



Stevens (David H.) papers

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical/Historical note | 3 |
| Scope and Contents note | 4 |
| Arrangement note | 4 |
| File Plan note | 4 |
| Administrative Information | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 5 |
| Collection Inventory | 6 |
| Personal Papers | 6 |
| Rockefeller Foundation Records | 6 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Rockefeller Archive Center |
| Creator - aut: | Stevens, David Harrison |
| Creator: | Rockefeller Foundation |
| Title: | David H. Stevens papers |
| ID: | FA051 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1929-1976 (bulk 1929-1950) |
| Date [bulk]: | 1929-1950 |
| Physical Description: | 1.71 Cubic Feet 4 letter document cases 1 1/2 letter document case |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

Educator and author, David Harrison Stevens was born on December 20, 1884, in Berlin, Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate (1906) and master's (1910) degrees from Lawrence College, a second master's degree from Harvard University (1912), and the Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago (1914). During his undergraduate years, he met Ruth Frances Davis, whom he married on March 26, 1915. Their family included three children.

After a brief tenure as Instructor of English at Northwestern University (1908-1912), Dr. Stevens received a similar post at the University of Chicago, where he rose to Professor of English and later Associate Dean of Faculties. During this period, interrupted briefly by military service in World War I, he published scholarly studies on Milton and Restoration drama.

On October 19, 1929, Dr. Stevens was named Director of Education for the General Education Board. The following year, he became Vice President of that organization, a position he held until May 20, 1938.

At the beginning of 1932, Dr. Stevens was appointed the first full-time Director of the Humanities Division of The Rockefeller Foundation. Under his leadership, Foundation appropriations for the humanities developed from a series of random grants into full-scale programs of library support, creative

work in drama, film, and radio, and intensive training in modern languages and foreign culture. Dr. Stevens retired from the Foundation on December 31, 1949.

During his retirement years, Dr. Stevens continued his active interest in education and authorship, producing two books: "The Changing Humanities" (1953, later title "A Time for Humanities," 1969) and "Ten Talents in the American Theatre" (1957). In 1967, he and his wife endowed the Stevens Lectureship in the Humanities at Lawrence University. Dr. Stevens died in La Jolla, California, on January 29, 1980.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

The David H. Stevens papers contain little material of a personal nature. Consisting of reports, correspondence, pamphlets, articles, speeches, and a book manuscript, the papers focus narrowly upon Stevens's term as Director of the Humanities Division of The Rockefeller Foundation (1932-1949) and upon some of his retirement activities. Such correspondence as exists in this collection is mainly concerned with Stevens's contacts among Foundation personnel and grantees or the disposition of his papers with the Foundation archives. Approximately eighty percent of the material in this collection consists of reports and other records related to the operations of the Humanities Division. None of the material relates to Stevens's service with the General Education Board.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement note

The David H. Stevens Papers are divided into two series:

Series 1 - Personal Papers

Series 2 - Rockefeller Foundation Records

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan note

Former Classification: IV 2A 34

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

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

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

David H. Stevens donated his papers to The Rockefeller Foundation between 1969 and 1975.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Humanities

Collection Inventory

Personal Papers, 1933-1976

Physical Description: 0.5 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents note

This series contains correspondence (dating from Stevens's retirement years), articles and speeches, and the manuscript of a book entitled "Something about Education."

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Correspondence, 1959-1962, 1967-1971 | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Correspondence, 1972-1976 | box 1 | folder 2 |
| Articles and Speeches, 1933-1975 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Book Manuscript - "Something about Education", circa 1968 | box 1 | folder 4 |
| Book Manuscript - "Something about Education", circa 1968 | box 1 | folder 5 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Rockefeller Foundation Records, 1929-1975

Physical Description: 1.5 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents note

This series contains records of appropriations for the Humanities Division compiled from the Minutes of the Foundation from 1929 until 1949, Humanities Program reviews and fellowship surveys undertaken between 1934 and 1949, and occasional reports. Also contained in this series are reports generated from other divisions of the Foundation or treating the Humanities Division as part of the Foundation's general program. A small number of pamphlets collected by Stevens dealing with Foundation grantees concludes this series. Most of the material in this series is duplicated in the archives of The Rockefeller Foundation.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Humanities Appropriations, 1929-1935 | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Humanities Appropriations, 1929-1935 | box 1 | folder 7 |
| Humanities Appropriations, 1936-1944 | box 2 | folder 8 |
| Humanities Appropriations, 1936-1944 | box 2 | folder 9 |
| Humanities Appropriations, 1945-1949 | box 3 | folder 10 |
| Humanities Appropriations, 1945-1949 | box 3 | folder 11 |
| Humanities Program Reviews, 1934-1947 | box 3 | folder 12 |
| Humanities Program Reviews, 1939-1949 | box 4 | folder 13 |

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Humanities Division - Survey of Fellowships, 1933-1948 | box 4 | folder 14 |
| Humanities Division - Reports, 1943-1949, 1959 | box 4 | folder 15 |
| Rockefeller Foundation | box 4 | folder 16 |
| Scope and Contents note | | |
| Report of Committee on Appraisal and Plan, 1934; Report of Special Committee on Policy and Program, 1946-1947. | | |
| Rockefeller Foundation - General Reports, 1935, 1940,1944 | box 4 | folder 17 |
| Rockefeller Foundation - Pamphlets Relating to Grantees, 1946-1950 | box 5 | folder 18 |
| Rockefeller Foundation - Pamphlets Relating to Grantees, 1955, 1975 | box 5 | folder 19 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)