

MS-60: C. Philip Skardon Papers

Collection Number: MS-60

Title: C. Philip Skardon Papers

Dates: 1959-1996 (bulk 1970-1976)

Creator: Skardon, C. Philip, 1926-2010

Summary/Abstract:

Skardon was a prominent Dayton businessman with an interest in civic and cultural affairs. His papers relate to his service in three organizations: the Metropolitan Church, the Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Committee, and the Dayton Council on World Affairs. Included are minutes, correspondence, newsletters, and printed materials.

Quantity/Physical Description: 2.0 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date], MS-60, C. Philip Skardon Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition: The collection was donated personally by Mr. Skardon to Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, on January 4, 1977. Mr. Skardon donated additional materials in 2006.

Related Material: Dayton Council on World Affairs Records (MS-46)

Revisions: Finding aid revised to DACS by Lisa Rickey, June 2016.

Processed by: Lois E. Walker, June 1979; additions by Patricia A. McEldowney, June 2012

Arrangement:

The collection divides naturally into three series:

Series I: Metropolitan Churches United (0.25 linear feet)

Series II: Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission (0.25 linear feet)

Series III: Dayton Council on World Affairs (2 linear feet)

Subseries 1: Administrative Records and Publications

Subseries 2: Programs and Activities

Mr. Skardon's personal remarks on the creation of these papers are in the first file of Box 1 (Box 1 File 1A)

Biographical/Historical Note:

C. Philip Skardon (1926-2010) was a prominent Dayton businessman with a keen interest in civic and cultural affairs. He owned and operated a public relations firm specializing in employee communications. He was the former chairman of the Festival USA Committee of the Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission of 1976 and was active for a number of years in the Dayton Council on World Affairs.

Scope and Content Note:

The materials in this collection related to Mr. Skardon's service with three Dayton organizations: The Metropolitan Churches United, The Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission, and The Dayton Council on World Affairs. Each of these organizations has its own series in the collection's organization:

Series I: Metropolitan Churches United (MCU)

In 1970, the Dayton Church Federation was reorganized to form the Metropolitan Churches United. Mr. Skardon, representing the Dayton Area Episcopal Council, was selected provisional chairman of the founding board of MCU and served in that capacity from December 1970 to February 1971. His membership on the Board of Directors continued through at least 1972, which is the extent of the minutes in these records.

Mr. Skardon, in his personal remarks, notes that Metropolitan Churches United made stronger efforts to include the Catholic community in their organizational structure than had its predecessor, thus strengthening the organization.

MCU activities during the years of Mr. Skardon's services centered on the social issues--"Taking a Stand for Mankind" by "assist(ing) in mobilizing Church and community resources, relating to the people where the action is, serving as an agent of reconciliation, and being a servant to all the people." Further information on the purposes and activities of MCU are given in the organizational brochure in Box 1, File 1.

The papers which Mr. Skardon collected regarding social concerns of the organization are classified as "Issues and Concerns" (Box 1, Files 5-8). They include Dayton School Desegregation (including the text of a speech delivered by Dr. Charles A. Glatt at the Seminar on the Constitutional Rights of Children for an Equal Educational Opportunity, sponsored by MCU, July 10, 1975), National Farm Workers, the War on Poverty, and the Vietnam War.

Series II: Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission (DMCBC)

The Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and the Dayton City Commission and began functioning in May 1974. In August 1974, Dayton-Montgomery County was designated an official Bicentennial Community by the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration and the Commission was presented with the official flag and certificate in ceremonies held in the Courthouse Plaza August 21, 1974.

The DMCBC decided to organize the Bicentennial events for the community around the major themes suggested by President Ford: Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. C. Philip Skardon was appointed Chairman of the Festival USA Committee, charges with formulating and coordinating the community activities to commemorate the Bicentennial--specifically the 4th of July parade, an Arts Festival, a Sports Olympiad, the Courthouse Plaza activities, the Hydroglobe, etc.

The collection consists primarily of minutes of the various Bicentennial committees and correspondence concerning the development of activities. An organizational flow chart showing staff and projected activities is included in Box 1, File 12. Box 1, file 15 contains an official calendar of events covering the period September 1975-October 1976.

The records complement the collection of the Bicentennial Commission, MS-55, also housed in the Wright State University Archives.

Series III: Dayton Council of World Affairs (DCWA)

The Dayton Council on World Affairs was founded in 1947, and Mr. Skardon remarks in his personal comments (Box 1 File 0), the organization was very active during its early years due to the keen interest in world affairs generated in the wake of World War II. Researchers should also see the donated papers of the Dayton Council on World Affairs (MS-46), also available at Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives. Mr. Skardon's papers act as an extension of the DCWA collection, which in most areas extends only to 1972.

