

# Guide to the Alan Barth Papers

MS 867



Revised by Janet Elaine Gertz

June 1983

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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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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 867

**CREATOR:** Barth, Alan

**TITLE:** Alan Barth papers

**DATES:** 1937-1981

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5 linear feet (12 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, articles, speeches, editorials, subject files, newspaper clippings, and a small amount of personal papers. Half the papers consist of editorials written for the *Beaumont Journal*(1937-1938), the *Washington Post*(1949-1977), and the *Guild Reporter*(1950-1951). Both the correspondence and writings reflect Barth's involvement during the McCarthy period. The issues of civil liberties and freedom of the press run through much of his correspondence with Malcolm Cowley, John Fisher, Felix Frankfurter, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Adlai Stevenson.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0867>

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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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0867>.

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 Alan Barth, 1975-1976, and Adrienne Barth, 1981.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Alan Barth has been transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu).

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### Preferred Citation

Alan Barth Papers (MS 867). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Alan Barth (1906-1979): newspaper reporter for the Beaumont, Texas, *Enterprise*, 1936, and *Journal*, 1937-1938; correspondent in Washington, D.C., for the McClure Newspaper Syndicate, 1938-1941; beginning in 1941 worked as editorial assistant for the Treasury Secretary and the Office of War Information; author of numerous books and articles.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Alan Barth deal in general with his profession as a writer and lecturer and with the liberal causes he espoused. The social and political issues of the 1940s through the 1970s are highlighted, in particular McCarthyism, civil liberties, intellectual freedom, and gun control. Among the more important correspondents are both political figures and editors, including Malcolm Cowley, John Fischer, Felix Frankfurter, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Adlai Stevenson.

The collection contains correspondence, writings, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other papers, all of which are arranged in two series: *Correspondence & Personal Papers* and *Writings & Subject Files*. Series I is made up of three sections: *Select Correspondence*, *General Correspondence*, and *Personal Papers*. Series II also contains three sections: *Speeches and Articles*, *Subject Files*, and *Editorials*.

These papers were donated to Yale University by Alan Barth in two gifts of 1975 and 1976, and by Adrienne Barth in 1981.

## **Arrangement**

Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence. II. Writings and Subject Files. III. Biographical and Personal Materials. IV. Editorials.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: CORRESPONDENCE & PERSONAL PAPERS, 1939-1981

1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

Barth's correspondence has been divided into two parts, with the correspondence of notable individuals and organizations having been separated from the *General Correspondence* and filed as *Select Correspondence*. Each part is arranged alphabetically, then chronologically for each individual. A good deal of the correspondence consists of comments, many of them quite lengthy, on Barth's writings and speeches, as well as letters of congratulations on his awards. Many of the exchanges with organizations concern speaking engagements, participation in conferences, and matters of publishing. The correspondence with the Center for Information on America, *Harper's Magazine*, and Viking Press in particular documents the evolution of several books and articles by Barth through lengthy discussions and criticism from editors Malcolm Cowley and John Fischer, among others. Additional correspondence concerning Barth's writings is located in Series II, Writings & Subject Files, because letters found filed with manuscripts have not been removed. It is therefore possible to find letters about specific writings in both Series I and II.

Among the more interesting runs of correspondence is that of Felix Frankfurter, then a justice of the Supreme Court. The first and fourth amendments and freedom of the press are the primary concerns of these letters, and the two men express their own points of view on this issue. The result is a dialogue which weighs the merits of freedom of the press against the individual's right to privacy.

There is an equally interesting exchange of letters with Henry Morgenthau, Jr., in which Barth expresses his support for Morgenthau's actions as Secretary of the Treasury under Roosevelt. Several speeches which Barth helped Morgenthau write are also included, in particular Morgenthau's closing address at the Bretton Woods Conference of July 1944. Similarly, the correspondence between Barth and Adlai Stevenson also includes a draft of a proposed speech on civil liberties written for Stevenson by Barth.

Other interesting correspondence includes a letter to Barth from Richard H. Wels. Wels was the attorney for Senator Margaret Chase Smith in her libel suit against the authors and publishers of *U.S.A. Confidential*, in which Senator Smith was referred to as being under the influence of left-wing writers and reporters. Barth was named by the authors of the book as one of these. Wels asked Barth to explain the "nature and extent" of his acquaintance with Senator Smith, which he does in his reply.

A series of eight letters to and from Eva Bittelman is also of interest. Her husband, Alexander Bittelman, was a Communist convicted under the Smith Act and was serving a three year sentence in federal penitentiaries where he was not allowed to write his autobiography and had his Social Security checks impounded by prison authorities. Eva Bittelman wrote to Barth asking for help in these matters.

