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Thomas McGoey papers6953936

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

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Biographical Note

Thomas A. McGoey received a MA in 1933 from Columbia's Graduate School of Business and then worked at Columbia for over 35 years. He started as an assistant purchasing agent, and later served as Director of Residence Halls and Dining Rooms, Assistant Business Manager, Business Manager, Vice President for Business, and Special Consultant to the President. He served on the University's Committee on Government Aided Research, which oversaw the administration of sponsored research projects. He also taught marketing in the School of General Studies.

Thomas A. McGoey started his long Columbia career as an Assistant Purchasing Agent in 1937. A year later, he was appointed Director of the Residence Halls, in charge of residence and dining halls. At the time, there were only 6 dormitories: Hartley, Livingston (now Wallach), John Jay, and Furnald, but also Johnson (now Wien), for graduate women students, and Bard (to be renamed), for medical school students. In 1938, the residence halls only accommodated

about 500 undergraduate and 750 graduate students each year. In fact, only 25% of the Columbia College and Engineering students lived in dorms.

As a student in the Business School (he received an MS in 1933), McGoey had started and managed the Student Laundry Agency. This was one of the University-sanctioned, student-run agencies, like the concessions at Baker Field, that provided employment and even managerial experience to students (in the era before work-study programs). Originally, the Laundry rates were slightly more expensive than those available in the area but, apparently, it was worth it to subscribers who could drop off and pick up their laundry from the office – never leaving campus. The 1930s-1950s clothes weren't exactly wash-and-wear. The Laundry not only washed but also ironed, replaced missing buttons, turned shirt collars, mended rips, and removed stains at no extra charge. (After 30 years, the Laundry closed in 1961.)

When McGoey took on the Director of the Residence Halls position, he worked with the students in charge of the Laundry service as well as the Student Services Agency. This Agency provided Columbia students with typing, proofreading, radio repair, and even the sale of corsages. McGoey also convened a Student Advisory Committee on Residence Halls to get feedback from students, both residents and commuters. That very first year (1938), students asked for a night club, a place with music and dancing every night, from 8:00 pm to midnight. Based on their input, and only six months later, in February 1939, the John Jay Grill was transformed into the newly remodeled campus hangout, the Lion's Den. Likewise, the Advisory Committee became the permanent Residence Hall or Dormitory Council.

The residence halls were not subsidized by the University (except for building depreciation expenses) and they could not operate on a deficit. This meant that all expenses, mostly the wages of the janitors, elevator operators and maids, had to be paid from the room rental income. Invariably, McGoey and the Dormitory Council would have to negotiate on wage increases for staff, the levels of service and room rate increases. For example, in April 1941, working together with the Council, Sunday morning maid service was discontinued. The maids would no longer have to come to campus for only a few of hours on Sunday mornings to make the residents' beds. In January 1942, the Council successfully requested the installation of a cigarette vending machine in Hartley Hall.

In November 1949, University President Dwight D. Eisenhower promoted McGoey to Assistant Business Manager, and in September 1950, to Business Manager. In this new post, he was in charge of the Residence Halls, but also Purchasing, Buildings and Grounds, and Security. McGoey was there when the University took over the Bookstore from Columbia University Press and the subsequent failed attempt to turn the Bookstore into a coop (1952). He worked with the unions representing the maintenance and dormitory workers, but fought against the unionization of the dining and cafeteria employees (1952 and again in 1964). His tenure as Business Manager was also a busy time in terms of new construction projects on campus: East Campus, the Engineering Center, Ferris Booth Hall/Citizenship Center, the new Law School, etc.

In 1963, a tense Cold War year, McGoey worked on the designation of 23 campus buildings as Civil Defense Fallout Shelters. That same year, he represented the University in front of the City Planning Commission to remove the 116th Street subway kiosk on Broadway. Columbians had to cross busy car lanes on Broadway to reach the subway station opening in the median.

The kiosk entrance and center platform were too small for the high pedestrian volume, which led people to step off the curve and into speeding traffic. A student died this way in 1962 and a janitor in 1966. McGoey repeatedly argued on behalf of the University for sidewalk entrances, which finally opened in 1967.

