Fred Rodell Papers, 1940-1980
HC.Coll.827.1
Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
October 04, 2012
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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The papers of Fred Rodell (1906-1980), a graduate of Haverford College and long-time professor of law at Yale University. The papers consist of correspondence, a scrapbook of letters and other materials dedicated to

**Preferred Citation note**
Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA. Special Collections, Fred Rodell Papers, Coll. no. 827.1
Biographical/Historical note

Fred Rodell (1907-1980) was a 1926 graduate of Haverford College, who came back in 1962 to receive an honorary LL.B. degree. In his career, he was an educator and author, and a fearless letter writer. Rodell served as a special legal adviser to Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania until 1933 and was then a professor at the Yale Law School for forty years. He was an expert on Constitutional law and a dedicated defender of civil rights. Rodell believed the Supreme Court should protect the rights of the individual against legislative and executive encroachment. His theories significantly influenced Supreme Court justices William O. Douglas, Earl Warren, Potter Stewart, and Byron White. Rodell was critical of lawyers and their profession, often lambasting the pretentiousness and pomposity he observed. He is renowned for his cynical assessment of legal articles entitled "Goodbye to Law Reviews," published in 1936 in the *Virginia Law Review*. He summed this up stating: "There are two things wrong with almost all legal writing. One is its style. The other is its content." His works include *Woe Unto You, Lawyers* (1939), *Fifty-Five Men: The Story of the Constitution* (1936), and *Nine Men: A Political History of the Supreme Court, 1790–1955* (1955).

(Contemporary Authors Online, 2001 and Encyclopedia Judaica 2007)

Scope and Contents note

The correspondence in this collection of law professor and author, Fred Rodell (1907-1980) spans the period 1940-1972. Among the writers are Thurman Arnold, Charles Alan Wright, Abraham Ribicoff, Josephine Baker, Arthur Goldberg, various law professors, attorneys and publishers and others.

The papers include a scrapbook of letters and other materials dedicated to Fred Rodell, an annotated book by Rodell, *Nine Men* and a collection of Rodell's published writings.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections July 2011

Conditions Governing Access note
This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Loren Ghiglione, June 2011

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Ghiglione, Loren

Other Finding Aids note

See also: Collection 827, which is an extensive collection of the papers of Fred Rodell.
## Collection Inventory

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**Correspondence**  
3.0 Boxes

**General note**

Descriptions of correspondence are highlights of material based on content or significant author.

**Scope and Contents note**

1940:

TLS by Charles Gerstenberg

1956:

Correspondence with attorneys, law professors, judges, publishers, and particularly regarding Rodell's article "The Pattern of Defiance" on racial segregation. (Ca. 90 items.)

1959:

TLS by Thurman Arnold and TS of Arnold's *Professor Hart's Theology*

1962:

Correspondence, including with Charles Alan Wright, law professors, Haverford College president Hugh Borton, attorneys, publishers, letters to several Supreme Court justices, clippings, articles by FR. (Ca. 80 items.)

Mostly undated material:

Typed list of addresses, lectures, speeches by FR, 1959-1960.
Biographical information on FR;
Typed letters to the editor: 2 items.
Typed articles: 28 items.
Manuscript articles: 4 items.
Book reviews: 3 items.
Book chapters: 2 items.

1963-1968

Scope and Contents note

1963:
Correspondence including from former students, attorneys, law professors, publishers, clippings. Ca 55 items

1964:
Correspondence, including with law professors, publishers, Judge Kenneth Wynne, 2 items signed by Josephine Baker, note signed by Justice Arthur Goldberg, TLS by Bill Scranton, clippings, including Rodell's published magazine and newspapers pieces, published article. Ca. 80 items

1965:
3 typed copies of letters from Charles A. Wright, Bernard Ward and William Brennan, correspondence, including with publishers, 3 articles by Fred Rodell, clippings, letters from Rodell asking permission to include photographs of them in a book. Ca. 40 items

1966:
Correspondence, including from professors, friends and attorneys, clippings. Ca. 10 items

1967:
Correspondence, including from publishers, attorneys, Charles A. Wright, professors, Anti-Shyster League, Roy Mersky. Ca. 90 items

1968:

Correspondence, including from publishers, law professors, attorneys, Ralph Nader (2), Abraham Ribicoff (1), clippings, Fred Graham (NYT). Ca. 110 items

1969-1972

**Scope and Contents note**

1969:

Correspondence, including from professors, Karl Menninger, book review editors, newspaper editors re Rodell articles, attorneys, Arthur Goldberg, clippings, Victor Navasky, Charles A. Wright, Nat Hentoff. Ca. 180 items

1970:

Correspondence, including with Sam Ervin, clippings, professors, attorneys, book review editors, the Carswell case, the Haynsworth case, defense of Justice Douglas, Victor Navasky. Ca. 185 items

1971:

Correspondence, including with Sen. John Tunney, John R. Coleman, clippings, Charles A. Wright, professors, attorneys, publishers. Ca. 90 items

1972:

2 items

**Papers  2.0 Boxes**

Box

Scrapbook; Nine Men; Wendell Wilkie; Articles re Fred Rodell
Scope and Contents note

- "Wendell Willkie, Private Servant"/ by Fred Rodell. 1940. Copy of typescript.
- Scrapbook of letters, clippings and photos in honor of Fred Rodell, 1975, including from William O. Douglas (1), John R. Coleman, various legal scholars and professors;

Published Articles

Scope and Contents note

Circa 50 items