involved in the Center for Democratic Values, the writing of a number of books, and the creation of two feature-length documentaries, *Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman* (2004) and *1st Amendment on Trial: The Case of the Detroit Six* (2005).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Content

---

This collection consists of material from throughout Ronald Aronson's professional career, including articles by and about him and his work; materials generated by the Center for Democratic Values; and research materials generated during the production of his two documentaries. The vast majority of the audio-visual materials included consist of interviews conducted for the documentaries, and a significant portion of the manuscript materials consist of interview transcripts. Other research materials include extensive copies of newspaper materials from the 1930s-50s, relating to Saul Wellman and the Michigan Six trial.

Series 1: Manuscript Materials, 1980-2013

Series 2: Audio-visual Materials, 1977-2005

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

The collection is arranged into 2 series.

Folders in each series are listed by their location within each box. They are arranged by subject and rough chronological order.

Series 1: Manuscript Materials, 1980-2013 (Box 1-2) Series 2: Audio-visual Materials, 1977-2005 (Box 3-5)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

### Acquisition

Materials were donated to the Reuther Library by Ronald Aronson in 2013 and 2015.

### Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Kris Kniffen on April 6, 2016.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the

Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

## Other Copies

Some material is also available in the Reuther Library's digital hold.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Nat Ganley and Saul Wellman Papers, Nat Ganley Papers,  
Saul Wellman Book Collection

### Transfers

3 Boxes of audio and video tapes have been transfered to the audio-visual department.

Several digital files have been uploaded into the digital hold.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Socialism
- Communism
- Smith Act Trial, Detroit
- The Michigan Six
- Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman
- 1st Amendment on Trial: The Case of the Detroit Six
- Aronson, Ronald, 1938-
- Wellman, Saul
- Sartre, Jean-Paul, 1905-1980
- Center for Democratic Values

**Series 1**  
**Box 1**

- 1 Aronson Biography and Resume
- 2 Reviews of Aronson's Work, 1980-1981
- 3 Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Application Materials, 1982-1985
- 4 Article offprints, 1985
- 5 Faculty Recognition Award Application Materials, 1987-1995
- 6 Articles, by and about Aronson, 1986-2013
- 7 Articles and Reviews, 1988-1989
- 8 Articles on Jewish Themes, 1988 - 1993
- 9 Reviews of "After Marxism," 1994-1996
- 10 "Oral History Interviews: Civil Rights, Labor, Feminism," edited by Aronson, 1995
- 11 Honors and Awards, 2001-2006
- 12 Seminars and Speeches, 2002, 2013
- 13 Sabbatical, 2007
- 14 "Living Without God" press coverage, 2008-2009
- 15 "Living Without God" publisher contract, 2009
- 16 Notes on Sartre (French)
- 17 Center for Democratic Values Brochure
- 18 Center for Democratic Values Left v. Right Materials, 1997
- 19 Center for Democratic Values 1997 Left v. Right Debate, 1997-1998
- 20 Center for Democratic Values C-SPAN Correspondence, 1997-1998
- 21 Center for Democratic Values Organizing Materials, 1997-1998
- 22 Center for Democratic Values Book Series Correspondence and Submissions, 1997-1999
- 23 Center for Democratic Values Bylaws, 1998
- 24 Center for Democratic Values Miscellaneous Notes and Correspondence, 1998-1999
- 25 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, 1980
- 26 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Oct. 22, 1986
- 27 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Nov. 1997
- 28 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interviews Referring to Detroit 6 Trial, 1997-2000
- 29 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Mar. 1998
- 30 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Sep. 1998
- 31 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Apr.-May 1999
- 32 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, 1999-2000
- 33 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Sep. 2000
- 34 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Dec. 2000
- 35 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, 2000-2001
- 36 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Feb. 2001
- 37 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, Apr. 24, 2001
- 38 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Interview Transcripts, 2002-2003
- 39 Saul Wellman Project Correspondence, 1997
- 40 Saul Wellman Project Announcement, 1998
- 41 Saul Wellman Film Project, Proposals and Planning, 1998-1999