In 1967, McGoey was named Vice President for Business, which seems more of a change in title than a change in role. The late 1960s had McGoey supervising campus security during a period of active student demonstrations and the (failed) activation of Columbia's nuclear reactor. After over 30 years of service, he was ready to retire but incoming President William J. McGill persuaded McGoey to remain one more year. Although officially retired as of June 30, 1971, McGoey continued to serve as a special consultant to the President, coordinating the Community Chest campaign for 1973-1974. He died on October 27, 1985.

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Summary

This collection consists of Thomas A. McGoey's records, from the various administrative positions he held and some personal records he collected during his over-30-year career at Columbia. The office files include subject files, reading files (outgoing correspondence), and meeting minutes. The personal files contain mostly articles, newspaper clippings, and press releases, but also some memorabilia and correspondence.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series: Series I: Office Files; Series II: Personal Files.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Added container list; updated front matter. (JR) 2022-09-16

Restrictions on Access

All administrative records of the University are restricted for 25 years from the date of creation.

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.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2005.005.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios in September 2022.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional McGoey correspondence can be found in [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Columbia University -- : Administration

Collection Inventory

Series I: Office Files

Scope and Contents

This series represents the bulk of the collection. It includes subject files presumably collected during McGoey's term as Business Manager (1950s-1960s). There are records related to the University's extensive construction projects (East Campus, Engineering Center, the new Law School), non-academic staff benefits and retirement policies. These files are organized alphabetically. There are also committee meeting minutes and some 'Reading Files' which are McGoey's outgoing correspondence or carbon copies, organized by month.

Title/Description	Instances	
Accounting and Budgetary Problems, Study of, 1958-1959	box 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
Prof. Dohr		
Advisory Committee on University Policy, 1956-1958	box 1	folder 2
Animal Care Quarters, 1951-1957	box 1	folder 3
Amsterdam Plaza, 1954-1962	box 1	folder 4
Associated Hospital Service		
Advisory Committee, 1960-1961	box 1	folder 5
Public Advisory Committee, 1958-1960	box 1	folder 6
Automobile Approach to Upper Campus, 1950-1962	box 1	folder 7

Baker Field		
Baker Field Property, 1951-1959	box 1	folder 8
Field House, 1949-1959	box 1	folder 9
Field House - West Wing, 1954-1959	box 1	folder 10
Plaques, 1951-1954	box 1	folder 11
Bicentennial		
Scope and Contents		
Columbia University, 1754-1954		
General, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 12-13
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		
116th Street & South Field, 1953	box 1	folder 14
"Bicentennial Bulletin", 1953	box 1	folder 15
Men's Faculty Club, 1953-1955	box 1	folder 16
Blanchard Committee, 1949-1950	box 1	folder 17
Scope and Contents		
Committee on Retirement and Insurance		
Black Building and Alumni Auditorium, 1960-1961	box 1	folder 18
Bookstore		
General, 1951-1957	box 1	folder 19
General, 1957-1960	box 1	folder 20
General, 1961-1962	box 1	folder 21
Accounting, 1951-1957	box 1	folder 22
Addition, 1948-1951	box 1	folder 23
Advisory Committee, 1953-1961	box 1	folder 24
C.U. Press, 1956	box 1	folder 25
Self-Service, 1954-1955	box 1	folder 26
Buildings & Grounds, 1950-1958	box 2	folder 1
Business, School of, 1959-1962	box 2	folder 2
Camp Columbia, 1950-1959	box 2	folder 3
Capital Amortization Program, 1958-1960	box 2	folder 4
Capital Improvements - Sheffield Building, 1951-1957	box 2	folder 5
Central Laundry Study, 1957-1958	box 2	folder 6

