

# **Martin Agronsky Papers**

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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm2001084841>

Prepared by Donna Ellis with the assistance of Dan Oleksiw

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Martin Agronsky Papers

**Span Dates:** 1907-1999

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1940-1990)

**ID No.:** MSS84841

**Creator:** Agronsky, Martin, 1915-1999

**Extent:** 27,700 items ; 79 containers ; 31.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Radio and television journalist. Appointment books, awards, radio, television, and film scripts, speeches, writings, and research material pertaining to Agronsky's career as a radio and television journalist.

## 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.

### People

Agronsky, Martin.

Eichmann, Adolf, 1906-1962--Trials, litigation, etc.

### Subjects

Cold War.

Economics.

Foreign correspondents--Asia.

Foreign correspondents--Australia.

Foreign correspondents--Europe.

Politics, Practical.

Trials--Israel.

World War, 1939-1945--Journalists.

### Occupations

Journalists.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Martin Agronsky, radio and television journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by his estate in 2001. Additional material was given in 2003 by David Agronsky.

### Transfers

Sound recordings, videocassettes, and a film have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Martin Agronsky Papers.

### Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Martin Agronsky in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of Martin Agronsky are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Martin Agronsky Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1915, Jan. 12	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1936	B.A., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1936-1937	Reporter, <i>Palestine Post</i>
1937-1940	Freelance newspaper reporter
1940-1943	Foreign correspondent, National Broadcasting Co.
1943	Married Helen Smathers (died 1969)
1943-1957	Correspondent, American Broadcasting Co., Washington, D.C.
1952	Awarded George Foster Peabody Award
1957-1964	Correspondent, National Broadcasting Co.
1961	Awarded Alfred I. DuPont Award
1964-1968	Bureau chief, Paris, France, and moderator of "Face the Nation," Columbia Broadcasting System
1968	Received Emmy Award
1969	News anchor, WTOP-TV, Washington, D.C.
1969-1987	Host, "Agronsky and Company," WETA-TV, Washington, D.C.
1971-1975	Host, "Martin Agronsky's Evening Edition" and "Agronsky at Large," Public Broadcasting System
1999, July 25	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Martin Agronsky (1915-1999) span the years 1907-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1940 to 1990. The papers are organized in the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), and a [Miscellany](#) consisting primarily of appointment books, awards, biographical material, and items related to organizations with which Agronsky was associated.

The [Correspondence](#) series contains primarily letters written by colleagues and the public to Agronsky in response to his newscasts. Incoming and outgoing letters and telegrams document communications between Agronsky and his network supervisors regarding news assignments.

The [Speeches and Writings File](#), especially the scripts of Agronsky's newscasts, forms the centerpiece of the papers. The material dates from his career as a foreign correspondent in Europe, Australia, and Asia during World War II and continues through the Cold War years. His coverage of the Adolf Eichmann trial in Israel won him the Alfred I. DuPont Award in 1962. Other scripts include his work on documentary films. The speech file contains correspondence, notes, and texts pertaining to his lectures on political and economic subjects. Research material includes news clippings, notes, and printed matter relating to the subjects on which Agronsky frequently lectured.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1907-1991](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996](#)
- [Miscellany, 1933-1999](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

*Series*

BOX 1-12

**Correspondence, 1907-1991**

Correspondence and memoranda between Agronsky and his friends, colleagues, and the public relating to professional activities.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 13-74

**Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996**

Broadcast and film scripts, magazine articles, research material, and speeches.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 75-79

**Miscellany, 1933-1999**

Appointment books, awards, biographical material, lawsuits, and correspondence relating to organizations and television programs.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-12</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1907-1991</b> Correspondence and memoranda between Agronsky and his friends, colleagues, and the public relating to professional activities. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1907, 1939-1942 (7 folders) 1943 Jan.-Apr. (3 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	June-Dec. 1944 (5 folders) 1945 Jan.-Apr. (2 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	May-Sept. (7 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	Oct.-Dec. (4 folders) 1946-1947 (5 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b>	1948-1949 (5 folders) 1950 Jan.-Apr. (2 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	May-Dec. (3 folders) 1951 (2 folders) 1952 Jan.-Mar.
<b>BOX 7</b>	Apr.-Dec. (2 folders) 1953 (7 folders)
<b>BOX 8</b>	1954 Jan.-May (7 folders)
<b>BOX 9</b>	June-Dec. (7 folders) 1955

## Correspondence, 1907-1991

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BOX 10	Apr.-Dec. (7 folders)
	1956-1971 (3 folders)
BOX 11	1972-1981 (9 folders)
BOX 12	1982-1991, undated (9 folders)
BOX 13-74	<b>Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996</b> Broadcast and film scripts, magazine articles, research material, and speeches. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 13	Broadcast scripts American Broadcasting Co. "At Issue" Correspondence and financial records, 1953-1954, undated Interviews, 1953-1954 (3 folders) Prospective topics, 1951-1954, undated Daily news 1943 (3 folders)
BOX 14	circa 1943 (9 folders)
BOX 15	(3 folders) 1944 Jan.-May (8 folders)
BOX 16	June-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 17	Oct.-Dec. (5 folders) 1945 Jan.-Feb. (3 folders)
BOX 18	Mar.-Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 19	Sept.-Dec. (6 folders) 1946 Jan.-Feb. (3 folders)
BOX 20	Mar.-Aug. (8 folders)

## Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 21	Sept.-Dec. (4 folders) 1947 Jan.-Feb. (4 folders)
BOX 22	Mar.-June (7 folders)
BOX 23	July-Nov. (8 folders)
BOX 24	Dec. (3 folders) 1948 Jan.-Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 25	Apr.-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 26	Oct.-Dec. (6 folders) 1949 Jan.-Feb. (3 folders)
BOX 27	Mar.-June (8 folders)
BOX 28	July-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 29	Nov.-Dec. (4 folders) 1950 Jan. (2 folders)
BOX 30	Feb.-May (8 folders)
BOX 31	June-Sept. (7 folders) Oct. 2-14
BOX 32	16-31 Nov.-Dec. (4 folders) 1951 Jan.-Feb. (4 folders)
BOX 33	Mar.-June (8 folders)
BOX 34	July-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 35	Nov.-Dec. (4 folders)

## Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996

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	1952
	Jan.-Feb. (4 folders)
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<b>BOX 37</b>	June-Nov. (9 folders)
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	1953
	Jan.-May (9 folders)
<b>BOX 39</b>	June-Dec. (8 folders)
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<b>BOX 40</b>	
<b>BOX 41</b>	Aug.-Dec. (7 folders)
	1955
	Jan.-Feb. (3 folders)
<b>BOX 42</b>	Mar.-Aug. (11 folders)
<b>BOX 43</b>	Sept.-Nov. (8 folders)
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	Feb. 1-14 16-29
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<b>BOX 47</b>	23-31
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	1957

## Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996

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BOX 49	Program sponsors Cancellations, 1946-1956 (7 folders) Correspondence, 1950-1955 Expenses, 1943-1953 Lists, 1945-1954, undated (3 folders)
BOX 50	Miscellany, 1947-1955, undated Radio station affiliates, 1950-1955 Sales, 1946-1956 (6 folders) Sponsor identifications, 1953-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 51	National Broadcasting Co. Daily news 1939-1940 (4 folders) 1941 Jan.-July (6 folders)
BOX 52	Aug.-Oct. (3 folders) 1942 (6 folders)
BOX 53	1957-1968 (7 folders) "Emphasis," 1960-1964, undated "Look Here" Correspondence, 1957-1958, 1996, undated Interviews 1957 (2 folders)
BOX 54	1958, undated (3 folders) "The Trial of Adolf Eichmann" Production material, 1961 Scripts, 1961 Unidentified scripts, undated Miscellany Films <i>American Workmanship</i> , 1976 <i>And One to Grow On</i> , 1979-1980, undated Coal slurry pipeline, 1980 Communications Workers of America, 1982, undated CSX-Richmond Corp., 1984

## Speeches and Writings File, 1939-1996

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<b>BOX 55</b>	<i>First Monday in October</i> , 1980 Hadassah Medical Organization, 1985 <i>It's Child's Play</i> , 1961 <i>A Matter of Commitment</i> , 1983 The National Financial Planning Quiz, 1981 Nazareth to Bethlehem travelog, 1961 Magazine articles "I Will Be Back," undated <i>Life</i> project on Iran, 1947, undated "Iran--Urgent," undated Miscellaneous, 1943-1952, undated "The Partition of Palestine," 1937 "The Public and the Act," 1970 "The Voice of the Supreme Court," 1955-1956 Radio and television guest appearances, 1968, 1979-1988
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<b>BOX 58</b>	Communism, 1948-1955, 1963, 1973, undated Condon, Edward U., 1948-1949, undated Crossfield, Scott, 1955-1958, undated (2 folders) Cuban missile crisis, 1963, undated Democratic Party, 1944, 1952, 1981 Disarmament, 1983-1986, undated Dulles, John Foster, 1952-1957, undated Eastern Europe, 1940-1942, undated
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<b>BOX 60</b>	(2 folders)

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	Fact sheets and news releases, 1960-1961, undated (2 folders)
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	Elections 1948
<b>BOX 62</b>	1950-1964, 1980-1988, undated (7 folders)
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	Finance 1945-1954 (3 folders)
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	Fulbright, J. William, 1959-1965, undated
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	Goldwater, Barry, 1964, undated
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<b>BOX 65</b>	League of Nations, 1937, 1974
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	Racial discrimination, 1954, 1963-1968, undated

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<b>BOX 70</b>	Speech file 1942, 1947-1975 (12 folders)
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BOX 74	1986-1990, undated (20 folders)
BOX 75-79	<b>Miscellany, 1933-1999</b> Appointment books, awards, biographical material, lawsuits, and correspondence relating to organizations and television programs. Arranged alphabetically by type of material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
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BOX 77	1960-1991, 1999, undated (6 folders) <i>Jerusalem Post</i> , 1945-1953 Lawsuits Alexander v. Agronsky, 1981-1982 Reed v. Agronsky, circa 1944
BOX 78	Organizations National Theatre Corp., 1980-1986, undated (4 folders) Radio Correspondents Association, 1948-1953, undated Photographs, 1939, 1950-1983, undated Telephone messages, 1980-1981
BOX 79	Television programs "Agronsky and Company," 1974-1987, undated (2 folders) "Evening Edition," 1971-1976, undated (2 folders) "Hindsight," undated Proposals, 1963, 1988