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The University Archives
and Records Center

A Guide to the
Thomas Childs Cochran Papers
1949-1969

10.0 Cubic feet

UPT 50 C663

Prepared by F.J. Dallett and Karen D. Stevens

1972

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PROVENANCE

Gift of Thomas Childs Cochran, 1972 (accession 1972-46).

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is organized in five series: General Correspondence, Professional Organizations, Teaching and Writing, Writing, General File. Each series is arranged chronologically or alphabetically depending upon the content.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Economic historian, educator and author; B.S. and M.A., New York University, (1923, 1925) and Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, (1930); faculty, Dept of History, New York University, (1927-1950); faculty, Dept. of History, Univeristy of Pennsylvania, (1950-1972); notable for his contributions to the development of numerous professional organizations with which he was associated during his career including National Bureau of Economic Research, the Committee on

Research in Economic History, the Economic History Association, the Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, National Records Management Council, Social Science Research Council, Society for American Studies, New York Commission on Business Records; recognized for his role in advocating the preservation of business and corporation records as source material for the study of American civilization; author of numerous publications in American economic history which reflect this viewpoint.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Cochran Papers are in three parts. The first includes Professor Cochran's general correspondence from 1942 to 1950 as a member of the history department at New York University, his undergraduate alma mater, and from 1950 to 1966, during the greater part of his career at the University of Pennsylvania. The second and most significant division of the collection consists of correspondence relating to the more than twenty regional, national, and international learned societies and organizations with which the historian was affiliated between 1942 and 1969.

Papers dealing with Thomas Cochran's teaching and writing from the third segment. Lecture notes and syllabi from courses taught in his two universities (the earliest date from 1927, three years before he received his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania), papers of associates and students, correspondence with co-editors and with his publishers (Harper, Crowell, Knopf, McGraw-Hill, and Scribner are represented) are all here, together with articles and speeches by Dr. Cochran, clippings and reviews of his work, and a file of reviews written by him. Some pleasant memorabilia are included, a Valentine from his wife, Ro Cochran, to whom nearly every correspondent sent greetings, and the certificate of membership in the American Philosophical Society, one of Cochran's many honors.

The quality of Tom Cochran's writing and teach, his breadth of knowledge and quiet humility, earned him the executive position in the National Bureau of Economic History, the Economic History Association, and in the Organization of American Historians. Cochran served as editor of the Journal of Economic History and as a member of Council of the American Historical Association. A picture of the growth of these organizations, synonymous with Professor Cochran's own professional development, and of the interplay of the individuals who directed their destinies, emerges from the Cochran Papers.

Thomas Cochran's own view of business as an organic and fundamental institution of American civilization, and his concern with the changing role of entrepreneurship of the Americas, shaped

the course of his writing. The sharing of these historical theories and interests determined the pattern of the historian's movements - where he was and with whom - as it did the pattern of his correspondence. Tom Cochran directed the Commercial Relations Attitudes Project at the University of Puerto Rico in the 1950s and held the Pitt Professorship at Cambridge University in the 1960s.

Not surprisingly, his correspondence included Howard K. Beale, Daniel J. Boorstin, Rudolf A. Clemen, Arthur H. Cole, George W. Corner, Merle Curti, Oscar Handlin, Fred Harvey Harrington, R. Strugis Ingersoll, Walter Johnson, Emmett J. Leahy, Allan Nevins, Roy F. Nicholas, M.M. Postan, Richard H. Shryock, and William Miller, coeditor with Cochran of *The Age of Enterprise*. As the correspondence is a general one, letters to and from his peers are intermingled with notes of warm encouragement sent by the brilliant teacher of history to young colleagues and students. Cochran's golf partners also have their day in the sun.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Corporate Name(s)

- American Historical Association.
- Committee on Research in Economic History.
- Economic History Association (U.S.).
- National Bureau of Economic Research.
- National Records Management Council.
- New York Commission on Business Records.
- New York University. -- General subdivision--Faculty.;
- Organization of American Historians.
- Social Science Research Council. Historiography Committee.
- Society for American Studies.
- University of Pennsylvania. Dept. of History. -- General subdivision--Curricula.;

Genre(s)

- Articles.
- Correspondence.
- Lecture notes.

- Manuscripts (for publication).
- Memorabilia.
- Outlines.
- Reviews (Criticism).
- Speeches.
- Syllabi.

Geographic Name(s)

- United States--Economic conditions--Study and teaching (Higher).
- United States--Economic conditions.

Occupation(s)

- Americanists.
- Historians.

Subject(s)

- Business records--United States.
- Economic history.
- History--Societies, etc.