Chapel, 1951-1957	box 2	folder 7
Columbia College Council - Buildings & Grounds Committee, 1953-1958	box 2	folder 8
Columbia Student Agencies		
General, 1932-1939	box 2	folder 9
Financial Reports, 1937	box 2	folder 10
Annual Reports, 1942	box 2	folder 11
General, 1944-1955	box 2	folder 12
Student Agencies, Inc., 1948-1954	box 2	folder 13
Conjunctional Billing, 1956-1959	box 2	folder 14
Conjunctional Billing, 1960-1962	box 2	folder 15
Consulting Architects Meetings, 1959-1962	box 2	folder 16
Development		
Development, Office of, 1950-1955	box 2	folder 17
Development Plans, 1956-1959	box 2	folder 18
Disability Benefits, 1961	box 2	folder 19
East Campus		
Development, 1956-1961	box 2	folder 20
Superblock, 1955-1956	box 2	folder 21
Superblock, 1957-1958	box 2	folder 22
Superblock, 1959-1960	box 2	folder 23
Zoning, 1958-1960	box 2	folder 24
Engineering, 1950-1957	box 2	folder 25
Engineering Center		
General, 1960	box 2	folder 26
General, 1961-1962	box 2	folder 27
Engineering Terrace Building, 1960-1961	box 2	folder 28
Equipment		
Acquisition, 1949-1956	box 2	folder 29
Control, 1951-1952	box 2	folder 30
Inventory, 1949-1958	box 2	folder 31
Fine Arts Center, 1950	box 3	folder 1
Fine Arts Center, 1955		

	box 3	folder 2
Fine Arts Center, 1956-1959	box 3	folder 3
Food Services, 1953	box 3	folder 4
Ford Foundation Proposal, 1956	box 3	folder 5

Scope and Contents

A Proposal to the Ford Foundation to Help Establish at Columbia University a Pattern for Expansion in Privately Supported Higher Education - seven new construction projects in Morningside Heights: Engineering Center, Arts Center, Law School building, faculty and classroom building, a Citizenship Center, a graduate residence hall and a necessary addition to an existing administration building (University Hall).

Gifts and Grants

Gifts and Grants, 1949-1950	box 3	folder 6
Gifts - General, 1957-1959	box 3	folder 7
Chase Manhattan Bank Gift Furniture, 1961	box 3	folder 8
Schenley Gift Furniture, 1962-1963	box 3	folder 9
Westinghouse Gift, 1963	box 3	folder 10

Gymnasium

Proposed Columbia College Gymnasium, 1957-1959	box 3	folder 11
Gymnasium Committee - Subcommittee on Facilities, 1958	box 3	folder 12
Hazardous Storage Building, 1957-1961	box 3	folder 13
Industrial Reactor Laboratories, 1960-1961	box 3	folder 14
Industrial Reactor Laboratories (IRL) Energy Commission Licenses, 1960	box 3	folder 15
Krout, John A., 1962	box 3	folder 16

Scope and Contents

Re: Retirement

Lamont Geological Observatory

Lamont Geological Observatory, 1949-1953	box 3	folder 17
Lamont Observatory, 1956-1958	box 3	folder 18

Scope and Contents

New York Thruway and New Jersey Turnpike

Lamont Geological Observatory, 1960-1962

	box 3	folder 19
Law School		
Law School - Interior, 1959-1963	box 3	folder 20
Law School Building Meeting Minutes, 1958-1961	box 3	folder 21
Law School - New Building, 1960	box 3	folder 22
Law Building, 1961	box 3	folder 23
Library Moving, 1962	box 3	folder 24
Scope and Contents		
Library collections moving out of Low Library		
Low Library		
Low Memorial Library, 1949-1959	box 3	folder 25
Low Memorial Library, 1950-1952	box 3	folder 26
Low Library Plans, 1953	box 3	folder 27
Scope and Contents		
Access drive in South Court; elevator, restrooms, reception room, etc.		
Mail, 1951-1953	box 3	folder 28
Medical Center, 1958-1962	box 3	folder 29
Men's Faculty Club, 1950-1956	box 3	folder 30
Mines Building, 1949-1959	box 3	folder 31
Morningside Park Athletic Area, 1955-1963	box 3	folder 32
Scope and Contents		
Site of the proposed gymnasium, includes a copy of the agreement with the City		
Navy		
Navy Plans, 1950-1951	box 3	folder 33
NROTC, 1949-1958	box 3	folder 34
NROTC, 1950-1951	box 3	folder 35
NROTC - Lease and Insurance, 1949-1957	box 3	folder 36
Nevis Biological Station		
Nevis, 1950-1957	box 4	folder 1
Nevis, 1950-1957	box 4	folder 2
Nevis, 1959-1962		

