

# Guide to the John Spangler Nicholas Papers

MS 929



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and John Espy

August 1984

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 929

**CREATOR:** Nicholas, John Spangler, 1893-

**TITLE:** John Spangler Nicholas papers

**DATES:** 1914–1963

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 13 linear feet (33 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, writings, photographs, and research files (1914-1963) documenting the professional career and personal life of John Spangler Nicholas, a biologist and zoologist. His academic work, editorial contributions to the *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, and scientific research are detailed. Correspondents include: Ross Granville Harrison, Charles Rupert Stockard, and the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0929>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0929>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the estate of John S. Nicholas, 1964.

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## Conditions Governing Access

Box 19, student grades, is restricted for 75 years from date of creation.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

John Spangler Nicholas Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John S. Nicholas was born on March 10, 1893 [or 1895] in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He received his B.S. (1916) and M.S. (1917) from Pennsylvania College, and his Ph.D. from Yale University (1921). Nicholas held several academic positions at Yale University, including Bronson Professor of Comparative Anatomy (1935-1939), Sterling Professor of Biology (1939-1962), and Chairman of the Department of Zoology (1946-1956). He also served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Experimental Zoology* (1946-), as managing editor of the *Journal* (1947-), and as director of the Osborn Zoological Laboratory at Yale University (1947-). Nicholas was also a contributing member to many professional societies and organizations. He died in September, 1963 in New Haven, Connecticut.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, writings, photographs, and research files (1914-1963) documenting the professional career and personal life of John Spangler Nicholas, a biologist and zoologist. His academic work, editorial contributions to the *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, and scientific research are detailed. Correspondents include: Ross Granville Harrison, Charles Rupert Stockard, and the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology.

The Nicholas Papers are arranged in thirty-three (33) boxes and one folio, and total thirteen linear feet. The papers are arranged in the following six series:

- I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1918-1963
- II. ORGANIZATIONS, 1918-1963
- III. YALE UNIVERSITY, 1917-1963
- IV. WRITINGS, 1914-1962
- V. RESEARCH FILES, 1938-1963
- VI. PERSONAL FILES, 1918-1939

SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1918-1963, contains General and Select files of letters to and from Nicholas, primarily during his professional career as a biologist, zoologist, and editor of a scholarly journal. Correspondents include Ross Granville Harrison and Miroslava Pavlovic.

SERIES II. ORGANIZATIONS, 1918-1963, contains an alphabetical arrangement of files concerning organizations, societies, associations, and bodies which Nicholas joined, supported, or was involved with in the course of his academic and professional work. This series includes material relating to Nicholas' manpower study work on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (box 6, folders 52-56), the National Research Council (boxes 8-10, folders 63-77), the National Roster of Scientific

and Specialized Personnel (box 10, folders 78-82), and the United States Departments of Labor and HEW (boxes 13-14, folders 108-11).

SERIES III. YALE UNIVERSITY, 1917-1963, contains material relating to Nicholas' academic and administrative work on behalf of the Department of Zoology, the Osborn Zoological Laboratory, and the Sheffield Scientific School. Student grades and teaching files are also included in this series.

SERIES IV. WRITINGS, 1914-1962, is arranged in two sections: John S. Nicholas and Others. *Nicholas* files include his student notes from several courses and drafts of articles and speeches. *Others* files contain drafts of works by colleagues, including Ross Granville Harrison.

SERIES V. RESEARCH FILES, contains material on specific grant-funded projects Nicholas pursued and/or conducted, samples of notes, drawings, and photographs relating to amphibian and rat research and publications, and laboratory materials.

SERIES VI. PERSONAL FILES, 1918-1939, contains photographs and memorabilia of Nicholas.