**Box 2**

- 1 Saul Wellman Documentary Correspondence, 1998-2001

- 2 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Newspaper Research, 2001-2005 (1 of 3)
- 3 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Newspaper Research, 2001-2005 (2 of 3)
- 4 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Newspaper Research, 2001-2005 (3 of 3)
- 5 Saul Wellman Film Transcripts, 2002
- 6 Saul Wellman Obituaries, 2003
- 7 Saul Wellman Memorial Service, 2004
- 8 "Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman," Study Guide, 2005
- 9 "Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman," Promotion and News Coverage, 2005-2006
- 10 Excerpt on Saul Wellman
- 11 Saul Wellman Research Materials, Photographs (copies)
- 12 Copies of Detroit 6 Court Records, 1953-1954 (1 of 3)
- 13 Copies of Detroit 6 Court Records, 1953-1954 (2 of 3)
- 14 Copies of Detroit 6 Court Records, 1953-1954 (3 of 3)
- 15 Detroit Six Research, William Hundley Materials, 1999
- 16 Detroit Six Research, Judge Avern Cohn Materials, 1999
- 17 Detroit Six Research, Saul Wellman Interview by Judge Cohn, 2000
- 18 Detroit Six Research, Ernie Goodman Interview, 2000
- 19 Detroit Six Research, General, 2000-2001
- 20 Detroit Six Research, Interview Transcripts, 2000-2001
- 21 Detroit Six Research, Permissions and Release Forms, 2000-2005
- 22 Detroit Six Documentary Film Proposal and Planning, 2001-2006
- 23 Detroit Six Research, Judge Bernard Friedman Correspondence, 2005
- 24 "1st Amendment on Trial," Promotion and News Coverage, 2005-2006
- 25 Aronson Photographs, 1989
- 26 Oakland Press Newspaper Guild Strike Photographs, 1977
- 27 Digital materials, original disks

**Series 2**

**Box 3**

- 1 Cassette: Saul & David, Audio Dub 1, Apr. 24, 2001
- 2 Cassette: Saul & David, Audio Dub 3, Apr. 24, 2001
- 3 Cassette: Saul & David, Audio Dub 1, May 8, 2001
- 4 Cassette: Saul & David, Audio Dub 2, May 8, 2001
- 5 Cassette: Saul & David, Audio Dub 3, May 8, 2001
- 6 Cassette: Saul & David, Audio Dub 4, May 8, 2001
- 7 Cassette: Wellman A, (#1, 2), Sep. 2000
- 8 Cassette: Wellman A, (#3, 4), Sep. 2000
- 9 Cassette: Wellman B, (#5, 6), Sep. 2000
- 10 Cassette: Wellman B, (#7, 8), Sep. 2000
- 11 Cassette: Wellman C, (#9, 10), Sep. 2000
- 12 Cassette: Wellman C, (#11, 12), Sep. 2000
- 13 Cassette: Saul's Dinner #1
- 14 Cassette: Saul's Dinner #2
- 15 Cassette: Saul's Dinner #1 and 2
- 16 Cassette: Saul's Dinner #3 and 4



- 17 Cassette: Wellman, Apr. 2003
- 18 Cassette: Unmarked
- 19 Cassette: Audio Dub #2, Apr. 24, 2001
- 20 Cassette: Fraser Ottinelli, Apr. 2000
- 21 Cassette: Wellman, (1, 2), Oct. 25
- 22 Cassette: Wellman, (3, 4), Oct. 25
- 23 Cassette: Wellman, (5, 6), Oct. 25
- 24 Cassette: Wellman, (7, 8), Oct. 25
- 25 Cassette: Wellman, (9, 10), Oct. 25
- 26 Cassette: Wellman, (11, 12), Oct. 25
- 27 Cassette: Wellman, (13, 14), Oct. 25
- 28 Cassette: Wellman, (1, 2), Apr. 28, 1999
- 29 Cassette: Wellman, (3, 4), Apr. 28, 1999
- 30 Cassette: Wellman, (5, 6), Apr. 28, 1999
- 31 Cassette: Wellman, (7, 8), May, 1999
- 32 Cassette: Wellman, (9, 10), May, 1999
- 33 Cassette: Wellman, (11, 12), May, 1999
- 34 Cassette: Wellman, (13, 14), May, 1999
- 35 Cassette: Wellman, (15, 16), May, 1999
- 36 Cassette: Wellman, (17, 18), May, 1999
- 37 Cassette: Wellman, (19, 20), May, 1999
- 38 Cassette: Wellman, (21), May, 1999
- 39 Cassette: Wellman, (21), May, 1999
- 40 Cassette: Wellman 88th Birthday Party (1, 2), Sep. 1998
- 41 Cassette: Wellman 88th Birthday Party (3), Sep. 1998
- 42 Cassette: Wellman, (1, 2), Nov. 14
- 43 Cassette: Wellman, (5), Nov. 14
- 44 Cassette: Wellman, (5 cont., 6), Nov. 14, Mar. 1998
- 45 Cassette: Wellman, (7, 8), Mar. 1998
- 46 Cassette: Wellman, (9, 10), Mar. 1998
- 47 Cassette: Wellman, (11, 12), Mar. 1998
- 48 Cassette: Wellman, (13, 15), Mar. 1998
- 49 Cassette: Wellman, (16, 17), Mar. 1998
- 50 Cassette: Wellman, (1,2), Feb. 2001
- 51 Cassette: Wellman, (3), Feb. 19, 2000
- 52 Cassette: Friedman, Wellman/Art (3, 4, Pt. 1), Sep. 12
- 53 Cassette: Wellman/Art (4 Pt. 2), Sep. 12
- 54 Cassette: Chris Schein Interview
- 55 Cassette: Victor Navasky Interview
- 56 Cassette: "Wellman Film" Dec. 2003
- 57 Cassette: Pat Frye, (1, 2), Apr. 2000
- 58 Cassette: Ave and Lou, (1, 2), Apr. 2001
- 59 Cassette: Ave and Lou, (3, 4), Apr. 2001
- 60 Cassette: Ernie Goodman
- 61 Cassette: "Shoot" (1, 2), Mar. 28, 2003
- 62 Cassette: Aronson Forum, Jun. 8, 1989
- 63 DVD: "Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman," 2005
- 64 DVD: "1st Amendment on Trial: The Case of the Detroit Six," 2005
- 65 7" reel: "October 1917, Revolution," Ron Aronson, 1974

