



# Ronan (William J.) papers

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Ronan, William J. (William John)
<b>Title:</b>	William J. Ronan papers
<b>ID:</b>	FA1299
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1945-1988
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10.64 Cubic Feet 22 boxes - 9 legal document containers, 9 letter document containers, 1 half-letter document container, 1 half-legal document container, 1 oversize document container, and 1 clamshell document container
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

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## Biographical / Historical

William J. Ronan was born on Nov. 8, 1912. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1934 and began teaching government at New York University in 1938. Ronan earned a PhD in international law and diplomacy from NYU in 1940, where he was hired as an assistant professor of government. From 1953-1958, he served as the Dean of NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Ronan was appointed Secretary to the Governor in Nelson Rockefeller's administration and served in this capacity from 1959-1966. He left this position to work for the newly-created Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Authority which became the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in 1968. Ronan served as the first chairman of the MTA until 1974. Under his leadership, the MTA began major improvement projects. He left the MTA to serve as chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey until 1977. From 1980-1986, Ronan served as the Director of the National Health Council. He remained an advisor to the Rockefeller family until 1990 and retired from public service to work as an adviser to transportation companies, government agencies, and nonprofits as well as serve on corporate boards. Ronan died in 2014 at the age of 101.

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## Scope and Contents

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The William J. Ronan papers consist of materials related to Ronan's years of service as Secretary to the Governor of the State of New York during Nelson Rockefeller's administration, Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The collection contains diaries and planners documenting his daily activities as well as clippings, reports, photographs, awards, and a personal memoir.

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## Arrangement

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The William J. Ronan papers are arranged into one series: Personal Papers

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Processing Information

Processed by Katie Martin, July 2017

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

This material was transferred to the RAC in 2016 by Diana Ronan Quasha and ingested by RAC as Accession 2016:040

## Conditions Governing Access

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

When requesting to view audiovisual material, please refer to the Title and the AV Number (example: AV 1916). Researchers are asked to check the "Restrictions" note for each Title. If a Title does not currently have an access copy, please contact a RAC archivist for further instruction.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Nelson A. Rockefeller gubernatorial records, William J. Ronan, Series 29 (FA371) <http://dimes.rockarch.org/FA371/collection>

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979 -- Political and social views
- Transportation -- New York Metropolitan Area
- New York (State) -- Politics and government
- Presidential campaigns -- United States

## Collection Inventory

<b>Personal Papers, 1945-1988</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Standard Diary, 1971	box 1	folder 1
National Diary for 1967, 1967	box 1	folder 2
Green's Diary, 1964	box 2	folder 3
National Diary for 1963, 1963	box 2	folder 4
National Diary for 1966, 1966	box 3	folder 5
Green's Diary, 1962	box 3	folder 6
National Diary for 1966, 1966	box 4	folder 7
Daily Reminder, 1979	box 4	folder 8
Green's Diary, 1965	box 5	folder 9
Diary, 1973	box 5	folder 10
Diary, 1974	box 5	folder 11
The Standard Diary, 1961	box 6	folder 12
The Standard Diary, 1960	box 6	folder 13
The Standard Diary, 1959	box 6	folder 14
State of New York: Temporary State Commission on Coordination of State Activities: Staff Report on Public Authorities Under New York State (2 copies), 1956 March 21	box 7	folder 15-16
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Annual Report, 1968-1972	box 7	folder 17
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Annual Report, 1968-1972	box 8	folder 18
Continental Diary, 1969	box 8	folder 19
Continental Diary, 1968	box 8	folder 20
National Time Line, 1977	box 9	folder 21
Standard Diary, 1972	box 9	folder 22
The New York Red Book, 1959	box 9	folder 23
Standard Diary, 1977	box 10	folder 24
Nomination of Nelson A. Rockefeller to be Vice President of the United States, Senate and House Hearings and Reports, 1974	box 11	folder 25

**Scope and Contents**

Bound volume

Manual for the Use of the Legislature of the State of New York, 1955	box 11	folder 26
Manual for the Use of the Legislature of the State of New York, 1959	box 11	folder 27
The New York Red Book, 1962-1963	box 12	folder 28
Manual for the Use of the Legislature of the State of New York (2 copies), 1961-1962	box 12	folder 29-30
Manual for the Use of the Legislature of the State of New York, 1966-1967	box 12	folder 31
New York City Transit Authority GSI Presentation Slides, 1972 March 1	box 19	folder 83
Port Authority Bus Terminal photograph, undated	box 19	folder 84