A folio in Series VI contains large research charts and memorabilia.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in six series: I. Correspondence, 1918-1963. II. Organizations, 1918-1963. III. Yale University, 1917-1963. IV. Writings, 1914-1962. V. Research Files, 1938-1963. VI. Personal Files, 1918-1939.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I. Correspondence

1.75 linear feet (5 boxes)

This series is divided into two sections: General and Select. General consists of two sub-sections: "Chronological" and "Alphabetical." Select is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

#### General:

##### Chronological:

b. 1, f. 1-7	1918-1935, 1939-1953	1918-1935, 1939-1953
b. 2, f. 8-16	1954-1960	1954-1960
b. 2, f. 17-20	1960-1963, undated	1960-1963, undated

##### Alphabetical:

b. 3, f. 21-23	A-Cop	1926-1938
b. 4, f. 24-30	Cor-S	1926-1938
b. 5, f. 31-32	T-Z	1926-1938

#### Select:

b. 5, f. 33-34	Barron, Donald H.	1932-1941, undated
b. 5, f. 35	Harrison, Ross Granville	1926-1942, undated
b. 5, f. 36-38	Hooker, Davenport	1926-1956
b. 6, f. 39	Lindbergh, Charles A.	1937
b. 6, f. 40	Martinovitch, Peter N.	1929, 1949-1962, undated
b. 6, f. 41	Pavlovic, Miroslava R.	1956-1958

**Series II. ORGANIZATIONS**

3.5 linear feet (9 boxes)

This series is arranged alphabetically by name of organization.

b. 6, f. 42	American Academy of Arts and Sciences	1949–1955, undated
b. 6, f. 43	American Association of Anatomists	1963, undated
b. 6, f. 44	American Biological Society	1940–1941
b. 6, f. 45-46	American Institute of Biological Sciences	1950–1963, undated
b. 6, f. 47	American Philosophical Society	1948–1961, undated
b. 6, f. 48	American Society of Agronomy	1949–1950
b. 6, f. 49	Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc.	1950–1952
b. 6, f. 50	<i>Biological Abstracts</i> <i>Biological Abstracts</i>	1953–1963, undated
b. 6, f. 51	Cold Spring Harbor Symposia	1931–1935, 1953– 1954, 1963
	Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology	
b. 6, f. 52	General	1928
	Committee on Study of Manpower Needs in the Basic Health Sciences	
b. 6, f. 53	1959–1960 November	1959–1960 November
b. 7, f. 54-56	1960 December–1962	1960 December– 1962
b. 7, f. 57	International Institute of Embryology	1948–1963, undated
b. 7, f. 58-59	International Society for Cell Biology	1950–1963
b. 8, f. 60-62	National Academy of Sciences	1941, 1949–1961, undated
	National Research Council	
b. 8, f. 63-66	Division of Biology and Agriculture	1941–1956, undated
	Office of Scientific Personnel	
b. 8, f. 67	1942–1950 1942–1950	1942–1950 1942– 1950

## National Research Council &gt; Office of Scientific Personnel (continued)

b. 9, f. 68-74	1951-1961 1951-1961	1951-1961 1951-1961
b. 10, f. 75-77	1962-1963, undated 1962-1963, undated	1962-1963, undated 1962-1963, undated
National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel		
General		
b. 10, f. 78-82	1939-1942 May 1939-1942 May	1939-1942 May 1939-1942 May
b. 11, f. 83-84	1942 June-1943, undated 1942 June-1943, undated	1942 June-1943, undated 1942 June-1943, undated
b. 11, f. 85-90	Code sheets, technical checklists, weekly reports	1939-1943
b. 12, f. 91-92	National Science Foundation	1951-1963
b. 12, f. 93	New York Academy of Sciences	1941, 1947-1950
b. 12, f. 94	New York University	1936
b. 12, f. 95	Phi Beta Kappa	1928-1931, undated
b. 12, f. 96	Rockefeller Institute	1955-1963
Scientific Manpower Commission		
b. 12, f. 97-100	1953-1956 March 1953-1956 March	1953-1956 March 1953-1956 March
b. 13, f. 101-102	1956 April-1963, undated 1956 April-1963, undated	1956 April-1963, undated 1956 April-1963, undated
b. 13, f. 103	Society of the Sigma Xi	1934-1963, undated
b. 13, f. 104-106	Tissue Culture Association	1946-1963
b. 13, f. 107	United States Army	1918-1927
United States Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare: National Manpower Advisory Committee		
b. 13, f. 108-109	1962-1963 March 1962-1963 March	1962-1963 March 1962-1963 March



## United States Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and We [...] (continued)

b. 14, f. 110-111	1963 March–August 1963 March–August	1963 March– August 1963 March–August
b. 14, f. 112	University of Illinois	1938, 1945–1947
b. 14, f. 113	University of Michigan	1935

**Series III. YALE UNIVERSITY**

2.75 linear feet (7 boxes)

This series is divided into two sections: *Administration* and *Teaching files*. *Administration* is arranged alphabetically by name of office or department. *Teaching files* is arranged alphabetically by name or institution or course.