- 66 Umatic: Unmarked
- 67 VHS: "Saul Wellman," Reel 1 and 2, 1979
- 68 VHS: "Saul Wellman," Reel 3 and 4, 1979
- 69 VHS: "Saul Wellman," Reel 5, 1979
- 70 VHS: "The Red Menace," Herbert J. Yates, Restored, 1991
- 71 VHS: "GCIU Convention," 1992, 1996
- 72 VHS: "Arguing with the Right Debate," Master, 1997
- 73 VHS: "Left v. Right Debate," 1997
- 74 VHS: "Saul Wellman," 1 and 2, Nov. 14, 1997
- 75 VHS: "Saul Wellman," 3 and 4, Nov. 14, 1997
- 76 VHS: "Saul Wellman, Screening and Party," 5, Nov. 14, 1997
- 77 VHS: "Democratic Values and American Economy," C-SPAN, Jan. 4, 1998
  
- 78 VHS: Center for Democratic Values "Affirmative Action in Higher Education," Nov. 22, 1998
- 79 VHS: "Wellman 6," Mar. 1998
- 80 VHS: "Wellman 7," Mar. 1998
- 81 VHS: "Wellman 8," Mar. 1998
- 82 VHS: "Wellman 10," Mar. 1998
- 83 VHS: "Wellman 11 Prison," Mar. 1998
- 84 VHS: "Wellman 12, David," Mar. 1998
- 85 VHS: "Wellman 13, David," Mar. 1998

**Box 4**

- 1 VHS: "Saul Wellman 85th Birthday," Tape 1, Sep. 1998
- 2 VHS: "Saul Wellman 85th Birthday Party," Tape 2, Sep. 1998
- 3 VHS: "Wellman Birthday Party Stills," Tape 3, Sep. 1998
- 4 VHS: "Wellman," 1 and 2 Window, Apr. 28, 1999
- 5 VHS: "Wellman," 3 and 4, Apr. 28, 1999
- 6 VHS: "Wellman," 5 and 6 Window, Apr. 28, 1999
- 7 VHS: "Wellman TC 7," May, 1999
- 8 VHS: "Wellman TC 8," May, 1999
- 9 VHS: "Wellman TC 9," May, 1999
- 10 VHS: "Wellman TC 10," May, 1999
- 11 VHS: "Wellman TC 11," May, 1999
- 12 VHS: "Wellman TC 12," May, 1999
- 13 VHS: "Wellman TC 13," May, 1999
- 14 VHS: "Wellman, TC 14, Wayne State Panel," May, 1999
- 15 VHS: "Wellman, TC 15, Wayne State Panel Questions," May, 1999
- 16 VHS: "Wellman, TC 16 Wayne State Panel," May, 1999
- 17 VHS: "Wellman TC 17 Wayne State Panel Questions," May, 1999
- 18 VHS: "Wellman TC 18 Outside," May, 1999
- 19 VHS: "Wellman, TC 19," May, 1999
- 20 VHS: "Wellman, TC 20," May, 1999
- 21 VHS: "Wellman, TC 21," May, 1999
- 22 VHS: "Wellman 1, Breakfast with Saul," Oct. 25, 1999
- 23 VHS: "Wellman 2, Breakfast with Saul," Oct. 25, 1999
- 24 VHS: "Wellman 3, Breakfast with Saul," Oct. 25, 1999
- 25 VHS: "Wellman 4, DSA Dinner Cut-aways," Oct. 25, 1999
- 26 VHS: "Wellman 6, DSA Dinner, Saul's Awards," Oct. 25, 1999