	box 4	folder 3
Committee, 1949-1958	box 4	folder 4
Liquid Hydrogen Building, 1953	box 4	folder 5
Parking Lot, 1953-1958	box 4	folder 6
Street Easement, 1955	box 4	folder 7
New York State College Business Officers Meeting, 1962	box 4	folder 8
New York State Labor Legislation, 1959-1961 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 4	folder 9-11
Nuclear Engineering Laboratory, 1957-1958	box 4	folder 12
Pan Statue, 1959-1962	box 4	folder 13
Pegram Laboratory, 1953-1960	box 4	folder 14
Scope and Contents		
Van de Graff Accelerator		
Pension Plans, 1951-1952	box 4	folder 15
Physicians & Surgeons Building, 1950-1959	box 4	folder 16
President Kirk's Five Year Report, 1953-1958	box 4	folder 17
Printing Office, 1957-1959	box 4	folder 18
Pupin Physics Laboratories or Pupin Hall, 1950-1958	box 4	folder 19
Purchasing - University, 1960-1961	box 4	folder 20
Retirement		
General, 1950-1960	box 4	folder 21
Employee Retirement Policies, 1950-1960	box 4	folder 22
Retirement Plans (Non-Academic) Amendment, 1953	box 4	folder 23
Non-Academic Retirement Plan, 1954	box 4	folder 24
Non-Academic Retirement Plan Study, 1957-1958	box 4	folder 25
Retirement Preparation Program, 1953-1957	box 4	folder 26
Social Security, 1950-1959	box 4	folder 27
Social Security - Plans of Other Colleges, 1956	box 4	folder 28
Study of Present Campus on Morningside Heights Looking Toward Future Development, 1948-1959	box 4	folder 29
Trustee Committees		
Buildings and Grounds Committee, 1957-1958	box 4	folder 30-31

Physical Description: 2 folders

Committee on Finance, 1957-1959	box 4	folder 32
Committee on Honors, 1950-1957	box 5	folder 1
Uris Hall, 1962	box 5	folder 2
Utilities Audit Bureau, 1950-1954	box 5	folder 3
Vice-President's Advisory Committee, 1958-1962	box 5	folder 4
W1949-1950	box 5	folder 5
War Labor Board (WLB) Directives and Correspondence, 1943	box 5	folder 6
Women's Faculty Club, 1951-1953	box 5	folder 7
Women's Faculty Club, 1946-1953	box 5	folder 8
<u>Budget Files</u>		
Proposed Budgets, 1958-1959	box 5	folder 9
Budget - General, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 10
Budget Planning, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 11
Business Manager, Office of, Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 12
Department of Buildings and Grounds, Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 13
Ferris Booth Hall, Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 14
General University Telephone and Mail Services, Budgets, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 15
Government Contracts Division, Purchasing Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 16
Lump Sum Preview Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 17
Off-Campus Rooms Registry Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 18
Proposed Budgets, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 19
Residence Halls and Dining Rooms Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 20
University Personnel, Office of, Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 21
University Purchasing Department Budget, 1959-1960	box 5	folder 22
<u>Meeting Minutes</u>		
Advisory Committee on Non-Academic Personnel Policy, 1950-1959	box 5	folder 23
Advisory Committee on University Policy, 1956-1957	box 5	folder 24-25
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		
Business Manager and Departmental Directors, 1950-1959	box 5	folder 26-27

