



# ArchivesSpace

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## William J. McGill papers4079709

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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>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	McGill, William J. (William James), 1922-1997
<b>Title:</b>	William J. McGill papers
<b>ID:</b>	4079709
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0822
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1929-1979
<b>Physical Description:</b>	23.35 linear feet 56 document boxes and 1 oversize folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William J. McGill papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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William J. McGill received an AB and MA from Fordham and the Ph.D. from Harvard. After serving as an assistant professor at MIT, McGill joined Columbia's Department of Psychology in 1956, became associate professor in 1958 and full professor two years later, serving as chairman of the psychology department from 1961 to 1963. He left Columbia for five years to become a professor and chancellor at UC San Diego and returned to Columbia as president in 1970. His administration was marked by recovery from a state of fiscal instability, growth in fund raising, construction of several major facilities, curricular innovations and establishment of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities. In 1980, McGill retired to La Jolla, California following his tenure as president.

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## Summary

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Correspondence, memoranda, notes, speeches, scientific data, photographs and printed material. Half of the collection relates to McGill's research and writing in the fields of experimental and mathematical psychology, particularly in the psychology of perception, and contains drafts of papers, notes, class materials and works by others. Also included are files relating to McGill's chairmanship of the Carnegie Commission on the Future of Public Broadcasting, files pertaining to his participation on the New York State Special Advisory Panel on Medical Malpractice, and some papers from his chairmanship of the psychology department, and later chancellorship, of the University of California, San Diego. Some personal correspondence and documents are also included. Among the cataloged correspondence are John W. Gardiner, Edward M. Kennedy, Margaret Mead, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Jonas Salk, and Beverly Sills

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in four series: Series I: Correspondence; Series II: Subject Files; Series III: Psychology; Series IV: University of California at San Diego.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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

### **Revision Description**

PDF replaced with full finding aid (JR) 2020-06-29

### **Restrictions on Access**

The following boxes are located offsite: 2-56. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least three business in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection was restricted during the donor's lifetime.

### **Accruals**

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

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--McGill, William J. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1980. Accession number--M-1980.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

Gift of William J. McGill, 1980.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

Transfer from the President's Office, 1984.

### **Processing Information**

Entered in AMC 10/08/90.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

For additional materials related to McGill's tenure as University President, please consult [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#). Additional speeches and remarks can be found in the [William J. McGill speeches, 1971-1980 \(UA#0309\)](#).

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Broadcasting
- Medical personnel -- Malpractice
- Public broadcasting
- Psychology
- Lectures
- Photographic prints
- Memorandums
- Speeches (documents)
- College administrators
- Gardner, John W (John William), 1912-2002
- Kennedy, Edward M. (Edward Moore), 1932-2009
- Moynihan, Daniel P (Daniel Patrick), 1927-2003
- Salk, Jonas, 1914-1995
- Mead, Margaret, 1901-1978
- Sills, Beverly
- Carnegie Commission on the Future of Public Broadcasting
- University of California, San Diego
- Columbia University -- Presidents

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## Other Finding Aids

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[Legacy finding aid](#)

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## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Correspondence, 1941-1977

Title/Description	Instances	
Cataloged Correspondence		
Barzun, Jacques, 1970	box 1	folder 1
Gardner, John W., 1977 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 1	folder 2-5
Geisel, Theodor Seuss and Audrey, 1970	box 1	folder 6
Haley, Alex, 1977	box 1	folder 7
Hope, Bob, 1971	box 1	folder 8
Jackson, Barbara Ward (Lady), 1970	box 1	folder 9
Javits, Jacob K., 1970	box 1	folder 10
Johnson, Lady Bird Taylor (Mrs. Lyndon B.), 1972 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1	folder 11-12
Kennedy, Edward M., 1979	box 1	folder 13
Mead, Margaret, 1970	box 1	folder 14
Moynihan, Daniel Patrick, 1977	box 1	folder 15
Pusey, Nathan, 1970	box 1	folder 16
Rockefeller, David, 1970	box 1	folder 17
Salk, Jonas, 1969	box 1	folder 18
Sills, Beverly, 1978	box 1	folder 19
Sulzberger, Arthur Ochs, 1977	box 1	folder 20
Correspondence, 1941-1950	box 1	
1953-1956	box 1	
1956-1957	box 1	
Correspondence - Uncertainty Analysis, 1952-1960	box 1	
1958-1959 July	box 1	
1959 July-1960	box 1	
1960	box 1	
Correspondence		

