

C Brandt, Raymond P. (1896-1974), Papers, 1917-1974
850 2 linear feet, 5 audio cassettes

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The papers of Raymond Brandt contain correspondence, newspaper articles, interviews, notes, financial accounts, audio cassettes and photographs of a Sedalia, Missouri, man who was a Washington, D.C. correspondent for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* from 1923 to 1967. Brandt wrote on politics, economics, and the Soviet Union, which he visited five times.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by James M. Ridgway on 4 June 1982 (Accession No. 4436).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Raymond Peter Brandt was born June 6, 1896, in Sedalia, Missouri, son of Jacob and Amelia Sarman Brandt. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1918 and a bachelor of arts degree from Oxford University in 1923. He was a Rhodes Scholar. Brandt served as a second lieutenant with the 39th Field Artillery, 1918-1919, and as a district supervisor for the American Relief Administration in Vitebsk, USSR, 1922-1923.

He joined the Washington bureau of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1923, was head of the bureau from 1934 to 1961, and retired as a contributing editor in 1967. Brandt received the University of Missouri School of Journalism Distinguished Service Award in 1939 and was the first winner of the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award for Washington correspondents in 1945.

He was a member of numerous clubs and organizations and served as president of the National Press Club in 1933 and the Gridiron Club in 1946. Brandt died on March 27, 1974, in Washington, D.C.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following two series: **Correspondence** and **Subjects**, including organizations Brandt was associated with and topics related to his work.

The **Correspondence** series is arranged alphabetically by writer and chronologically within. Major correspondents include Bernard M. Baruch, Oliver K. Bovard, Louis D. Brandeis, N.R. Johnson, and Herbert Pulitzer.

The **Subject** series is arranged alphabetically by name of organization, group, person, or topic. The major subjects include the American Relief Administration, newspaper articles written by and about Brandt, the Gridiron Club, information collected on Franklin D. Roosevelt's health during the last years of his life, television and radio programs, and the Soviet Union.

The major strengths of the collection are Brandt's notes and articles on national politics from 1944 to 1950, and the articles, diaries, and photographs concerning the Soviet Union (1922-1955).

The articles, notes, and interviews in the collection concerning national politics involve primarily the Roosevelt and Truman administrations and provide an objective and in-depth view of the inner workings of government and decision-making.

The articles, diaries, and photographs concerning the Soviet Union give a comprehensive view of how Brandt saw conditions there during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s. The articles written in 1931 present the changes occurring in the Soviet Union after the Russian Revolution, and those from 1955 deal with Soviet life following the death of Stalin.

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence Series

- f. 1-20 1929-1974. Letters between Brandt and friends, reporters, political figures, and business acquaintances concerning articles, social clubs, personal business matters, overseas trips, television and radio programs, proposed bills in Congress, and his work with the *Post-Dispatch*. Major correspondents include Bernard M. Baruch, with whom Brandt discussed newspaper articles, social functions, and economic and political policies and problems; Oliver K. Bovard, concerning contracts, articles Brandt had written, stories he was working on, and editorial department policies of the *Post-Dispatch*; Louis D. Brandeis, concerning legal decisions, speeches, and articles; and Herbert Pulitzer, concerning personal favors Brandt did for him and his children.
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|----------|------------------|
| f. 1-6 | Acheson-Early |
| f. 7-11 | Eccles-Krock |
| f. 12-16 | Ladd-Rayburn |
| f. 17-20 | Roberts-Zaroubin |

Subject Series

- f. 21-25 American Relief Administration, 1920-1923. Correspondence, documents, accounts, and official papers relating to Brandt and his position as district supervisor for the American Relief Administration in Vitebsk, USSR, from 1922 to 1923. They relate primarily to his personal finances and activities and do not cover in detail his work of providing food and medical care for the people of his district. A large number of photographs of Brandt, the city of Vitebsk, its people, their activities, and the countryside are included.
- f. 26-31 Articles written by Brandt for magazines and the *Post-Dispatch* concerning Congressional committees, the U.S. budget, the

- economy, U.S. presidents from Herbert Hoover to Richard Nixon, national elections and candidates, the political parties' national conventions, U.S. foreign policy, and the judicial system. Also includes notes Brandt kept for possible articles.
- f. 31 Articles from newspapers and magazines that mention Brandt's activities as a newspaper reporter, including questions he posed at presidential press conferences, a radio program he hosted, and a photography contest for which he was a judge.
- f. 32 Biographical Information, 1940-1974. Information on Brandt's life and career from an entry in *Who's Who in America*, the *Post-Dispatch*, and obituaries and articles from a number of newspapers in 1974. Photographs of Brandt from the 1940s to the 1960s are included.
- f. 33-35 Oral History Interview, 1970. Interview with Brandt done by Jerry Hess of the Harry S Truman Library on 28 September 1970. In the interview Brandt discussed his life, his memories of Truman as senator and president, and his remembrances of politics in general during the time he worked as a reporter. Brandt also gave his opinion on Truman and the other presidents from Herbert Hoover to Richard Nixon.
- f. 36-38 Retirement, 1936-1967. Correspondence, certificates, worksheets, and documents relating to Brandt's pension, semi-retirement in 1962, and full retirement in 1967. The documents and worksheets present a detailed description of the Joseph Pulitzer Pension Plan. A large number of the letters were sent to him expressing regret on his retirement from the newspaper business.
- f. 39-41 Clapper Award, 1945-1959. Newspaper articles, a program, correspondence, and an audio cassette dealing with the Raymond Clapper Award, which Brandt won for journalistic excellence in 1944. The letters were written to congratulate him on the award, which was presented by President Franklin Roosevelt in March 1945. Brandt also wrote letters to later winners of the award. The program is for the award dinner. The audio cassette is of a news report broadcast on St. Louis radio station KSD by Charles G. Ross on 22 March 1945, announcing that Brandt had won the Clapper Award. The report gives background on the award, the reasons Brandt won it, and a short biography of the reporter.
- f. 42-43 Club Nominations, 1953-1960. Correspondence relating to the proposed membership of Brandt and other Washington, D.C. residents in three area social clubs: the Burning Tree Club, the Chevy Chase Club, and the Metropolitan Club. The correspondence includes letters of recommendation for Brandt and those he wrote for friends.
- f. 44-48 Gridiron Club, 1935-1958 - Correspondence, newspaper articles, programs, and scripts relating to a club for Washington, D.C. newspaper correspondents that Brandt joined in 1935 and served as president of in 1946. The material primarily pertains to his year as