Physical Description: 2 folders

Committee on Government-Aided Research, 1952-1958	box 5	folder 28
Reading Files		
Scope and Contents		
Carbons or copy carbons of McGoey's outgoing correspondence, organized by month.		
1957 January-June	box 5	folder 29
1957 July-December	box 5	folder 30
1958 January-June	box 5	folder 31
1958 July-December	box 5	folder 32
1959 January-April	box 6	folder 1
1959 May-August	box 6	folder 2
1959 September-December	box 6	folder 3
1960 January-April	box 6	folder 4
1960 May-August	box 6	folder 5
1960 September-December	box 6	folder 6
1961 January-April	box 6	folder 7
1961 May-August	box 6	folder 8
1961 September-December	box 6	folder 9
1962 January-April	box 6	folder 10
1962 May-August	box 6	folder 11
1962 September-December	box 6	folder 12
1963 January-April	box 6	folder 13
1963 May-August	box 6	folder 14
1963 September-December	box 6	folder 15
1964 January-April	box 7	folder 1
1964 May-August	box 7	folder 2
1964 September-December	box 7	folder 3
1965 January-April	box 7	folder 4
1965 May-August	box 7	folder 5
1965 September-December	box 7	folder 6
1966 January-March	box 7	folder 7

1966 April-June

box 7

folder 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II: Personal Files****Scope and Contents**

This series contains records marked as "personal." There are files related to the Columbia student strike in 1968; memorabilia including materials from McGoey's days as a student in the Business School; records related to his involvement with national college and university administrator and business officer professional associations; and materials collected about the various University Presidents he served under.

Title/Description	Instances	
Butler (Nicholas Murray) and Eisenhower (Dwight D.) Letters, 1940-1971	box 7	folder 9
Scope and Contents		
Letters and newspaper clippings		
Campus Disturbance Panel, 1968	box 7	folder 10
Scope and Contents		
Mostly newspaper clippings		
The Columbia Calendar for Engagements, 1951	box 7	folder 11
Scope and Contents		
Weekly calendar with photographs, very few appointments filled in		
Columbia Crisis - Accounts of Events, 1968	box 7	folder 12
Columbia Crisis - Media Coverage, 1968	box 7	folder 13
Scope and Contents		
Television transcripts and magazine articles		
Columbia Memorabilia, 1932-1967	box 7	folder 14
Scope and Contents		
McGoey's MS thesis, resume, Bicentennial stamps, programs, speeches, invitations, etc.		
Columbia Publications, 1939-1970	box 7	folder 15-16
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		

Scope and Contents

Alumni magazines, directories, brochures, etc.

Educational Career Service, 1971-1972	box 7	folder 17
Higher Education Administration Referral Service (HEARS), 1971-1973	box 7	folder 18-19
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders		
Humor, 1960s-1970s	box 7	folder 20
Injunctions, 1968-1970	box 7	folder 21
Scope and Contents		
Re: Columbia Crisis / Student Strike, 1968		
Institute for Educational Management (IEM), 1967-1977	box 8	folder 1
Lion's Den Clippings, 1938-1939	box 8	folder 2
Photographs, 1950-1960	box 8	folder 3
Presidents		
Scope and Contents		
Clippings, correspondence, invitations, press releases, speeches, etc.		
Nicholas Murray Butler, 1931-1946	box 8	folder 4
Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1947-1952	box 8	folder 5
Eisenhower Presidential Campaign, 1952	box 8	folder 6
Eisenhower "The Man from Abilene", 1952	box 8	folder 7
Grayson Kirk, 1952-1968	box 8	folder 8
Andrew Cordier, 1969-1970	box 8	folder 9
William McGill, 1967-1973	box 8	folder 10-11
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders		
Publications, 1969-1970	box 8	folder 12
Sidorsky, David, 1968-1969	box 8	folder 13
Starr, William, Rev., 1968	box 8	folder 14
Student Activism, 1968-1970	box 8	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
Articles on student dissent, resistance, radicalism and revolutionaries		
Student Laundry Service, 1929-1931	box 8	folder 16

Student Laundry Service, 1930-1931	box 8	folder 17
Truman, David, 1968-1972	box 8	folder 18
University Administrators and Business Officers, 1965-1971	box 8	folder 19
Vice President for Business Affairs, 1965-1971	box 8	folder 20
Unsorted, 1953-1973	box 8	folder 21

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