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John Jay Iselin papers 9006537

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

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
Series I: General Files, November	6
Series II: Reading Files (Correspondence)	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Iselin, John Jay
Title:	John Jay Iselin papers
ID:	9006537
ID:	MS#1587
Date [inclusive]:	1983-1995
Physical Description:	8 linear feet 8 record storage cartons
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Papers of John Jay Iselin, journalist, editor, professor of journalism, and president of both WNET/Channel 13 and the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); John Jay Iselin Papers; Box and Folder (if known); Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

John Jay Iselin, descendent of the Supreme Court Justice John Jay, was born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1933. He left South Carolina to pursue his education at Harvard, where he received both his Bachelor's Degree. He received the prestigious Marshall Scholarship which funded his course of study at Cambridge, where he received his Master's Degree before returning to Harvard to pursue his PhD in government, which he received in 1964.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

After graduation he worked as a journalist for publications including Newsweek before shifting his focus onto the production side of writing as an editor with Harper & Row in 1970. He only held his editorial position at Harper & Row for two years; in 1972 he took the helm of New York's public television station, WNET/Channel 13 and remained president of the station for 16 years. Under his leadership, WNET produced shows such as Great Performances, Nature and Newshour as well as a number of documentaries and miniseries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Iselin left the station in 1988 when he was appointed the tenth president of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. His presidency there was marked with great growth in the Cooper Union endowment and in particular a huge capital campaign that helped build and update the institutions facilities and lab spaces. He also oversaw the creation of new endowed professorships. After twelve years at the Cooper Union, Iselin left the university to take on the presidency of the Marconi International Fellowship Foundation at Columbia University which promotes work and scholarship in the field of telecommunications, merging his own background in both the academy and in broadcasting.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

John Jay Iselin died in 2008 at the age of 74.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The records, which primarily cover the period in which Iselin served as the President of the Cooper Union, contain topical files and correspondence related to his professional activities.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 2 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2011-10-18 2019-05-20

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

This collection has no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Office of the President, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--09/08/2011.

Processing Information

Papers processed Gillian Rhodes (Columbia College, 2012) 10/--/2011.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Carrie Hintz 10/13/2011.

Accrual

No additional material expected

Accruals

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- College presidents
- Correspondence
- Iselin, John Jay
- Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
- Herb Lubalin Study Center of Design and Typography

Collection Inventory

Series I: General Files, November, 1984-November, 1993

Scope and Contents

The General Files contain information relating to Iselin's presidency of the Cooper Union, including files on his fundraising efforts on behalf of the institution and research files related to the history of the Cooper Union, as well as files related to capital projects at the Cooper Union and a Charles and Ray Eames film festival hosted by the college.

Title/Description	Instances
Campaign, November 1st, 1984	box 1
Gift Securities Procedure, May/June, 1987	box 1
CU-Garden, 1992/1993	box 1
Fringe Patterns Exhibit, 1987	box 1
Freedom of Information Clearinghouse, 1991	box 1
Forms-Variou s	box 1
Financial Reports and Mailing Lists, 1983-1990	box 1
Centennial Campaign Convocation, 1956	box 1
Chil design, 1990	box 1
Commencement Info, 1983-1990	box 1
Community Programs, 1990-1991	box 1
Computer Information, 1985-1987	box 1
Conciliation Tour, May 4, 1995	box 1
Christmas Gift List, 1990-1992	box 1
Continuing Education Programs Sept/Dec, 1992	box 1
Cookerly, Anne, 1990	box 1
Cooper Collection Background Info, 1989	box 1
Cooper Pioneer (copies), 1993	box 1
Cooper Union History/Info, 1983-1991	box 1
Cooper Union-125 Years, Fall, 1985	box 1
Cooper Union Overview, 1991	box 1
CU History	box 1
Cooper Union Research Foundation, 1983-1991	box 1
A Festival of Eames' Films	
Mailing List, 1985-1987	box 1
"Great Performances"	box 1
Miscellaneous	box 1

Program	box 1
Correspondence	box 1
Budget	box 1
State Dormitory Authority Loan, 1984	box 1
Demographic Services Grenzebach & Martstl, 1988	box 1
Deferred Giving to CU, 1991	box 1
Energy Forum May 6th, 1992	box 1
Engineering-H.S. Summer research internship program, 1989-1991	box 1
Engineering School Info/Memos, 1987-1994	box 1
Plaque Commemorative Updated List	box 1
Lubalin Center	
Portfolio, 1985	box 1
Correspondence, 1986-87	box 1
Contribution/Ad Response, 1986	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Reading Files (Correspondence), 1988-1995

Scope and Contents

Iselin's Correspondence Files, which he calls reading files, span his years at Cooper Union years and relate his work as the president of that institution.

Title/Description	Instances
December, 1989	box 2
November, 1989	box 2
October, 1989	box 2
September, 1989	box 2
August, 1989	box 2
July, 1989	box 2
June, 1989	box 2
May, 1989	box 2
April, 1989	box 2
March, 1989	box 2

February, 1989	box 2
January, 1989	box 2
December, 1988	box 2
November, 1988	box 2
August, 1988	box 2
July, 1988	box 2
June, 1988	box 2
May, 1988	box 2
April, 1988	box 2
March, 1988	box 2
February, 1988	box 2
January, 1988	box 2
December, 1990	box 3
November, 1990	box 3
<u>Physical Description: (2 Folders)</u>	
October, 1990	box 3
September, 1990	box 3
August, 1990	box 3
July, 1990	box 3
June, 1990	box 3
May, 1990	box 3
April, 1990	box 3
March, 1990	box 3
February, 1990	box 3
January, 1990	box 3
January, 1991	box 4
<u>Physical Description: (2 Folders)</u>	
February, 1991	box 4
March, 1991	box 4
April, 1991	box 4
May, 1991	box 4
June, 1991	box 4

July, 1991	box 4
August, 1991	box 4
September, 1991 (2 files), September, 1991	box 4
October, 1991	box 4
October, 1991	box 4
November, 1991 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 4
December, 1991	box 4
Deaths	box 4
January, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
February, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
March, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
April, 1992	box 5
May, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
June, 1992	box 5
July, 1992	box 5
August, 1992	box 5
September, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
October, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
November, 1992 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 5
December, 1992	box 5
January, 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 6
February, 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 6
March, 1993	box 6

<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
April, 1993	box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
May, 1993	box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
June, 1993	box 6
July, 1993	box 6
August, 1993	box 6
September, 1993	box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
October, 1993	box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
November, 1993	box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
December, 1993	box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
General Correspondence, 1994 (4 Folders), 1994	box 7
General Information, 1994	box 7
Placement Advertisement, 1994	box 7
Invoices, 1994	box 7
January, 1994	box 7
February, 1994	box 7
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
March, 1994	box 7
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
April, 1994	box 7
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
May, 1994	box 7
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
June, 1994	box 7
July, 1994	box 7
August, 1994	box 7
September, 1994	box 7

<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
October, 1994	box 7
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
November, 1994	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
December, 1994	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
January, 1995	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
February, 1995	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
March, 1995	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
April, 1995	box 8
May, 1995	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	
June, 1995	box 8
July, 1995	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)