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INVENTORY

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE	Box	Folder
Part One		
1942-1948 (at NYU)	1	1
1949-1950 (at NYU)	1	2
1950 (at UP)	1	3
1951 (at UP)	1	4
1952 (at UP)	1	5
1953 (at UP)	1	6
1954 (at UP)	1	7
1955 (at UP)	1	8
1956 (at UP)	1	9
1957 (at UP)	1	10
1958 (at UP)	1	11
1959 (at UP)	1	12
1960 (at UP)	1	13
1961 (at UP)	1	14

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1962 (at UP)	1	15
1963 (at UP)	1	16
1964 (at UP; 2 items only)	1	17
1965 (at UP)	1	18
1966 (at UP)	1	19
1954-1956 (at U. of Puerto Rico)	1	20
Undated and fragmentary	1	21
Budget and fiscal material, including foundation grants, 1951-1966	1	22
Part Two		
1940	4	1
1941	4	2
1942	4	3
1944	4	4
1945	4	5
1946	4	6
1947	4	7
1948	4	8
1949 (1)	4	9
1949 (2)	4	10
1950	4	11
1951 (1)	4	12
1951 (2)	4	13
1952	4	14
1953	4	15

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1954	4	16
1955	4	17
1956	4	18
1957	4	19
1958	4	20
1959	4	21
1960	4	22
1961	4	23
1962	4	24
1963	4	25
1964 (1)	4	26
1964 (2)	4	27
1964 (3)	4	28
1965	4	29
1966	4	30
1967 (1)	5	1
1967 (2)	5	2
1967 (3)	5	3
1968 (1)	5	4
1968 (2)	5	5
1969 (1)	5	6
1969 (2)	5	7
1970 (1)	5	8
1970 (2)	5	9

1971 (1)	5	10
1971 (2)	5	11
1972 (1)	5	12
1972 (2)	5	13
1973 (1)	6	1
1973 (2)	6	2
Part Three		
1973	9	
1974 (4 folders)	9	
1975 (6 folders)	9	
1976 (4 folders)	9	
1977 (4 folders)	9	
1978 (2 folders)	9	
Individuals		
Kenneth Burke, 1941-1969	6	3
Merle Curti, 1946-1971	6	4
Arthur H. Cole, 1947-1952	6	5
Arthur H. Cole, 1956-1959	6	6
Arthur H. Cole, 1963-1971 (partial; see also General Correspondence files)	6	7
Frederic C. Lane 1966-1968	6	8
Sir Denis Brogan (and Commager?), 1965 and n.d.	6	9
David Mandel, 1951-1967	6	10
David Mandel, 1968-1971	6	11
Subjects		

"Methodology" and "fundamental concepts in economic history," 1943-1949	6	12
Writing of history of individual films, 1945-1949	6	13
"Why Norristown?" 1952-1953	6	14
"McGraw-Hill Project," 1955-1958	6	15
"Books", 1955-1962	6	16
"Committee on Historical Analysis, 1956-1961	6	17
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1959-1963	6	18
Dunning Prize, 1960	6	19
The Inner Revolution, 1963-1964	6	20
Organization of American Historians, 1965-1967	6	21
United States Information Service, 1966-1967	6	22
Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, 1968-1970	7	1
American Historical Association, 1969	7	2
American Historical Association, 1972 (1)	7	3
American Historical Association, 1972 (2)	7	4
American Historical Association, 1973	7	5
Benjamin Franklin Papers, 1969-1970	7	6
American Society for Legal History, 1970	7	7
St. Regis Paper Co. Project, 1973	7	8
Course Outlines and Bibliographies (NYU, 1939-49)	7	9
Course Lectures and Notes: "Twentieth Century"	7	10
"Basic History of American Business," drafts (1)	7	11
"Basic History of American Business," drafts (2)	7	12
Puerto Rico		

Writings, Correspondence and Reference files, 1955-1956 (1)	7	13
Writings, Correspondence and Reference files, 1955-1956 (2)	7	14
Reports of interviews with local firms (1)	7	15
Reports of interviews with local firms (2)	7	16

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	Box	Folder
American Council of Learned Societies, 1947-1955	2	1
American Historical Association, 1944-1966	2	2
American Historical Association: Dunning Prize Committee, 1963-1966	2	3
Commercial Relations Attitudes Study, 1955-1956	2	4
Committee on Research in Economic History, Part 1, 1942-1954	2	5
Committee on Research in Economic History, Part 2, 1955-1969	2	6
Economic History Association, 1940-1966	2	7
National Bureau of Economic Research, 1950-1951	2	8
National Records Management Council, 1948-1960	2	9
New York Committee for the Preservation of Business Records, 1939-1948	2	10
Social Science Research Council, 1944-1966	2	11
Sociedad Industrial Americana Maquinarias (Buenos Aires), 1958-1963	2	12
Society of American Historians, 1941-1950	2	13
Society for American Studies, 1945-1951	2	14
United States Information Agency, 1960-1964	2	15
Miscellaneous organizations: The Business Historical Society, 1950-1951; Lexington Group, 1950; Mississippi Valley Historical Association, 1946-1959; Organization of American Historians, 1965	2	16
Miscellaneous organizations and UP: Various printed manuals and memoranda	2	17