In some cases the correspondence of notable individuals is of little interest. This is true of the Franklin Roosevelt correspondence, for instance, where the correspondence is limited to one letter answered by Roosevelt's secretary. Similarly, there is a letter from Barth to John Foster Dulles, then Secretary of State, inquiring about the removal of one of Barth's books from two USIA libraries. Although the letter was not answered by Dulles, the reply represents an official policy statement by the Department of State and is noteworthy in that respect.

*Personal Papers* is composed of biographical and personal materials, the biographical materials consisting primarily of newspaper clippings about Barth, reviews of his books, and published comments on his books and speeches. The personal materials include a small number of items such as government personnel forms, a publisher's agreement, and check stubs.

#### Select Correspondence

An asterisk indicates ten or more items.

## Select Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 1	Agronsky, Martin	1948, 1951
b. 1, f. 2	American Civil Liberties Union (*)	1952-1961
b. 1, f. 3	American Friends Service Committee (*)	1951-1958
b. 1, f. 4	American Jewish Congress (*)	1953-1961
b. 1, f. 5	Baruch, Bernard M.	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Bittelman, Eva (Mrs. Alexander)	1955-1956
b. 1, f. 5	Black, Hugo	1971-1973
	Block, Herb See: box 2, folder 47-48	
b. 1, f. 5	Buscaglia, Rafael	1948
b. 1, f. 6	California, University of, Berkeley (*)	1957-1968
b. 1, f. 7	Celler, Emanuel	1945
b. 1, f. 8-11	Center for Information on America (*)	1962-1965, 1971
b. 1, f. 12	Colorado, University of, Boulder (*)	1951-1964
b. 1, f. 13	Combs, J.M.	1944
b. 1, f. 13	Commager, Henry Steele	1954
b. 1, f. 14	Cornell University: U.S. National Students' Association	1955-1956
	Cowley, Malcolm See: box 2, folder 38-45	
b. 1, f. 14	Crossman, Richard	1954
b. 1, f. 15	Douglas, William O.	1952-1964
b. 1, f. 15	Dulles, John Foster	1953
	Elliston, H.B. See: box 2, folder 47-48	
	Estabrook, Robert H. See: box 2, folder 47-48	
b. 1, f. 16	Fahy, Charles	1964-1967
	Fischer, John S. See: box 1, folders 19-21	
b. 1, f. 16	Fortas, Abe	1952, 1968
b. 1, f. 17	Frankfurter, Felix (*)	1952-1960

## Select Correspondence (continued)

	Friendly, Alfred See: box 2, folder 47-48	
b. 1, f. 18	Fulbright, J.W.	1954
	Graham, Philip See: box 2, folder 47-48	
b. 1, f. 19-21	<i>Harper's Magazine</i> (*) English	1952-1959
b. 1, f. 22	Hook, Sidney	1957
b. 1, f. 22	Hoover, J. Edgar	1948
b. 1, f. 23	Jackson, Henry M.	1952
	Katzenbach, Edward L., Jr. See: Brandeis University, box 2, folder 57	
	Kissinger, Henry A. See: Confluence: An International Forum, box 2 folder 61	
b. 1, f. 24	McGuire, Matthew F.	1939
b. 1, f. 24	Mansfield, Mike	1952
b. 1, f. 25	Montana, University of, Helena	1957-1959
b. 1, f. 26	Morgenthau, Henry, Jr. (*)	1944-1946, 1948
b. 1, f. 27	Mount Holyoke College (*)	1951-1954
b. 1, f. 28	Munoz-Marin, Luis	1952-1953
b. 1, f. 29	<i>The Nation</i> (*)	1951-1958
b. 1, f. 30	Nebraska, University of, Lincoln (*)	1952-1954
b. 1, f. 31	Ohio Civil Liberties Union (*)	1956, 1961
b. 1, f. 32	<i>Playboy Magazine</i> (*)	1965-1966
b. 1, f. 33	Roosevelt, Eleanor See also: National Issues Committee, box 3, folder 84	1952
b. 1, f. 33	Roosevelt, Franklin D.	1940
b. 1, f. 33	Rostow, Eugene	1945
b. 1, f. 34	St. Louis Civil Liberties Committee (*)	1953-1956
b. 1, f. 35	Schlesinger, Arthur M. (*)	1949-1959
b. 1, f. 35	Stanton, Frank	1945-1957
b. 1, f. 36	Stern, Isaac	1958



