



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## Richard S. Childs papers 4078600

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: 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](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Summary .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Correspondence .....	6
Series II: Subject File .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Childs, Richard S. (Richard Spencer), 1882-1978
<b>Title:</b>	Richard S. Childs papers
<b>ID:</b>	4078600
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0218
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1918-1977
<b>Physical Description:</b>	15.5 linear feet 37 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, memoranda, reports, clippings, and other printed materials, 1918-1977, of Richard Spencer Childs.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Richard S. Childs papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Political reformer, publicist. Richard Spencer Childs (1882-1978) was chairman of the National Municipal League, 1931-1978, chairman of the Citizens Union of New York, 1941-1950, president of the Proportional Representation League, and active in many other civic organizations. Among other interests, he promoted the short ballot movement and the city manager plan, and he worked for a responsible election process.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Summary

---

Correspondence, manuscripts, memoranda, reports, clippings, and other printed materials of Childs.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

This collection is arranged in two series: Series I: Correspondence; Series II: Subject File

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

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](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

xml document instance created by Alison Rhonemus. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2012-04-02 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is 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.

### **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**

Source of acquisition--National Municipal League. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1982. Accession number--M-82.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

Gift of the National Municipal League, 1982.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 04/17/1989.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **Controlled Access Headings**

---

- United States -- Politics and government -- 20th century
- New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1865-1951
- New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1951-
- New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- 1898-1951
- New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- 1951-
- Reformers
- National Municipal League
- Citizens Union of the City of New York

- Proportional Representation League

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series I: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
1968-1977	box 1
(Bound Carbons), 1970-1974	box 2
(Bound Carbons), 1970-1974	box 3
(Bound Carbons), 1970-1974	box 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Subject File

Title/Description	Instances
<i>Abstracts of state constitutional provisions...</i> Working papers, 1966-1967	box 5
Bollens, John C., 1974-1975	box 5
The Brookings Institution, 1954-1956	box 5
Childs, Richard S.: articles, reports, and personal, 1918-1974	box 5
Citizens Union of the City of New York, 1948-1974	box 6
<i>Civic victories...</i> By R.S.C. Later working papers,, 1952-1954	box 7
Committee for Modern Courts, Inc., 1964-1965	box 7
Coroner reform (and <i>Best states for murder.</i> By R.S.C.), 1955-1975	box 8
County Manager/Council Manager/City Manager	box 9
Democratic Party, 1968-1972	box 10
<i>Digest of county manager charters and laws.</i> Working papers, 1971-1976	box 11
Election systems project, 1971-1973	box 11
<i>First 50 years/ First 60 years.</i> Working papers, 1970-1973	box 11
Independent Citizens' Committee for Goldstein-McGoldrick-Pette, 1945-1946	box 11

International City Management Association, 1965-1976	box 12
Judges and judicial reform, 1918-1976	box 13
Judges and judicial reform, 1918-1976	box 14
Judges and judicial reform, 1918-1976	box 15
League of Women Voters - addresses	box 16
Lehigh University, 1972	box 16
Lost causes, 1949-1973	box 16
Misc. data re. book, 1970-1971	box 16
Misc. "No answer", 1968-1971	box 16
Misc. outgoing circulars, 1968-1969	box 16
Marshalls - the abolition of city marshalls, 1962-196?	box 17
Model election systems (Model..., Conn, challenge primary, etc.)	box 18
Model election systems (Model..., Conn, challenge primary, etc.)	box 19
Model election systems (Model..., Conn, challenge primary, etc.)	box 20
Model election systems (Model..., Conn, challenge primary, etc.)	box 21
Model elections - literacy tests	box 22
New York primary, 1965-1976	box 23
Political Science Caucus (Caucus for a New Political Science), 1969-1977	box 23
New York State Charter Revision Commission (Decentralization, schools, etc.),, 1970-1977	box 24
New York State Charter Revision Commission (Decentralization, schools, etc.),, 1970-1977	box 25
New York State Charter Revision Commission (Decentralization, schools, etc.),, 1970-1977	box 26
Presidential primaries (Presidential nominations, other primaries, etc.),, 1956-1960	box 27
Presidential primaries (Presidential nominations, other primaries, etc.),, 1956-1960	box 28
Presidential primaries (Presidential nominations, other primaries, etc.),, 1956-1960	box 29
Public Education Association	box 30
Questionnaires	

re precinct realities - state party headquarters, 1971-1972	box 30
re. pre-primary guidance, 1971	box 30
Returnable deposit in New Mexico and Detroit, 1966-1973	box 30
School elections, 1969-1975	box 30
Short ballot, 1961	box 31
State government pitch, 1954	box 31
<i>State party structures and procedures.</i> , 1966-1968	box 31
<i>State party structures and procedures.</i> , 1966-1968	box 32
<i>State party structures and procedures.</i> , 1966-1968	box 33
<i>State party structures and procedures.</i> , 1966-1968	box 34
State party structures ( <i>Inside 100 state parties.</i> ), 1969-1976	box 35
<i>Unfinished political reforms.</i> , 1974-1976	box 36
<i>Unfinished political reforms.</i> , 1974-1976	box 37
Misc.	box 36
Misc.	box 37

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)