



# Stevens (David H.) papers

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

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

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## Summary Information

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

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## Scope and Contents note

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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.

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## Arrangement note

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

Series 1 - Personal Papers

Series 2 - Rockefeller Foundation Records

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## File Plan note

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Former Classification: IV 2A 34

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

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

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

### Revision Description

Migrated from Re:discovery to the Archivists' Toolkit by Marisa Hudspeth 10/19/09

### Conditions Governing Access

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### Processing Information note

James E. Cyphers completed processing of the collection on February 20, 1981.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition note

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

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Humanities
- Rockefeller Foundation

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## Collection Inventory

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### 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

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### 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.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
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
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>  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

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