Mr. Skardon's involvement with DCWA began as a Council volunteer in the mid-1960's. He was called upon to speak frequently, principally at churches and area high schools. In 1970, he assumed responsibility for putting together the Council's weekly television series (see Box 2, File 4). In 1972, he became Program Chairman and was instrumental in establishing a number of week-long programs featuring different cultures, beginning with "Japan Week" in 1972. These programs slowly evolved into the World A'Fair, the major annual activity sponsored by the DCWA at the Dayton Convention Center.

Mr. Skardon served as President of the Dayton Council on World Affairs from June 1973 to June 1975. He took particular interest in organizing two international business sessions, the "Key Issues in Japanese Business" conference held in May 1974 and the "Annual Business and Economic Relations Conference" with special emphasis on U.S.-Middle East relations held in April 1975. He was also responsible for major planning of the 1975 World A'Fair. Mr. Skardon states in his personal comments that his assignment with the Bicentennial Commission was based on the success of this project for the Council.

Series III divides naturally into two Subseries:

- Subseries 1: Administrative Records and Publications
- Subseries 2: Programs and Activities

The first Subseries contains minutes of the Board of Directors meetings from 1972-1975 (which complement the DCWA Collection #46), extensive personal correspondence concerning the development of the various programs and administrative matters spanning a period from 1959-1975, limited financial records (largely contribution card), and materials associated with the various DCWA committees and the Junior Council World Affairs.

The programs and activities Subseries contains the greatest wealth of material in the entire collection. Mr. Skardon saved all of his records and materials in connection with the programs he was responsible for organizing. Of particular interest are the materials on "Japan Week" (Box 3, Files 9-17), and the "key Issues in Japanese Business" conference (Box 4, Files 2-8).

The 1975 Annual Business and Economic Relations Conference (Box 4, File 9) was held at Wright State University, and included in these materials is the text of the welcoming speech delivered by President Kegerreis. The planning of the World A'Fair in 1975 was complicated by discontent voiced by the national groups representing China, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Peru, and Poland, who withdrew from participating in the Festival. Differences were evidently eventually reconciled, but the entire story cannot be gleaned from these records. Also included in the materials of the World A'Fair (Box 4, File 10) is the Charter of the United Ethnic Group and various financial records, as well as correspondence and the Codified Guidelines for the World A'Fair in 1976.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Skardon, C. Philip, 1926-2010 -- Manuscripts

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Committee

Dayton Council on World Affairs

Metropolitan Churches United

Subjects (General)

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
<u>Series I: Metropolitan Churches United (MCU)</u>			1970-1976
1	1A	C. Philip Skardon's personal remarks on creation of the papers: Notes regarding Metropolitan Churches United	1976 December 29
1	1B	Report of the Church Federation Study Committee concerning reorganization of the Church Federation of Greater Dayton to form the Metropolitan Churches United; Brochure on MCU purpose and activities Correspondence concerning reorganization	1970-1971
1	2	Minutes: Board of Directors, Dayton Area Episcopal Council, Executive Directors Report	1970-1972
1	3	Budgets, Financial statements, and Treasurer's Reports	1971-1973
1	4	Newsletter "From Our Communications Center"	1971 March - 1971 December
1	5	Issues and Concerns-Dayton School Desegregation; Includes text of speech by Dr. Charles A. Glatt delivered at the Seminar on the Constitutional Rights of Children for an Equal Educational Opportunity, sponsored by the MCU, July 10, 1975	1976 June
1	6	Issues and Concerns: National Farm Workers	1972-1973
1	7	Issues and Concerns: War and Poverty (Nixon's veto of OEO and Head Start bills)	1971, Undated
1	8	Issues and Concerns: Miscellaneous Cable TV Task Force; Peace-building Efforts; Concerned Clergy for Justice; Project Equality Resolution; Protection of International Travelers; Vietnam War	1971-1972, Undated
1	9	Correspondence	1970 October - 1971 December
<u>Series II: Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission</u>			1974-1976
1	1A	C. Philip Skardon's personal remarks on creation of the papers: Notes regarding Bicentennial Commission Festival/ USA Committee	1976 December 29
1	10	Guidelines and Policies	Undated