## Select Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 36	Stevenson, Adlai E. (*)	1952-1958
b. 1, f. 36	Stone, I.F.	undated
b. 1, f. 37	Sweet Briar College (*)	1953-1954
b. 2, f. 38-45	Viking Press (*)	1949-1966
	Waldrop, A. Gayle See: box 1, folder 12	
b. 2, f. 46	Warren, Earl	1971
b. 2, f. 47-48	<i>Washington Post</i> (*)	1943-1959
b. 2, f. 49	Wellesley College (*)	1952-1960
b. 2, f. 49	Wels, Richard H.	1952
b. 2, f. 50	Wisconsin, University of, Madison	1953-1961
	Wiggins, Russell	
b. 2, f. 51	Yale University Law School (*)	1953-1958
b. 2, f. 52	Youngdahl, Luther W.	1959
<u>General Correspondence</u>		
b. 2, f. 53	Ab - American College	
b. 2, f. 54	American Council - Americans	
b. 2, f. 55	Amh - At	
b. 2, f. 56	Ba - Ber	
b. 2, f. 57	Bet - Bri	
b. 2, f. 58	Bro - By	
b. 2, f. 59	Ca - Ci	
b. 2, f. 60	Cl - Cond	
b. 2, f. 61	Conf - Cu	
b. 2, f. 62	Da - Di	
b. 2, f. 63	Do - Dy	
b. 2, f. 64	E	
b. 2, f. 65	Fa - Fra	
b. 2, f. 66	Fre - Fu	
b. 3, f. 67	Ga - Gers	

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 68	Gerv - Gor
b. 3, f. 69	Got - Gr
b. 3, f. 70	Haa - Har
b. 3, f. 71	Hat - Hi
b. 3, f. 72	Ho - Hy
b. 3, f. 73	I
b. 3, f. 74	J
b. 3, f. 75	Ka - Ki
b. 3, f. 76	Kl - Ku
b. 3, f. 77	La - Li
b. 3, f. 78	Lo - Ly
b. 3, f. 79	Maa - Man
b. 3, f. 80	Mar - Mes
b. 3, f. 81	Met - Mil
b. 3, f. 82	Min - Mot
b. 3, f. 83	Mu - My
b. 3, f. 84	Na - Neu
b. 3, f. 85	New - Ny
b. 3, f. 86	O
b. 3, f. 87	Pa - Pe
b. 3, f. 88	Ph - Pu
b. 3, f. 89	Q
b. 3, f. 90	Ra - Rob
b. 3, f. 91	Roe - Ru
b. 3, f. 92	Sa - Se
b. 3, f. 93	Sh - Sl
b. 3, f. 94	Sm - Ster
b. 3, f. 95	Stet - Sy
b. 3, f. 96	Ta - To
b. 3, f. 97	Tr - Tw

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 98	U - V	
b. 4, f. 99	Wah - Wash	
b. 4, f. 100	Wass - Westl	
b. 4, f. 101	Westm - Wil	
b. 4, f. 102	Win - Wy	
b. 4, f. 103	Y - Z	
b. 4, f. 104	Unidentified	

Personal Papers

b. 4, f. 105	Legal papers	1941, 1945
b. 4, f. 106	Printed matter	1944, 1950-1952, 1981
b. 4, f. 107	Newspaper clippings re: Alan Barth	1951-1953
b. 4, f. 108	Checkstubs from the American Newspaper Guild	1950-1951

**Series II: WRITINGS & SUBJECT FILES, 1937-1977**

3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

*Speeches and Articles*, arranged chronologically, consists of writings and addresses by Barth for a variety of publishers and other organizations, but not including editorials written for the *Washington Post*, the *Beaumont Journal*, and the *Guild Reporter*, which are to be found in section three, *Editorials*. Filed with many of the articles and speeches are related papers, including correspondence, newspaper clippings and printed matter, and other miscellaneous items.

*Subject Files* consists of several folders of subject materials which Barth used in preparing his numerous editorials on gun control.

*Editorials* is by far the largest section of the papers and consists entirely of editorials written for the *Beaumont Journal* (1937-1938), the *Washington Post* (1949-1977), and the *Guild Reporter* (1950-1951). The editorials are arranged in chronological order and present a compact history of the political and social issues of four decades. The emphasis of the editorials is on civil liberties in general and more specifically on several important issues including gun control, McCarthyism, freedom of the press and the rights of the individual, and immigration. A chronological list of the *Journal* and *Post* editorials for 1937-1968 is located in the register file.

