



# ArchivesSpace

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## William O. Trapp papers5952753

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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>	Trapp, William O., -1964
<b>Title:</b>	William O. Trapp papers
<b>ID:</b>	5952753
<b>ID:</b>	UA#0108
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1940s-1950s
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2 Linear Feet 2 record cartons
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William O. Trapp papers; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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## Biographical Note

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William O. Trapp was as a newspaper journalist from 1914 to 1938. He was a political and legislative correspondent for the New York Evening World and later the World Telegram. In 1929 Trapp directed a campaign which won for the Evening World a Pulitzer prize for exposing ambulance-chasing lawyers. At age 51, he returned to school and received a master's degree (1941) and doctorate (1943) from Cornell University. After receiving his degrees, Trapp started teaching at Columbia in the School of Journalism before also joining the School of General Studies (1950), where he supervised the SGS's newspaper, News in General. He served on the Pulitzer Prize Board and remained at Columbia until his retirement at the age of 64 in 1954.

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## Summary

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This collection consists of William Trapp's lectures and class materials for his Government and Writing courses taught at the School of General Studies in the 1940s and 1950s.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in one series.

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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>

### 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.

### Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions on this collection.

## Accruals

No additions are expected.

## Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios. Finding aid ware written by Joanna Rios in October 2019.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

For more information, please consult the [Graduate School of Journalism records \(UA#0065\)](#), the [Pulitzer Prize administration records \(UA#0188\)](#), and the [School of General Studies records \(UA#0123\)](#).

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Lecture notes
- Syllabi
- Examinations (documents)
- Columbia University -- : Faculty
- Columbia University. Graduate School of Journalism
- Columbia University. School of General Studies

## Collection Inventory

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### Series I. William O. Trapp papers, 1940s-1950s

Title/Description	Instances	
Government R1-R2: An introduction to American Government, 1942-1954		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(School of General Studies. Same courses as the Government 1-2 sequence, only R-1 was offered in the spring term and R-2 in the winter term.)		
Syllabi, book lists, exams	box 1	folder 1
"Key folder"	box 1	folder 2
Cushman - Notes on First Course in Government	box 1	folder 3
Lecture notes <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1	folder 4-5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Handwritten and typed. )		
Materials	box 1	folder 6-7
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Includes newspaper clippings, brochures, magazines, booklets, leaflets, etc.)		
Government 13-14: Government and Politics of the City of New York, 1944-1954		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(School of General Studies)		
Syllabi and exams	box 1	folder 8
"Key folder"	box 1	folder 9
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Newspaper clippings, The Citizens Union press releases, book reviews, book call slips, notes, etc.)		
Lecture notes <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 1	folder 10-12

**Scope and Contents**

(Handwritten and typed. )

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Materials - NYC Current	box 1	folder 13-16
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Physical Description: 4 folders

**Scope and Contents**

(NYC Current folders hold city publications, notes, newspaper clippings, stat sheets, city budgets, press releases, leaflets, newsletters, etc.)

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Materials - NYC	box 2	folder 1-2
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Physical Description: 2 folders

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Writing 19: Political Writing, 1944-1954

**Scope and Contents**

(School of General Studies, Department of English, but also includes materials used in teaching Journalism 203-204: Political and Governmental Feature Writing at the Graduate School of Journalism.)

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Materials and lecture notes	box 2	folder 3-10
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Physical Description: 8 folders

**Scope and Contents**

(Folders include clippings, brochures, lecture notes, syllabi, assignments, articles, newsletters, press releases, editing exercises, style sheets, etc.)

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Materials on clearness	box 2	folder 11
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Lecture notes on international affairs	box 2	folder 12-13
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Physical Description: 2 folders

**Scope and Contents**

(Journalism 203 included a half of the semester on international affairs news coverage.)

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