- 27 VHS: "Wellman 7, DSA Dinner Speech," Oct. 25, 1999
- 28 VHS: "Wellman 8, Conversation with Jim," Oct. 25, 1999
- 29 VHS: "Wellman 9, Conversation with Jim," Oct. 25, 1999
- 30 VHS: "Wellman 10, Helen," Oct. 25, 1999
- 31 VHS: "Wellman 11, Saul's History," Oct. 25, 1999
- 32 VHS: "Wellman 12, Saul's History," Oct. 25, 1999
- 33 VHS: "Wellman 13, Saul's History," Oct. 25, 1999
- 34 VHS: "Wellman 14, Documents, Certificate," Oct. 25, 1999
- 35 VHS: "DSA/UAW Dinner, Unedited," Oct. 26, 1999
- 36 VHS: "DSA Dinner, Master," Oct. 26, 1999
- 37 VHS: "Pat Frye," 1, Apr. 2000
- 38 VHS: "Pat Frye," 2, Apr. 2000
- 39 VHS: "Fraser 3," Apr. 2000
- 40 VHS: "Fraser 4," Apr. 2000
- 41 VHS: "Wellman A," 1-4, Sep. 2000
- 42 VHS: "Wellman B," 5-8, Sep. 2000
- 43 VHS: "Wellman C," 9-12, Sep. 2000

**Box 5**

- 1 VHS: "GCIU Convention," Tape 2, 2000
- 2 VHS: "Saul and David," Tape 1, May 8, 2001
- 3 VHS: "Saul and David," Tape 2, May 8, 2001
- 4 VHS: "Saul and David," Tape 3, May 8, 2001
- 5 VHS: "Saul and David," Tape 4, May 8, 2001
- 6 VHS: "Saul and David," Tape 5, May 8, 2001
- 7 VHS: "Saul and Katie," Tape 1, Apr. 29, 2001
- 8 VHS: "Saul and Katie," Tape 2, Apr. 29, 2001
- 9 VHS: "Saul and Katie," Tape 3, Apr. 29, 2001
- 10 VHS: "Saul and Katie," Tape 4, Apr. 29, 2001
- 11 VHS: "Wellman, Lou, and Abe," 1 and 2, Apr. 30, 2001
- 12 VHS: "Wellman, Lou, and Abe," 3 and 4, Apr. 30, 2001
- 13 VHS: "One Man in His Time Assembly," Nov. 21, 2001
- 14 VHS: "One Man in His Time Assembly," Dec. 26, 2001
- 15 VHS: "One Man in His Time" Sample, Apr. 2002
- 16 VHS: "Saul Wellman Shoot," Tape 1, Mar. 28, 2003
- 17 VHS: "Saul Wellman Shoot," Tape 2, Mar. 28, 2003
- 18 VHS: "Saul Wellman Shoot," Tape 3, Mar. 28, 2003
- 19 VHS: "Saul Wellman and Fraser, NY VALB," Apr. 29, 2003
- 20 VHS: "Phil Hutchings," 1 and 2, Jun. 03, 2003
- 21 VHS: "Sheila Cockrel," 1, Jun. 05, 2003
- 22 VHS: "Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman," 2004
- 23 VHS: "Victor Navasky," Detroit Public Television," May 2005
- 24 VHS: "Aronson/Montel," Detroit Public Television," Sep. 13, 2005
- 25 VHS: "Michigan 6," Detroit Public Television," Sep. 13-15, 2005
- 26 VHS: "Lee Bolinger for Smith Act Trial," Sep. 26, 2005
- 27 VHS: "Michal Belknap," Oct. 14, 2005
- 28 VHS: "I/II," Jan. 2-3
- 29 VHS: "Saul Wellman Professional Revolutionary," Window Dub, Feb. 12
- 30 VHS: "Arguing the World"
- 31 VHS: "Finally Got the News," MP-L 632

- 32 VHS: "Chicken Farmers," BITC, The National Center for Jewish Film
- 33 VHS: "Rex Hotel," Window Dub 7, Vicente Franco
- 34 VHS: Unmarked, Detroit Public Television
- 35 VHS: Unmarked, Detroit Public Television
- 36 VHS: Unmarked

**Digital Hold:**

CD: "Ron Aronson" 3/17/08, Rick Bielaczyc (photographer)  
Floppy: "Jean-Paul Sartre Philosophy in the World Web Files"  
3 CDs: Book?