1960-1965	box 2
1965-1968	box 3
1968-1970	box 4
1970	box 5
1970-1977	box 6

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## Series II: Subject Files

Title/Description	Instances
A	box 7
Ad Hoc Committees	box 7
American Psychological Association	box 7
American Psychological Association Paper, 1967	box 7
B	box 7
C	box 7
Career Development Review Branch, National Institutes of Health Columbia University	box 7
D	box 7
Davis, Angela - journal by William J. McGill	box 7
Duke University	box 7
E	box 7
Employment	box 7
F	box 7
Fitts, Paul M.	box 7
Fordham Alumni Dinner	box 7
G	box 8
Goldberg, James P.	box 8
Gordon Conference, 1967	box 8
Graham, Clarence H.	box 8
H	box 8
Harvard University	box 8
I	box 8



Industrial Acoustics Company Chamber Specifications	box 8
Institute for Information Systems	box 8
International Congress of Psychology, 1960	box 8
J	box 8
Job Descriptions	box 8
Johnson Foundation Awards, 1973-1974	box 8
Journal of Mathematical Psychology	box 8
K	box 8
L	box 8
M	box 9
McGill, Marie (Marcy)	box 9
McGill, William J.	
Personal, 1940-1960	box 9
School and College Records, 1929-1947	box 9
Hunger Drive (diet)	box 9
Sabbatical Leave, 1963	box 9
Photographs and miscellaneous items	box 9
Press releases	box 9
TV appearances, 1968-1970	box 9
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
Barnstable Summer Study, 1958	box 9
Operational Applications Lab	box 9
N	box 9
National Association of College & University Attorneys	box 9
National Science Foundation Grant, 1966-1968	box 9
O	box 9
Oxford University Press	box 9
P	box 10
Professional Psychology	box 10
Psychological Bulletin	box 10
Psychometric Society	box 10
Psychometrika	box 10

Psychonomic Press	box 10
Psychonomic Society	box 10
Publishers	box 10
R	box 11
S	box 11
Society of Experimental Psychologists	box 11
Speeches	
UCSD Library Goundbreaking,, 1968 July 1	box 11
Rotary Club, Torrey Pines, 1968 July 24	box 11
Rotary Club, San Diego, 1968 August 22	box 11
San Diego COC Keyman's Club, 1968 October 2	box 11
Muir College, 1968 October 3	box 11
Military Order of the World Wars - Admiral Kidd Club, 1968 October 15	box 11
Holy Name Society, Sacred Heart Church, Coronado, CA, 1969 May 4	box 11
UCSD Commencement, 1969 June 14	box 11
A Requiem for Joe College, 1969 July 7	box 11
The Problem of Freedom in the University, 1969 October 28	box 11
Joe College RIP, 1969 November 5	box 11
American Nuclear Society, 1969 November 12	box 11
The New Youth Culture - History in the Making, 1969 December 13	box 11
Youth in Turmoil - Implications for the Job World, 1969 December 14	box 11
ACLU, LeBaron Hotel, 1970 January 30	box 12
City Managers' Section, League of California Cities, 1970 February 27	box 12
Forum of the Foothills, 1970 April 5	box 12
Cancer Seminar, San Diego Naval Hospital, 1970 April 14	box 12
San Francisco Alumni, Columbia University, 1970 April 18	box 12
Alumni of Columbia University, 1970 June 2	box 12
Catholic University Commencement, 1970 June 7	box 12

American College Public Relations Association National Conference, 1970 June 7	box 12
President's Commission on Student Unrest, Los Angeles, 1970 August 4	box 12
American Bar Association, St. Louis, 1970 August 12	box 12
Miscellaneous texts, notes, correspondence and related material	box 13
Spiess Committee Report	box 14
Summer Conference	box 14
Summer Workshop <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 14
Sylvania Contract	box 14
T	box 14
U	box 14
University of California - Council and Assembly, 1968-1969	box 14
W	box 14
Western Psychological Association, Inc.	box 14
Z	box 14
Carnegie Commission on the Future of Public Broadcasting	
1977 June-September	box 15
1977 October-1978 March	box 16
1978 April-October	box 17
1978 November-1979 January	box 18
1979 February-June	box 19
New York, State of - Special Advisory Panel on Medical Malpractice	
Correspondence, notes and memoranda	
1975 June-August	box 20
1975 August-1976 January	box 21
Meetings	box 22
Reports	box 23