Speeches & Articles

b. 4, f. 109-113	<i>The Loyalty of Free Men</i> (Viking Press); with correspondence and other papers	1949-1953
b. 4, f. 114	"McCarran's Monopoly" ( <i>The Reporter</i> ); with correspondence English	1951 May - August
b. 4, f. 115	"The Age of Doubt" ( <i>The Progressive</i> ); with correspondence English	1951-1952
b. 4, f. 116	Response to an article by Irving Kristol in <i>Commentary</i> ; with correspondence	1952 March - July
b. 4, f. 117	"A Moral Challenge to the Press" (address to the College of Journalism, University of Colorado); with correspondence English	1952 May - October
b. 4, f. 118	"Universities and Political Authority" (address to the American Association of University Professors annual meeting) English	1953 March 27
b. 4, f. 119	<i>Government by Investigation</i> (Viking Press); with correspondence and other papers English	1953-1954
b. 4, f. 120-121	"How Good is an FBI Report?" ( <i>Harper's Magazine</i> ); with correspondence and printed matter English	1953-1954
b. 4, f. 122	William Alanson White Institute address	1955 January 29
b. 4, f. 123	Harvard Law School Forum address; with newspaper clippings	1955 March
b. 5, f. 124	"Common Sense and National Security" (address to the St. Louis Civil Liberties Committee); with newspaper clippings English	1956 February 5

## Speeches &amp; Articles (continued)

b. 5, f. 125	"Intellectual Freedom and National Security" (Ohio Intellectual Freedom Conference); with newspaper clippings English	1956 April
b. 5, f. 126	Cleveland Civil Liberties Union Address	1956 December 7
b. 5, f. 127	Cincinnati Civil Liberties Union address; with newspaper clippings	1961 January
b. 5, f. 128	"Public Safety and Private Rights" (Hoagland Memorial Lecture, First Unitarian Church, Omaha, Nebraska); with correspondence English	1961 July - November
b. 5, f. 129	"Report on the 'Rampageous Right'" ( <i>The New York Times</i> ); with printed matter English	1961 August - November
b. 5, f. 130	"The Press as Censor of the Government" (address at Marquette University); with correspondence and newspaper clippings English	1961-1964
b. 5, f. 131	<i>Heritage of Liberty</i> (McGraw-Hill); with correspondence English	1963-1965
b. 5, f. 132	Oliver Wendell Holmes Bill of Rights Award acceptance address	1964 May 6
b. 5, f. 133	"We Need a Firearms Control Law - Now!" ( <i>Reader's Digest</i> ); with correspondence English	1966 December - 1967
b. 5, f. 134	"The New Migrants" (address to the Yale Law School Association annual banquet); with newspaper clippings English	1967 May 31
b. 5, f. 135	"Taking Stock of Ourselves - The 1970 Census," English	[pre-1970 Apr]
b. 5, f. 136	Book reviews	1970 March 3, undated
b. 5, f. 137	"Reduce Crime by Making Pistols Illegal" ( <i>The Vancouver Sun</i> ) English	1971 December 9
b. 5, f. 138	"Courses by Newspaper: Free Speech, Assembly" ( <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> ) English	1975 October 27
b. 5, f. 139	"Earl Warren" English	undated
<u>Subject Files</u>		
b. 5, f. 140-142	Gun control materials	1940-1959, 1965
b. 5, f. 143-144	Gun legislation materials	1965-1970
<u>Editorials</u>		
b. 6, f. 145-146	1937-1938	1937-1938

## Editorials (continued)

b. 6, f. 147-177	1949-1951	1949-1951
b. 7, f. 178-213	1952-1954	1952-1954
b. 8, f. 214-254	1955-1958	1955-1958
b. 9, f. 255-297	1959-1962	1959-1962
b. 10, f. 298-333	1963-1965	1963-1965
b. 11, f. 334-369	1966-1968	1966-1968
b. 12, f. 370-410	1969-1972	1969-1972
b. 12, f. 411	1974-1977	1974-1977
b. 12, f. 412	undated	undated

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## 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

*Beaumont Journal*  
*Washington Post*

### Subjects

Civil rights -- United States  
Firearms -- Law and legislation  
Freedom of the press  
Journalism  
Journalists  
Press

### Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government --  
1945-1953

### Names

Barth, Alan  
Bittelman, Eva  
Block, Herbert, 1909-2001  
Cowley, Malcolm, 1898-1989  
Douglas, William O. (William Orville),  
1898-1980  
Fisher, John Stirling, 1907-  
Fortas, Abe, 1910-1982  
Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965  
Friendly, Alfred, Captain, 1911-1983  
Graham, Philip L., 1915-1963  
Hook, Sidney, 1902-1989  
McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957  
Morgenthau, Henry, 1891-1967  
Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. (Arthur Meier),  
1917-2007  
Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965

### Corporate Bodies

American Civil Liberties Union  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Jewish Congress