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Charles W. Yost Papers, 1864-2008 (bulk 1930-1980): Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number:	MC193
Location:	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Public Policy Papers. 65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size:	8.3 linear feet (21 boxes)
Language(s) of material:	English.
Abstract:	Charles W. Yost (1907-1981) led a varied career as a diplomat, United Nations representative, writer, and scholar. He was a member of the foreign service intermittently between 1930 and 1971, after which time he devoted himself full-time to writing and teaching. Yost's papers document his professional life in the Foreign Service, as well as his time in academia, and include his correspondence, writings, and photographs.

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Biography of Charles Yost

Charles W. Yost (1907-1981) led a varied career as a diplomat, United Nations representative, writer, and scholar. He was a member of the foreign service intermittently between 1930 and 1971, after which time he devoted himself full-time to writing and teaching. Yost served in Egypt, Poland, Thailand, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Greece, France, Laos, Syria, and Morocco.

Charles Woodruff Yost was born in Watertown, New York, on November 6, 1907. Prior to attending Princeton University, he traveled throughout Europe and was interviewed by his local newspaper, *The Watertown Daily Times*. After graduating from Princeton University in 1928, he traveled to Paris to complete post-graduate work.

Yost joined the Foreign Service in 1930, serving first in Alexandria, Egypt as a consular officer and then in Poland. He left the Foreign Service in 1933 to pursue a career as a freelance foreign correspondent in Europe. In 1935, he rejoined the State Department in Washington, D.C., becoming assistant chief of the Division of Arms and Munitions Control. In 1941, he represented the State Department on the Policy Committee of the Board of Economic Warfare. Yost was appointed Assistant Chief of Special Research in 1942 and assistant chief of the Division of Foreign Activity Correlation in 1943. In February 1944, he became executive secretary of the Department of State Policy Committee. He attended the Dumbarton Oaks Conference from August to October 1944, the United Nations Organization Conference in San Francisco in April 1945, and the Potsdam Conference in July 1945.

In late 1945, Yost was named *chargé d'affaires* to Thailand. Throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, he served in Czechoslovakia, Austria and Greece, all countries under political pressure from the Soviet Union. In 1954, he was named minister to Laos and became the first United States ambassador to that nation. In 1957, he was the minister counselor, or second-in-command, of the American Embassy in Paris. At the end of that year, he was named ambassador to Syria. Shortly after his appointment, Syria and Egypt formed the United Arab Republic. Yost was named ambassador to Morocco in 1958.

In 1961, he began his first assignment at the United Nations as the deputy to Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson. Following Stevenson's death in 1965, Yost stayed on as Arthur Goldberg's deputy. Yost obtained the rank of career ambassador, the highest professional Foreign Service rank, before resigning from the Foreign Service in 1966 to begin his career as a writer and teacher on foreign affairs.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon nominated Yost as the permanent United States Representative to the United Nations. He advised the President and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on relationships with the Middle East, the Soviet Union, Southern Africa, and arms control. He resigned in 1971 and returned to writing and teaching.

Yost set forth his views in a syndicated newspaper column and in four books: *The Age Of Triumph And Frustration: Modern Dialogues* (New York: R. Speller, 1964), *The Insecurity of Nations* (New York: Published for the Council on Foreign Relations [by] Praeger, 1968), *The Conduct and Misconduct of Foreign Relations* (New York: Random House, 1972), and *History and Memory* (New York: Norton, 1980). He also taught at the Columbia University School of International Affairs and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He gave speeches throughout his career, offering his perspective on the Middle East, Southern Africa, China, and the Soviet Union.

In 1979, Yost was co-chairman of Americans for SALT II, a group that lobbied the Senate for passage of the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. He was a trustee of the American University in Cairo, Egypt and director of the Aspen Institute for cultural exchanges with Iran. He also took part in several unofficial

conferences between the United States and Soviet scholars. In 1973, he was named head of the National Committee on United States-China Relations and visited the People's Republic of China in 1973 and 1977.

Yost died of cancer in May 1981 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Description

Yost's papers document his professional life in the Foreign Service, as well as his time in academia, and include his correspondence, writings, and photographs. The papers document Yost's service as ambassador to the United Nations, as well as his work in Europe and Asia in several diplomatic posts, notably in Laos and the Middle East.