TEACHING AND WRITING	Box	Folder
Course and Lecture notes, 1927-1950 (NYU) File #1	3	1
Course and Lecture notes, 1927-1950 (NYU) File #2	3	2
Lectures and Syllabi, 1940-1950 (NYU)	3	3
Lectures and Syllabi, History Dept. (UP)	3	4
Teaching notes and files, American Civilization (UP)	3	5
Papers of Students and Associates	3	6
Correspondence with Co-editors and Publishers (Harper, Crowell, Knopf, McGraw-Hill, Scribner), 1948-1966	3	7
Correspondence re history of Pabst Brewing Co., 1944-1948	3	8
Correspondence re history of Norristown, Pa., 1951-1952	3	9
Articles, lectures and speeches	3	10
The Catholic Church in America, annotated typescripts (TCC)	3	11
"Entrepreneurship," correspondence and writings of TCC and others, 1949-1962	3	12
Clippings of reviews of works by TCC	3	13
Book Reviews by TCC	3	14
GENERAL FILE	Box	Folder
American Business in the 20th Century, proofs	10	1
American Business in the 20th Century, rough draft	10	2
American Business in the 20th Century, rough draft	10	3
American Historical Association	10	4
Atomic Energy	10	5
Benjamin Franklin Papers	10	6

Bicentennial	10	7
Bicentennial Coordinating Committee	10	8
Business in American Life, McGraw Hill	10	9
The Business Revolution, AHR, December 1974	10	10
Center for the Study of Organizational Innovation at University of Pennsylvania	10	11
Comparative History, Thrupp	10	12
Doubleday Lecture	10	13
Eastern College Library	10	14
Hall of Fame	10	15
Japan	10	16
Journal of American History article	10	17
Miscellaneous, family	10	18
Miscellaneous, window sill, 1970's	10	19
Odds and Ends, retyped	10	20
Pennsylvania History, Pennsylvania State Papers	10	21
Report to Sun History Project Advisory Committee, June 14, 1978	10	22
St. Regis	10	23
Scholarly Resources	10	24
Scribner's Dictionary	10	25
John Shuman	10	26
Summer Seminar	10	27
Why A History of Business (3 folders)	10	28-30

WRITING**Box****Folder**

Railroad Leaders, drafts	8	1
Railroad Leaders, notes and correspondence, 1950-53 (1)	8	2
Railroad Leaders, notes and correspondence, 1950-53 (2)	8	3
"Business in American Life," drafts (1)	8	4
"Business in American Life," drafts (2)	8	5
The Inner Revolution, drafts, 1964 (1)	8	6
The Inner Revolution, drafts, 1964 (2)	8	7
The Inner Revolution, typescript, 1964	8	8
"Government and Business in the Age of Washington."	8	9
"History and Cultural Crisis" (AHA Address), drafts (1)	8	10
"History and Cultural Crisis" (AHA Address), drafts (2)	8	11
"American Hawaiian Steamship Company," 1944-1947	8	12
Encyclopedia Article	8	13
Miscellaneous Minor Writings	8	14
A New Interdisciplinary Seminar	8	15
The Social History of the Corporation in the U.S., Thomas Cochran, 1940	8	16
The Judgment of History on American Business - Stanley Pargellis, 1943	8	17
New York City Business Records: A Plan for Their Preservation - Thomas Cochran, 1944	8	18
Bulletin of the Business Historical Society, Oct. 19	8	19
The Economics in a Business History, Dec. 1945	8	20
A Plan for the Study of Business Thinking, Thomas Cochran, March 1947	8	21
The Presidential Synthesis In American History, Thomas Cochran, July 1948	8	22

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Manuscripts Set Up by the American Historical Association in Dec. 1948	8	23
Los Comervantes Puertorriquenos Y el Cambio Social, Thomas Cochran, 1948	8	24
Role and Sanction in American Entrepreneurial History, Thomas Cochran, 1949	8	25
A Decade of American Histories by Thomas C. Cochran, April 1949	8	26
Bulletin of the Business Historical Society, Sept. 1	8	27
Journal of Economic History, 1950	8	28
Bulletin of the Business Historical Society, Dec. 1951	8	29
Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography - July 1956	8	30
A New Era In United States History - Thomas Cochran 1952	8	31
Business and Railroad History: An Appraisal of 10 years work - Thomas Cochran 4-16-1952	8	32
Reprinted from The Business History Review, Vol. 26, #4, Dec.1954	8	33
The Social Sciences and the Problem of Historical Synthesis - Thomas Cochran, 1954	8	34
History and Social Sciences - Thomas C. Cochran, Sept. 195S	8	35
Capital Formation and Economic Growth, 1956	8	36
Business and the Democratic Tradition - Thomas Cochran, March-April 1956	8	37
Publication of the American Jewish Historical Society - Vol. 46, #3 (March 1957)	8	38
Business History Review, Vol. 36, #1, Spring 1958	8	39
Journal of Economic History, March 1959	8	40
Journal of Economic History, Dec. 1960	8	41
The Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Sept. 1961	8	42
Behavioral Science, Vol. 9, #2, April 1964	8	43

History of A Business Society 54, #1, June 1967	8	44
International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences 1968	8	45
American Historical review, Vol. 74, June 1969	8	46
A Memoir	8	47