**Scope and Contents**

Board of Commissioners (?) group photo

The Strategy and Art of Political Campaigning, Second Carbon Copy, 1967-1968	box 13	folder 32
Evolution of the Public Transportation Industry, undated	box 13	folder 33
William J. Ronan - Personal, 1946-1987	box 13	folder 34

**Scope and Contents**

Reports, clippings, and correspondence - Monitor: The Voice of Industry in New York State May 1960, Program for 31st Annual Dean's Day at New York University, Certificate of Satisfactory Service in the Navy 1946, Clippings from 1987, Nassau County Commerce and Industry News 1982, and correspondence

Hon. William J. Ronan Commissioner, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey portrait, undated	box 19	folder 85
Lord and Lady Snow with Dr. Ronan photograph, undated	box 19	folder 86

**Scope and Contents**

Note on back: Ronan, Tissol (sp?), Byrne Tokyo 1970?

American Public Transit Association - Hall of Fame Plaque Presentation photograph, 1985	box 19	folder 87
World Trade Center photographs, 1975 December 15	box 19	folder 88

## Scope and Contents

Opening Day Ceremony of the Observation Deck Atop the  
World Trade Center, Port Authority Chairman William J.  
Ronan speaking

Urban Mass Transportation Administration - Presented to Dr. William J. Ronan in Commemoration of the Start of the Smokeless Cable Development Program, 1976 March 17	box 21	folder 106
American Public Transit Association Hall of Fame 1985 Plaque, 1985	box 22	folder 108
Untitled Group Photograph, undated	box 19	folder 89
American Transit Association 93rd Annual Meeting Program, New York, 1974 October 13-17	box 13	folder 35
Special Court Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 - Testimony of Dr. William J Ronan, 1980 October 15	box 13	folder 36

## Scope and Contents

Concerning likely actions of public agencies and authorities  
with respect to the Northeast Corridor properties in the  
absence of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973  
submitted on behalf of the Penn Central Corporation and  
certain affiliated Penn Central Transferors

Mass Transit 6, Volume 5 - Ronan still making Headlines by Frank Mazza, 1978 June	box 13	folder 37
Mass Transit 8, Volume 2 - Message from Ronan: Get Back to Reality by Frank Mazza (2 copies), 1975 September	box 13	folder 38
Review and Evaluation of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PA) Actions Relative to Expense Account Irregularities Audit Report NY-Auth-12-79, 1978 June 26	box 13	folder 39
Revised Draft of Senate Bill 386 - Joint Conference Committee, Institute for Rapid Transit (IRT), 1974 October	box 13	folder 40
Institute for Rapid Transit (IRT) Newsletter, 1970 August	box 13	folder 41
The New York Times Section 11 Advertisement - Millions on the Move, 1971 June 20	box 21	folder 105
Dedication Ceremony, General Electric Commuter Car, New Haven, 1971 November 12	box 19	folder 90
National Diary for 1970, 1970	box 13	folder 42
Page Describing Nelson Rockefeller's Funeral , undated	box 13	folder 43
National Time Line 1975, 1975	box 14	folder 44
National Time Line 1974, 1974	box 14	folder 45
National Time Line 1974 - Removed Clippings, 1971-1975	box 14	folder 45a



Business Cards, William J. Ronan, Secretary to the Governor, State of New York, undated	box 14	folder 46
Fabric with "2" stitched on, undated	box 14	folder 47
Standard Diary, 1975	box 15	folder 48
Untitled group photographs, 1959	box 19	folder 91

### Scope and Contents

Water conference?

Personal Memoir, undated	box 15	folder 49-53
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### Scope and Contents

Folder 49.) Includes chapters dedicated to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Folder 50.) Only in New York, Odd Jobs, Entering Academia: Instructor in Government, Marriage and Honeymoon, Navy Days, Return to NYU and Career in Academia, Home Sweet Homes Long Island, People and Personalities, Folder 51.) World Trade Center Saga, Second Campaign 1962, Folder 52.) The Rockefeller Years, First Campaign 1958, Secretary to the Governor, Folder 53.) A Classic Campaign 1966, Albany Renaissance, The Quest for Presidential Nomination

Personal Memoir, undated	box 16	folder 54-57
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### Scope and Contents