Please see the series descriptions in the contents list for additional information about individual series.

Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 1864-2008

The Personal and Family Papers series includes correspondence, photographs and genealogical materials. The correspondence is between Yost and family members, notably Gertrude A. Yost (his mother) and Irena G. Yost (his wife), as well as correspondence of family members about Yost, notably Felicity O. Yost (his daughter). The photographs depict Yost and his family throughout his life, all over the world, and include some photographs related to his career. Also included are slides, home videos, a transcript of an oral history of Yost, and eulogies.

Series 2: Professional Papers, 1923-2007

The Professional Papers series documents Yost's career in the foreign service and includes his correspondence and writings, papers related to his various posts, and government files on his career. Most of the papers are related to his work with the United Nations, as well as being Ambassador to Laos (1954-1956) and his involvement in the 1967 crisis in the Middle East. Also included are State Department and FBI Files on Yost.

Series 3: Writings about Yost, 1939-2008

The Writings about Yost series is composed of copies of articles and dissertations about Yost, or which include references to Yost, and album pages of newspaper clippings about Yost's career at the U.N.

Series 4: Writings by Yost, 1917-1984

The Writings by Yost series includes copies of the text for speeches, journals, dairies and datebooks, articles, and books on foreign relations written by Yost. Notable subjects include his perspectives on the Middle East, China, and the Soviet Union, as well as general histories and analysis of foreign policy and international relations. The series also includes copies of unpublished novels, plays, and short stories.

Arrangement

The Papers have been divided into four series:

Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 1864-2008

Series 2: Professional Papers, 1923-2007

Series 3: Writings about Yost, 1939-2008

Series 4: Writings by Yost, 1917-1984

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from the Curator of the Public Policy Papers. Researchers are responsible for determining any copyright questions.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

There are audiocassettes, CDs, DVDs, a VHS tape, and a film reel located throughout the collection. Access to this material follows the Mudd Manuscript Library policy for preservation and access to audiovisual materials.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

The collection was a gift from Yost's son, Nicholas C. Yost in 2002 (Accession ML2002-11). Additional gifts were received from Yost's daughter, Felicity Yost, from 2005 through 2008 (Accessions ML2005-7, ML2006-12, ML2007-28, and ML2008-15).

Related Materials

Related Archival Material

The Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library holds many collections related to the Charles W. Yost Papers which may be located by browsing or searching for "diplomacy" on the [Princeton University Library Finding Aids website](#). Collections of particular relevance are the papers of career diplomats Jacob D. Beam, James Hugh Keeley, Jr., Lincoln MacVeagh, Livingston T. Merchant, Karl L. Rankin, William Cattell Trimble, Marten Van Heuven and Joshua Butler Wright.

The following items can be found in the Princeton University Library catalog.

“What Future for the UN? An Atlantic Dialogue: The Reactions of Western Europeans and Others to the Report of the Atlantic Council's Working Group on the United Nations”

“Toward a Search for Consensus in the United Nations” (Sound Recording)

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Charles W. Yost Papers, Box and Folder Number; Public Policy Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Laura J. Szymanski in 2003. Finding aid written by Laura J. Szymanski in 2003. Additions were integrated into the collection, and finding aid revised, by Adriane Hanson in 2008.

Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Adriane Hanson on October 22, 2008.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Yost, Charles Woodruff.
- Yost family.
- United States. Foreign Service -- Officials and employees.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Austria.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Czechoslovakia.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Egypt.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- France.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Greece.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Laos.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Morocco.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Poland.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Siam.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Syria.
- International relations.

- United States -- Foreign relations -- China.
- United States -- Foreign relations -- Middle East.
- United States -- Foreign relations -- Soviet Union.
- Correspondence.
- Journals.
- Notes.
- Writings.
- American history/20th century
- American politics and government
- Cold War
- Diplomacy

Contents List

Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 1864-2008 (1.4 linear feet in 4 boxes)

Series Description

The Personal and Family Papers series includes correspondence, photographs and genealogical materials. The correspondence is between Yost and family members, notably Gertrude A. Yost (his mother) and Irena G. Yost (his wife), as well as correspondence of family members about Yost, notably Felicity O. Yost (his daughter). The photographs depict Yost and his family throughout his life, all over the world, and include some photographs related to his career. Also included are slides, home videos, a transcript of an oral history of Yost, and eulogies.