Administration		
b. 15, f. 114	<i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine, Inc.</i>	1953–1960 1953–1960
Yale University		
b. 15, f. 115	Miscellaneous	1920–1963, undated
b. 15, f. 116-120	Committee on the Course of Study for Yale College; Committee on Educational Planning	1940–1945, 1950, undated
Department of Zoology		
b. 15, f. 121	Minutes	1956–1957
Annual reports		
b. 15, f. 122	1921, 1927–1934	1921, 1927–1934
b. 16, f. 123-128	1935–1963, undated	1935–1963, undated
b. 16, f. 129-130	Report of army courses	1943–1944
b. 17, f. 131	Miscellaneous papers	1929–1961, undated
b. 17, f. 132	Faculty of Arts and Sciences	1950–1954
Osborn Zoological Laboratory		
b. 17, f. 133-135	Financial records, library museum	1933–1943, 1948–1963, n.d
b. 17, f. 136-138	Vendors' correspondence, brochures, etc.	1929–1943, 1956–1961, n.d
Sheffield Scientific School		
General		
b. 17, f. 139	1933–1942	1933–1942
b. 18, f. 140	1943–1946, undated	1943–1946, undated
b. 18, f. 141	Honor students	1934–1937, undated

## Administration &gt; Yale University &gt; Sheffield Scientific School (continued)

b. 18, f. 142-146	Pre-medical students	1927-1937, undated
b. 19, f. 147	Student grades Student grades are restricted for 75 years from date of creation due to University policy.	1927-1957, undated
Teaching files		
b. 20, f. 148-150	University of Pittsburgh	1921-1926
Yale University		
b. 20, f. 151	"Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates,"	1930-1944, undated
b. 20, f. 152-153	"Embryology,"	1933-1952, undated
b. 20, f. 154	"General Biology,"	1917-1944, undated
b. 21, f. 155-158	"Vertebrate Morphology,"	1927-1928, 1939
b. 21, f. 159-161	Miscellaneous	1932, 1954, undated
b. 22, f. 162-164	Examinations	1931-1951, undated

**Series IV. WRITINGS***3.25 linear feet (8 boxes)*

This series is arranged in two sections: *John S. Nicholas* and *Others*. *John S. Nicholas* is arranged in two sub-sections: "Student notes" and "Articles and speeches." "Student notes" is arranged chronologically under institutional headings, and alphabetically by the name of the professor. "Articles and speeches" is arranged in two sub-sub-sections: chronological and alphabetical.

*Others* is arranged alphabetically by the author's name.

## John S. Nicholas

## Student notes

b. 22, f. 165	General	undated
b. 22, f. 166	Pennsylvania College	[ca. 1914–1917]
b. 22, f. 167	Army Medical School, Vaccine Department; George Washington University	1915–1919
Yale University		
b. 22, f. 168	Boltwood, Bertram B.: "Laboratory Crafts,"	undated
b. 22, f. 169	Coe, Wesley R.	
b. 22, f. 169	"Genetics,"	1917–1918
b. 22, f. 169	"Cytology,"	undated
b. 22, f. 170	Detwiler, Samuel Randall: "Medical Histology,"	1919–1920
b. 23, f. 171	Ferris, Harry B.: "Human Anatomy,"	1919–1920
Harrison, Ross Granville		
b. 23, f. 172	"Vertebrate Morphology,"	1917–1918
b. 23, f. 173	"Embryology,"	1917–1918
b. 23, f. 174	"Experimental Embryology,"	1917–1921
Kirkham, William B.		
b. 23, f. 175	"Histology,"	1917–1918
b. 23, f. 175	"Comparative Anatomy,"	1918
Laurens, Henry		
b. 23, f. 176	"Comparative Physiology,"	1919–1920
b. 23, f. 176	"General Physiology,"	1920–1921
b. 24, f. 177	Petrunkevitch, Alexander: "Invertebrate Morphology,"	1917–1918
b. 24, f. 178	Underhill, Frank P.: "Physiological Chemistry,"	1918
Woodruff, Lorande L.		