Folder 54.) Tri-State Transportation and Planning Commission, Creating and Operating the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Folder 55.) Buying and Modernizing the Long Island Railroad, Securing Two Vital Regional Airports, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Folder 56.) Tracking Transportation: The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Tri-State Transportation and Planning Commission, Creating and Operating the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Folder 57.) Buying and Modernizing the Long Island Railroad, The New York City Transit Authority Subway Rescue and Modernization, Securing Two Vital Regional Airports

Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Chairman Complimentary Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority (MSBA) Rail Pass and Business Cards, 1974	box 16	folder 58
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Photographs and Programs, 1975	box 20	folder 94
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### Scope and Contents

Dowling College Honorary Degree Presentation, Unidentified photos of events, meetings, and ribbon cuttings, Salute to the Vice President of the United States Program 1975, Invitation and Menu for the Vice President's

Home Housewarming Party 1975, Group Photo NYU  
School of Public and Business Administration

Queen Elizabeth Visit Photographs, 1976 July 9	box 20	folder 95
Visit to the World Trade Center of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain photographs, 1976 June 4	box 20	folder 96
Photographs of Navy Service Members, Nelson Rockefeller, and Ships, Bicentennial Celebration (?), 1976 July 4	box 20	folder 97
Photographs, undated	box 20	folder 98

### Scope and Contents

Photographs of various events, including the opening day ceremony of the observation deck atop the World Trade Center, photographs with rail cars, ribbon-cuttings, and meetings with world leaders

Photographs, undated	box 20	folder 99
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### Scope and Contents

Unknown aerial photo, press briefing, group photo

Photograph signed by Nelson Rockefeller, undated	box 21	
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#### Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

Special format items have been separated from the above listed file and assigned a unique separation number, as noted. Requests to access open special formats should reference the unique separation number.

Aviation Education Day Photograph, 1967 September 30	box 21	folder 100
Photographs, 1969	box 21	folder 101

### Scope and Contents

Unknown William J. Ronan swearing-in ceremony and Signing of Contract for Construction of 63rd St. East River Tunnel, October 24, 1969

Unidentified Photograph, undated	box 21	folder 102
First Riders' Club Certificates - BC Transit (British Columbia) , undated	box 21	folder 104

### Scope and Contents

Presented to Bill and Elena Ronan

The National Health Council Testimonial of Achievement, 1986 April 1	box 21	folder 103
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Who's Who in the World 25th Edition, William J. Ronan Profile, 2008	box 16	folder 59
Correspondence with New York University and the Department of State, 1946-1958	box 16	folder 60
Clippings (3 folders), 1956-1974	box 16	folder 61-63
The Nelson Rockefeller Collection (2 copies), 1979-1980	box 16	folder 64
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Art catalog created by William J. Ronan		
Clippings, 1974	box 16	folder 65
Clippings, 1945-1985	box 21	folder 107
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Also contains assorted pamphlets and programs from events		
Reports, Ephemera, and Clippings, 1960-1977	box 16	folder 66
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Dowling College Commencement 1974 Program, Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Inc. Twelfth Annual Dinner 1962, Program and Seating List for Dinner in Honor of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. Executive Summary 1977, The Institute for Socioeconomic Studies Annual Dinner Conference on Welfare Reform 1975, Certificate for Ronan's Membership in the National Academy of Public Administration 1968, 1968-1973 The Ten-Year Program at the Halfway Mark - MTA, and related clippings and correspondence		
Photographs, 1976-1986	box 19	folder 92
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Presentation of Emerald Society Inc. New York City Transit plaque honoring William J. Ronan, Chairman's Club Nassau County group photo Spring 1986, "Take Stock in America/'76" New York City Savings Bonds Committee Luncheon in Honor of William E. Simon, Secretary of the Treasury 1976, photos from unidentified events, and World Trade Centers Association 7th General Assembly Peace and Prosperity through World Trade - Korea 1976		
Photographs, 1981	box 19	folder 93

## Scope and Contents

1981 Gold Medal Award Ceremony, the majority are undated and unidentified photographs from various meetings and events

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Pocket Planners, 1963-1988	box 17	folder 67-76
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### Scope and Contents

	box 18	folder 77-79
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Individual pocket planners for individual years: 1967, 1984, 1964, 1965, 1982, 1973, 1968, 1981, 1985 (Republican Senatorial Inner Circle), 1987, 1963, 1988, 1978

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Address Books, undated	box 18	folder 80-82
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Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller Address Delivered in the Senate Chambers, 1974 December 19	box 18	
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Metropolitan Transportation Authority Certificate of Honorary Membership, undated	box 18	
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Commemorative Pen and Letter Framed, undated	box 18	
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