1	11	Federal Guidelines for Grant Assistance to Non-Profit Organizations for Bicentennial Projects	1974-1976, Undated
1	12	Minutes: Bicentennial Commission, Festival USA Committee, Operating Committee, Public Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Parade Advisory Committee	1974 August - 1975 September
1	13	Minutes: Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce General Aviation Committee, Dayton Air Fair '75 Subcommittee	1975 January - 1975 June
1	14	Minutes: Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Committee, Arts Festival Committee	1975 February - 1975 June
1	15	1975-1976 Bicentennial Calendar of Events	1975-1976
1	16	Air Fair Materials (List of displays, schedules, floor plans, aircraft listing, budget, program, committee roster, press releases)	1975
1	17	Correspondence, rosters, agendas, programs	1974-1975
1	18	Publicity, clippings, news releases	1974-1975
1	19	Miscellaneous programs and publications	1974-1976, Undated
2	1	Miscellaneous clipping on the Bicentennial	1975
2	2	Rough notes (scattered and incomplete)	1974-1975, Undated
<u>Series III: Dayton Council on World Affairs (DCWA)</u>			1959-1996
	<u>Subseries 1: Administrative Records and Publications</u>		1959-1976
1	1A	C. Philip Skardon's personal remarks on creation of the papers: Notes regarding The Dayton Council on World Affairs	1976 December 29
2	3	Constitution of DCWA (as amended May 2, 1970); Board of Directors Minutes; Executive Committee Minutes	1970-1971
2	4	Minutes: Board of Directors	1972-1975
2	5	Correspondence	1959-1967
2	6	Correspondence	1969-1970
2	7	Correspondence	1971-1972
2	8	Correspondence	1973

2	9	Correspondence	1974-1975
2	10	Financial Records, Contribution Cards, Budgets for programs, Finance campaign records and correspondence	1965-1975
2	11	Annual Reports (originals)	1973-1974
2	12	Membership rosters	1971-1975
2	13	Adult Program Committee: Minutes	1968-1971
2	14	Television Committee: Minutes, Correspondence, Program information for "It's your World" series	1966-1970
2	15	Planning Task Force : Minutes, Correspondence, Survey of the membership	1973
2	16	Junior Council on World Affairs : Student Executive Council Minutes, Papers of the history of JCOWA, Program for 1974 Model General Assembly	1970-1974
3	1	Newsletter (scattered issues)	1967-1975
3	2	Publicity-Press Releases	1973-1974
3	3	Publications, Annual Reports, Printed brochures for programs, Brochures on DCWA in general, Schedules	1970-1975
3	4	Brochures and Announcements-other organizations	1966-1973, Undated
3	5	Miscellaneous periodicals	1969-1970
3	6	Rough Notes (scattered and incomplete)	1970, Undated
<u>Subseries 2: Programs and Activities</u>			1970-1996
3	7	"America's Future Role in Southeast Asia"-Joint program with the Yale Club of Dayton	1970 October 30
3	8	Great Decisions Program	1971
3	9	"Japan Week" : Minutes of planning committee	1971-1972
3	10	"Japan Week"-Schedules	1971-1972
3	11	"Japan Week"-Printed programs	1972
3	12	"Japan Week"-Correspondence	1971 January - 1972 August
3	13	"Japan Week"-Foreign Dignitaries	Circa 1971-1972

3	14	"Japan Week"-Publicity, Press Releases, Newspaper Clippings, Mayor's Proclamation	1972, Undated
3	15	"Japan Week"-Financial, Bills for brochure printing	1972, Undated
3	16	"Japan Week"-Photographs : Black and white pictures of speakers and activities, Color slides of activities and displays, Black and white negatives for the prints (in neg. file)	1972, Undated
3	17	"Japan Week"-Rough Notes (scattered and incomplete)	1972, Undated
4	1	"An International Challenge...and the American Response" Foreign Policy Conference: Correspondence, Agendas, Resource Materials	1973 May 11
4	2	"Key Issues in Japanese Business" Conference- Correspondence	1974 May 31
4	3	"Key Issues in Japanese Business"- Resource Material	1971-1973, Undated
4	4	"Key Issues in Japanese Business"- Brochures and Press Releases	1974, Undated
4	5	"Key Issues in Japanese Business"-Biographical data on speakers	1973-1974
4	6	"Key Issues in Japanese Business"-Presentations	1973-1974, Undated
4	7	"Key Issues in Japanese Business"-Photographs	1970, Undated
4	8	"Key Issues in Japanese Business"-Rough Notes (scattered and incomplete)	Undated
4	9	1975 Annual Business and Economic Relations Conference-Emphasis on U.S.-Middle East Relations (Held at Wright State University): Conference Schedule, Correspondence, President Kegerreis's address, Biographical data on speakers	1975 April 25
4	10	"A World A'Fair" : Guidelines, Program, Correspondence, Minutes of the Festival Committee, Financial records, Charter of the United Ethnic Group, Rough Notes	1975 May 30 - 1975 June 1
4	11	"Dayton National Security Seminar" : Program Brochure, Correspondence, Publicity, Biographical data on President of Sinclair College, Resource Materials	1976 April 19-30
4	12	"Creating Excellence in Government"	1993-1996