Arrangement

Material from multiple accessions have been grouped together in this series. No further arrangement work has been performed.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
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Yost Father-In-Law, Kasimir Oldakowski, 2007 May 2	1	2
Three Letters (to/from): Yost/Sister-In-Law Sophie Quay (Zosia), Arthur Schlessinger Jr./Felicity Yost, Yost/Maureen Corr (His Secretary), 2006-2007	1	3
Itinerary for Yost and Irena O. Yost and Felicity Yost, 1967	1	4
Yost Letters to Felicity Yost, 1969-1971	1	5
Various Photographs Listed as #21 on List of Box Content, 1934-2005	1	6
Various Correspondence to Felicity O. Yost about Yost, 1965-2006	1	7
Yost's In-Laws, Article on Factory Run by Casimir Oldakowski (Father-In-Law), 2007 January 31	1	8
Letters from Yost to His Mother, 1923-1927	1	9
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Letters from Yost to His Mother, 1930	1	19
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Letter from Yost to His Mother Gertrude, 1934	2	1
Letter from Yost to His Mother-In-Law Edmund Oldakowski, undated	2	2
Yost Home Movies, Unedited, undated	2	3
Letters from Yost to His Mother, 1932	2	4
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Letter from Yost to His Mother, 1938	2	6
Letter from Yost to His Mother, 1940	2	7
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Six Letters from Yost to Irena O. Yost, 1938-1961	2	13
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Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 18 ... (Continued)

1969-2005

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Letters from Yost to Irena Yost Prior to Marriage (In French), undated	3	2
Charles W. Yost Genealogy #1, undated	3	3
Photographs (9), undated	3	4
Correspondence between Felicity Yost and Sir Brian Urquhart Concerning Yost and Ralph Bunche and Stevenson, 2008 March 25	3	5
Two Pieces on Abraham Cooper Yost's Great, Great Grandfather, 2008 March 26	3	6
Yost's Relatives in Two New York State Cemeteries, undated	3	7
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E-mail from Casimir Yost to Felicity Yost Concerning Yost and Henry Kissinger, 2008 March 24-25	3	9
Genealogical Information on Yost, Doxtater, Van De Werken Ancestors of Yost, undated	3	10
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Series 2: Professional Papers, 1923-2007 (4.8 linear feet in 12 boxes)

Series Description

The Professional Papers series documents Yost's career in the foreign service and includes his correspondence and writings, papers related to his various posts, and government files on his career. Most of the papers are related to his work with the United Nations, as well as being Ambassador to Laos (1954-1956) and his involvement in the 1967 crisis in the Middle East. Also included are State Department and FBI Files on Yost.

Arrangement

Material from multiple accessions have been grouped together in this series. No further arrangement work has been performed.

Series 2: Professional Papers, 1923-2007 ... (Continued)

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Series 3: Writings about Yost, 1939-2008 (1.1 linear feet in 4 boxes)**Series Description**

The Writings about Yost series is composed of copies of articles and dissertations about Yost, or which include references to Yost, and album pages of newspaper clippings about Yost's career at the U.N.

Arrangement

Material from multiple accessions have been grouped together in this series. No further arrangement work has been performed.

TITLEBOXFOLDER

Series 3: Writings about Yost, 1939-2008 ... (Continued)