## John S. Nicholas &gt; Student notes &gt; Yale University &gt; Woodruff, Lorande L. (continued)

b. 24, f. 179	"History of Biology,"	1917-1918
b. 24, f. 179	"Biology of the Protozoa,"	1919-1920
b. 24, f. 180	Research	undated
b. 24, f. 181-182	Miscellaneous	undated
Woods Hole		
b. 24, f. 183	Calkins, G.N.: "Protozoology,"	1919
b. 24, f. 184	"Invertebrate Zoology	1919
Articles and speeches		
b. 25, f. 185-204	1920-1934	1920-1934
b. 26, f. 205-224	1934-1948	1934-1948
b. 27, f. 225-257	1948-1952, 1959-1962, undated	1948-1952, 1959-1962, undated
b. 28, f. 258-263	undated	undated
b. 28, f. 264	Fragments	undated
b. 28, f. 265	Abstracts and reprints	1921-1937, undated
Biographical sketches		
b. 28, f. 266-267	Detwiler, Samuel Randall	1957-1959
b. 28, f. 268-271	Harrison, Ross Granville	1956-1961, undated
Others		
b. 29, f. 272	Defrise, A.	1933
b. 29, f. 273	Harrison, Ross Granville	1918, 1921, undated
b. 29, f. 274	Lang, Margaret E.	1958-1959
b. 29, f. 275	Oppenheimer, Jane	1941, 1955-1958, undated
b. 29, f. 276	Polezhajev, L.W.	1945, 1948
b. 29, f. 277-279	Miscellaneous: A-Z	1918-1960, undated

**Series V. RESEARCH FILES***1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series is divided into three sections: *Grant materials*; *Notes, Drawings, and Photographs*; and *Laboratory materials*. *Grant materials* is arranged alphabetically by funding agency. *Notes, drawings, and photographs* is arranged under the headings: "Amphibians," "Rats," and "Miscellaneous." *Laboratory materials* occupies a single folder.

Grant materials		
b. 30, f. 280-284	American Cancer Society	1946-1959, undated
b. 30, f. 285-286	National Science Foundation	1949-1963
b. 30, f. 287	Yale University	1938-1940, 1956-1959, undated
Notes, drawings, photographs		undated
b. 30, f. 288	Amphibians	
b. 31, f. 289-294	Amphibians	
b. 32, f. 295	Amphibians, rats	
b. 32, f. 296-301	Rats See also: <a href="#">box 34, folder 307</a>	
b. 33, f. 302-303	Miscellaneous	
b. 33, f. 304	Laboratory materials	undated

**Series VI. PERSONAL FILES***.5 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)*This series is divided into two sections, *Photographs* and *Memorabilia*. Each is arranged chronologically.

b. 33, f. 305	Photographs	1926–1939, undated
b. 33, f. 306	Memorabilia See also: <a href="#">box 34, folder 308</a>	1918–1931, undated
	Oversize (Folio)	
b. 34, f. 307	Rat chart	undated
b. 34, f. 308	Memorabilia	1936

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Preferred Titles**

Journal of Experimental Zoology

### **Subjects**

Biology -- Study and teaching  
Science  
Zoology

### **Occupations**

Biologists  
Zoologists

### **Names**

Conklin, Edwin Grant, 1863-1952  
Greenman, Milton J. (Milton Jay), 1866-1937  
Harrison, Ross G. (Ross Granville), 1870-1959  
Morgan, Thomas Hunt, 1866-1945  
Nicholas, John Spangler, 1893-  
Stockard, Charles R. (Charles Rupert), 1879-1939  
Wilson, Edmund B. (Edmund Beecher),  
1856-1939

### **Corporate Bodies**

National Research Council (U.S.)  
United States. War Manpower Commission  
Williams & Wilkins  
Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology  
Yale University -- Faculty  
Yale University -- Students  
Yale University. Dept. of Zoology