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John H. Backer papers 4078422

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Backer, John H., 1902-
Title:	John H. Backer papers
ID:	4078422
ID:	MS#0058
Date [inclusive]:	1945-1985
Physical Description:	11 linear feet 25 boxes
Language of the Material:	English , German .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); John H. Baker papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical sketch

Author and diplomat John H. Backer, 1902-1985 (Columbia M.A., 1955), served in the Economic Divivion of General Lucius D. Clay's Military Government in Germany (OMGUS) from 1945 to 1948. As a member of the U.S. Foreign Service he held important posts in Germany and in the Soviet Union. His publications include: "Priming the German Economy: American Occupational Policies" "The Decision to Divide Germany: America's Foreign Policy in Transition" and "Winds of History: the German Years of Lucius DuBignon Clay."

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Scope and Content

Correspondence, manuscripts, reports, research files, audiotapes, and photographs documenting Backer's research and writing on General Clay and post war German affairs; his service in the military government, as a member of the Foreign Service, and as the supervisor of the U.S. Information Agency officer in numerous German cities. In researching his three books, Backer interviewed a number of public and military figures on audiotapes. There are several letters each from W. Averell Harriman, John Kenneth Galbraith, George Kennan, and John J. McCloy. The collection includes several boxes of photocopies of documents from various sources.

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Arrangement

Selected items cataloged; remainder arranged. Boxes 1-10: Winds of History; Boxes 11-14: Priming the German Economy; Boxes 15-19: The Decision to Divide Germany; Boxes 20-23: Misc.; Box 24: Lecture notes & microfilms; Box 25: Tapes.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD created by PTL EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-26 2011-11-15 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

Boxes 2-25 are located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Backer, Mrs. John. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--12/30/85. Accession number--M-85-12-30.

Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of Mrs. John H. Backer, 1985.

Processing Information

Papers Processed AR/BRC 08/06/86.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Reconstruction (1939-1951) -- Germany

- Germany -- History -- 1945-1955
- Photographic prints
- Authors
- Diplomats
- Clay, Lucius D (Lucius DuBignon), 1897-1978

Collection Inventory

Series I: Winds of History	
Title/Description	Instances
Catalogued Correspondence:	box 1
Couve de Murville, M.	box 1
Dulles, Eleanor	box 1
Eisenhower, Milton S.	box 1
Galbraith, John Kenneth	box 1
Harriman, W. Averell	box 1
Hayakava, Samuel I	box 1
Javits, Jacob K.	box 1
Kennan, George	box 1
McCloy, John Jay	box 1
Correspondence, arranged	box 1
Research Material	box 1
Bibliography	box 1
Research Files:	box 2
Correspondence	box 2
Interviews:	
Bennett, Jack	box 2
Dr. Bowie	box 2
Boyd, Col. James	box 2
General Casey	box 2
Clay, Lucius D. III	box 2
Donnan, Edloe	box 2
Feeny & Lemley	box 2

Graeber, Bill	box 2
Interviews:	box 3
Allen, Margaret	box 3
Ambassador Riddleberger	box 3
Bierman, Franz	box 3
Boyle, Lt. Gen. A.J.	box 3
Donnan, Edloe	box 3
Hallock, Richard	box 3
Hill, Russ	box 3
Howley, Gen. Frank	box 3
Humphrey, Don	box 3
Jacobs, George R.	box 3
Keenan, Joseph	box 3
Kennan, George	box 3
McCloy, John J.	box 3
McLean, Donald, Jr.	box 3
O'Donnell, James P.	box 3
Rubin, Seymour	box 3
Interviews:	box 4
Saltzman, Charles	box 4
Trudeau, Gen. Arthur	box 4
Smith, Jean	box 4
Werts, Leo	box 4
Stratton, Gen. James	box 4
Wiesner, Louis	box 4
Sundquist, James	box 4
Wilkinson & Wedemeyer, Albert C.	box 4
Other interviews and memoirs	box 4
Photographs used in the book (one oversized Folder shelved on top of Box 5)	box 5
Coal, Bizonia	box 6
Papers of Dr. Charles Kindleberger	box 6
Denazification	

	box 6
Decartelization	box 6
War Crimes	box 6
Laenderrat	box 6
Photocopies of official documents from National Archives and other source	box 7
Photocopies of official documents from National Archives and other sources	box 8
Book Excerpts (photocopies)	box 9
Clippings from New York Times	box 10
Excerpts from periodicals and books	box 10

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Series II: Priming the German Economy

Title/Description	Instances
Research Files, Chapters 1 & 2 (Photostatic copies of official documents)	box 11
Research Files, Chapters 2 (con't) & 3 (Photostatic copies of official documents)	box 12
Research Files, Chapter k (Photostatic copies of official documents)	box 13
Research Files, Chapters 5 & 6 (Photostatic copies of official documents)	box 14

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Series III: The Decision to Divide Germany

Title/Description	Instances
Typed manuscript	box 15
Correspondence	box 15
Research Files, Chapters 1-3	box 16
Research Files, Chapters 4-7	box 17
Research Files, Chapters 8-11	box 18
Research Files, Chapters 12-13	box 19

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Series IV: Miscellaneous	
Title/Description	Instances
German Historical Institute	box 20
Articles by J. Backer	box 20
Correspondence	box 20
Research Files, misc.	box 21
Research Files	box 22
"Organized Labor in Postwar Germany" by Louis- Wiesner	box 22
"The Denazification Program in the U.S. Zone of Germany" by Wm. E. Griffith	box 23
Lecture notes relating to Marxism, Soviet Studies and other topics	box 24
Microfilms of documents from various military archives	box 24
Tapes - 76 total	box 25

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