Articles on Yost, in Envelope, in Album Pages, 1939-1981	15	8
Dissertation by Arlene Neher on Thailand with Numerous References to Yost, CD, undated	15	9
Draft Chapter for Book on Stevenson by Harlan Cleveland with References to Yost, 2004 November	15	10
Chapter from "Southeast Asian Raw Materials and the Origins of the Pacific War", 1995	15	11
SGI Quarterly with Picture of Yost During Cuban Missile Crisis, United Nations Blue Beret Pin, 2005	15	12
Princeton: Various Documents that Mention Yost, 1962-1969	15	13
Various Time Magazine Articles that Mention Yost, Charles Easton Rothwell Partial Oral History, 1958-1976	16	1
Washington Post Magazine, 2003 October 26, Photograph of United Nations Security Council During Cuban Missile Crisis with A. Stevenson and Yost, 2003	16	2
Two Items from the <i>New York Times</i> on Yost, 1965-1981	16	3
Articles that Mention Yost, 1968-2006	16	4
Articles, Documents, Books and Speeches with References to Yost, 1954-2005	16	5
Two Pieces on 1967 Six Day War (Middle East) that Mention Yost, 1990-2005	16	6
Two Articles that Refer to Yost and the Middle East, 1969-2002	16	7
Reference to Yost's Fulbright Hearings Testimony, in 1971 on Vietnam, 1971	16	8
"China Cross Talks", Article that Refers to Yost, undated	16	9
Three Pieces from Nixon Archives that Mention Yost, 1970-1971	16	10
State Department Bulletin, Obituary of Yost, undated	16	11
Article by Sir Brian Urquhart that Mentions Yost, 2008	16	12
Camp David Accords Annex with Mention of Yost, 1978	16	13
Various TV News Spots on Yost, undated	16	14
<i>Time Magazine</i> Articles that Mention Yost, 1968-1981	16	15
Yost Cables from US/UN Mission to the State Department on Arab/Israeli Situations,	16	16

Series 3: Writings about Yost, 1939-2008 ... (Continued)

1969-1970		
Kenneth Landon Papers with Numerous References to Yost and Irena O. Yost, 1945-1982	16	17
"Liberty" and "Democracy": Bangkok News Articles from 1946 that Mention Yost, 1946	16	18
Articles with References to Yost, 1967-1977	16	19
The President's Official Family, undated	16	20
Arlene Neher Dissertation on Thailand with Reference to Yost, 1980	16	21
Arlene Neher Dissertation on Thailand with References to Yost, 1980	17	1 to 3
Yost United Nations Career: Album Pages of Newspaper Clippings, 1945-1981	18	1

Series 4: Writings by Yost, 1917-1984 (1.0 linear feet in 3 boxes)**Series Description**

The Writings by Yost series includes copies of the text for speeches, journals, dairies and datebooks, articles, and books on foreign relations written by Yost. Notable subjects include his perspectives on the Middle East, China, and the Soviet Union, as well as general histories and analysis of foreign policy and international relations. The series also includes copies of unpublished novels, plays, and short stories.

Arrangement

Material from multiple accessions have been grouped together in this series. No further arrangement work has been performed.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Speeches, 1971-1973	19	1
Speeches, 1974-1977	19	2
Speeches, 1977-1981	19	3
Hotchkiss School Day Calendars and Journal, 1922-1929	19	4
Loose Journal Pages, 1931-1938	19	5
Journals, 1933-1938	19	6
Loose Journal Pages including Dumbarton Oaks, San Francisco, and Potsdam, 1941-1945	19	7

Series 4: Writings by Yost, 1917-1984 ... (Continued)

Journals and Date Book, 1941-1949, 1953-1968	19	8
Miscellaneous Journal Pages, undated	19	9
Memoirs, undated	19	10
Personal and Financial Documents, 1947-1971	20	1
Photographs and Travel Documents, 1945-1966	20	2
British Imperial War Council Proceedings, 1917	20	3
American Civil-Military Relations, Yost Address, undated	20	4
Two Papers Written by Yost for the Aspen Institute, 1976-1981	20	5
Two Pieces Written by Yost for the California Institute of Technology, 1967	20	6
Unpublished Play and Two Novels by Yost, undated	20	7
Unpublished Short Stories by Yost, undated	20	8
Unpublished Novel by Yost, Last Piece of Fiction Written in Late 1970s, 1970s	20	9 to 10
Articles and Speech by Yost, 1967-1981	20	11
Yost Youthful Publisher, 1920 November-December	21	1
Yost <i>Life Magazine</i> Article, 1971 September 24	21	2
Writings by Yost, undated	21	3
Handwritten Poem by Yost, "The Triumph of May", 1951 May	21	4
Articles Written by Yost for the <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , 1980-1984	21	5
Three Articles Written by Yost for <i>Foreign Affairs Magazine</i> , 1968-1971	21	6
Articles by Yost or about Yost, 1972-1981	21	7
<i>The Insecurity of Nations</i> , Yost, 1968	21	8
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