- president. The programs include lists of all members and guests who attended the banquets, and the scripts are for the entertainment held after the dinner.
- f. 49 Lectures and Discussions, 1935-1961. Correspondence about lectures and a speech given by Brandt on public opinion and its effect on foreign policy, 1954. The correspondence details financial and travel arrangements for lectures and includes letters of thanks.
- f. 50-53 National Press Club, 1932-1955. Correspondence, newspaper articles, photographs, programs, and financial accounts of a Washington, D.C. newspaper correspondents' club. Brandt served as president in 1933. The papers deal with his election as president, his term in office, dinners attended, and financial problems of the club. Photographs of the officers and members of the club, President Franklin Roosevelt, and Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain are included.
- f. 54-55 Press and Reporting, 1933-1949. An address and a report on the press and newspapers. The address was given by David Rankin Barbee in June 1935 on the New Deal and freedom of the press. The report, issued in 1949, deals with employment of newspapermen by the state of Illinois. There are also several photographs of reporters and Brandt at press conferences.
- f. 56-61 Roosevelt, Franklin D., Health, 1943-1951. Correspondence, newspaper articles, notes, interviews, and photographs documenting the last year of Roosevelt's life in an attempt to discover whether or not it would have been possible to predict his death soon after the 1944 presidential election. Brandt questioned doctors and other people close to Roosevelt to see if there was a cover-up of the president's health.
- f. 62-63 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1931-1960. Correspondence, memoranda, newspaper and magazine articles, a program, and photographs relating to policies, possible stories, and a dinner involving the *Post-Dispatch* and Brandt. Topics discussed for possible stories include the Bureau of Internal Revenue, President Franklin Roosevelt, the New Deal and the Constitution, and General Lincoln C. Andrews.
- f. 64-87 Soviet Union, 1930-1965. Newspaper articles, notebooks, and photographs from four of Brandt's visits to the Soviet Union (1930, 1931, 1937, and 1955). Also included are photographs from Berlin in 1931 and 1955, Paris in 1955, London in 1947 and 1953, and Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1965. The *Post-Dispatch* articles he wrote during the 1931 visit to the Soviet Union are included in volume 1, while the original dispatches are in folders 66-73. The notebooks he kept during his visits are diaries of each day's activities and what he saw while traveling through Moscow, Yalta, Stalingrad, Kiev, and other cities and include notes he used for stories. The photographs are of famous buildings and monuments, the Soviet people, cities and the countryside, factories and dams, an agricultural exhibition, and a visit by Prime Minister Nehru of India in 1955.
- f. 64-65 Notebook and partial typescript, 1931.
- f. 66-73 Dispatches of articles, 1931.

- f. 74-75 Photographs, 1931
- f. 76 Photographs of Berlin, 1931
- f. 77 Notebooks, 1937 and 1955
- f. 78 Newspaper articles, 1955.
- f. 79-85 Photographs, 1955.
- f. 86 Photographs of Berlin and Paris, 1955
- f. 87 Photographs of London, 1947 and 1953, and Prague,
Czechoslovakia, 1965.
- f. 88-92 Television and Radio Programs, 1946-1958. Four audio cassettes of
two radio programs and scripts of two television shows on which
Brandt appeared. The radio program from 1946 features Brandt
discussing presidential press conferences and the differing styles of
Roosevelt and Truman. The one from 1951 discusses a press
conference of Truman's at which the major topic was corruption in the
Bureau of Internal Revenue. The television program from 1953
involves a discussion between Brandt and the White House press
secretary concerning the relationship between the Eisenhower
administration and the press. The program from 1958 involves a look at
how events in Washington, D.C., are covered by the press and features
Brandt's daily activities as a reporter.
- f. 93-94 Truman, Harry S, 1945-1969. Correspondence, newspaper articles,
and an interview with President Truman concerning his presidency
and his opinions of other political figures. The correspondence with
Brandt consists primarily of invitations to dinners held by the Gridiron
Club, while several articles deal with his career as a senator and his
adjustment to being president.
- f. 95-97 University of Missouri, 1917-1966. Correspondence, newspaper
articles, programs, and photographs relating to Brandt's association
with the university as a student and active alumnus. Primarily focuses
on his receiving the School of Journalism's Distinguished Service
Award in 1939 and his work with the Journalism Alumni Association
during the 1950s. The photographs include Brandt with his Sigma Chi
fraternity and at officer's training school at Camp Taylor, Kentucky.
- f. 98 War Department, 1942-1946. Correspondence involving press
relations with the Army and Navy and difficulties involved in reporting
the war, including censorship of articles on prisoner of-war camps,
atrocities at German concentration camps, and the executions of war
criminals.
- v. 1 Scrapbook, 1930-1931. Contains the thirty-seven *Post-Dispatch*
newspaper articles written by Brandt on the Soviet Union in 1931 and
several articles from his 1930 trip. The articles deal with such topics as
the Soviet economy, Stalin's policies, effects of communism on the
people, construction projects, Soviet propaganda, communist attacks on
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