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**Series III: Psychology**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Works by William J. McGill	
Abstracts	box 24
American Psychological Association Paper ("Two Sources of Transmitted Information. . ."), 1953	box 24
American Psychological Association Paper ("Attention. . ."), 1958	box 24
Analysis of Information . . .	box 24
Application of Information Theory. . . (NYAS Paper)	box 24
Back to Personal Equations	box 24
Deutsch, J.A. - Realization of the Compartment Model – Comments	box 24
Equivalence of Detection Probabilities. . ., On the	box 24
General Gamma Distribution	box 24
Human Factors Research	box 25
Introduction to Counter Theory in Psychophysics	box 26
Isomorphism Paper	box 26
Loudness and Reaction Time	box 26
Loudness Function	box 26
Lousy Lectures	box 26
Luce, R.D., et al - Developments in Mathematical Psychology. . . - Review	box 26
Multivariate Information Transmission ("MIT")	box 26
Neural Counting	box 27
Poisson Counting	box 27
Polynomial Psychometric Functions in Audition	box 27
Psychophysics and the Ideal Observer (Symposium, International Congress), 1963	box 27
Pure Tone Intensity Discrimination	box 28
Random Fluctuations of Response Rate	box 28
Reaction Time	box 28
Recent Developments in the Theory of Reaction	box 28
Relation Between Information and Variance Analyses	box 28

Relation Between Uncertainty, Variance, and Correlation Analyses Reviews	box 28
Scaling of Subjective Estimates of Magnitude	box 28
Search Distributions in Magnified Time	box 28
Serial Effects	box 28
Statistical Description of Verbal Learning	box 28
Stochastic Latency Mechanisms	box 28
Study of the Near-Miss Involving Weber's Law. . .	box 29
Study of the Relationship Between Motor and Sensory Measures of Perseveration (Master's dissertation, Fordham University), 1947	box 29
Uncertainty Analysis - various talks	box 29
Variations on Marill's Formula	box 29
Visual and Auditory Counting Papers	box 29
Visual Detection	box 29
Visual Search	box 29
Miscellaneous works	box 29
Notes	
Analysis of Variance	box 30
Auditory Chapter	box 30
Click Suppression	box 30
Counter Model	box 30
Detection - Visual, Auditory Research	box 30
Discrete Counting Distributions and Analysis of Discrimination	box 31
Elastic Stochastic	box 31
Feller	box 31
General Gamma Distribution	box 31
Lab Experiments	box 31
Limulus	box 31
Loudness	box 31
<u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	
Loudness and Reaction Time Study	box 32
Loudness Experiment	box 32

Mathematics, Pure	box 32
Mathematical Papers and Tables in Uncertainty Analysis	box 32
Mathematical Psychophysics	box 32
Mathematics and Statistics	box 32
Mathematics, Committee on the Undergraduate Program in	box 32
Matrix Algebra	box 32
Mosteller and Tukey	box 33
Number Search Experiments	box 33
Photometry	box 33
Poisson Distribution	box 33
Psychophysics and Detection Theory	box 34
Quantitative Psychology	box 34
Random Noise	box 34
Random Walk Detectors	box 34
Random Walk Problem	box 34
Rate Fluctuations	box 34
Search Distributions	box 34
Statistical Behaviorism	box 34
Miscellaneous notes	box 35
Class Materials	
Notes	
Analysis of Variance	box 36
Colloquium	box 37
Introductory Psychology	box 37
Measurement, 1948	box 37
Motivation	box 37
Pro-Seminar, 1948-1949	box 37
Psychophysics and Sensory Psychology	box 37
Statistics	box 38
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	

**Separated Materials**

(1 folder, 1 binder)

UCLA Lecture Series	box 38
Miscellaneous	box 38
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	
Miscellaneous	box 39
Exams, assignments and class records	
Exams	box 39
Grade Books	box 39
Harvard Exams	box 39
Harvard - Miscellaneous	box 39
Intermediate Lab experiments	box 39
Miscellaneous	box 39
<u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	
Data Books	box 40
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	
<b>Separated Materials</b>	
(mainly M.I.T. and Columbia University)	
Papers and Reports by Others	
Papers and Reports by Others	box 41
Papers and Reports by Others	box 42
Papers and Reports by Others	box 43
Papers and Reports by Others	box 44
Papers and Reports by Others	box 45
Papers and Reports by Others	box 46
Slides	box 47
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	
<b>Separated Materials</b>	
(FRAGILE. GLASS)	
Printed Material by William J. McGill	box 48
Printed Material by Others	
Printed Material by Others	box 49
Printed Material by Others	box 50

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Printed Material by Others box 51

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### Series IV: University of California at San Diego

Title/Description	Instances
Academic Senate <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 52
Chancellor	box 52
Chancellorship Files	box 53
Committee on Educational Policy, Academic Senate	box 53
Committee: Long Range	box 53
Committee Memberships	box 53
Directives Worth Saving	box 53
H.E.W. Grant	box 53
Invitations accepted, 1970	box 53
Invitations regretted, 1968-1970	box 53
Lumumba-Zapata College	box 54
Psychology Department	box 54
Recruiting	box 54
Student Unrest	box 54
Miscellaneous <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 55
Printed Material and Reports	box 55
Printed Materials and Items	box 56

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