

University of Chicago Library

Guide to the Aaron Director Papers 1918-2001



© 2007 University of Chicago Library

Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary	3
Information on Use	3
Access	3
Citation	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope Note	4
Related Resources	4
Subject Headings	5
INVENTORY	5
Series I: Correspondence	5
Series II: Research and Writing	5
Series III: George J. Stigler Collection	9
Series IV: Personal	10
Series V: Oversize Materials and Photographs	11

Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.ADIRECTOR
Title	Director, Aaron. Papers
Date	1918-2001
Size	5 linear feet (6 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Aaron Director was a professor in Law and Economics at the University of Chicago from 1946 to 1965. His papers include correspondence, notes, and drafts of essays, lectures, and policy statements spanning the years 1932 to 1994. Much of the correspondence focuses on American monetary policy and administrative matters regarding the Journal of Law and Economics. The series covering Director's research and writing includes a broad range of notes, drafts, annotations, and academic materials. Additionally, the Aaron Director Papers include a series devoted to materials attributed to the economist and Nobel Laureate George J. Stigler. Director and Stigler frequently collaborated on works of economic theory, and Director preserved a significant collection of Stigler's papers. These materials include notes, drafts, and publications produced over the length of Stigler's tenure at the University of Chicago.

Information on Use

Access

No restrictions. Open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Director, Aaron. Papers [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Biographical Note

Aaron Director was born September 21, 1901 in Charterisk, Russia, in what is now the Ukraine. He immigrated with his family to Portland, Oregon in 1913. He attended Yale University, graduating with a degree in economics in 1924 after only three years. Director later attended the University of Chicago, earning a graduate degree in economics and teaching introductory courses in the Department of Economics. In 1946, he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School, where he began applying principles of economics to the study

of law. Through collaborations with his brother-in-law Milton Friedman, Henry Simons, and George Stigler, Director asserted a tremendous influence on a broad range of legal scholarship. With this work, he became closely associated with the Chicago School of Economics, a free-market methodology at the basis of the World Bank's policies in the 1980s and 1990s. Among Director's students were federal judges Richard Posner, Robert Bork, and Frank Easterbrook.

Throughout his career, Director maintained a strong collaborative impulse in his writing and teaching. He famously co-taught a course with future law school dean and Attorney General Edward H. Levi in the 1950s. In the course, Director would use economic data and methods to challenge Levi's legally-reasoned conclusions. Though his publication list is short, Director's influence can be seen in the writings of many Chicago economists and legal scholars. Said George Stigler, "Most of Aaron's articles have been published under the names of his colleagues."

With Ronald Coase, Director founded the *Journal of Law and Economics* in 1958. In 1962, he helped to found the Committee on a Free Society. Perhaps Director's greatest legacy is his thorough consideration of antitrust policy, advocating a laissez-faire system in which market forces, rather than governmental regulations, guide economic competition.

After retiring from the Law School in 1965, Director relocated to California and took a position at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He died September 11, 2004, at his home in Los Altos Hills, California.

Also represented in these papers is Director's colleague George J. Stigler (1911-1991). Stigler, the 1982 Nobel Laureate in Economics, worked out his theories of public regulation in large part through conversations and debates with Director in the 1960s. After Stigler's death, Director and Milton Friedman presented monetary gifts in excess of one million dollars to the University of Chicago Economics Department in Stigler's honor. These gifts led to the establishment of the George J. Stigler Professorship in Economics at the University.

Scope Note

The Aaron Director Papers consist of five series. Series I contains personal and professional correspondence from the years 1940 to 1997. Series II holds notes and drafts from 1933 to 1994. These documents include various legal decisions, economic data, course notes, and drafts of formal papers. Series III includes drafts, notes, articles, and correspondence attributed to Director's close friend and colleague, George J. Stigler. Series IV contains personal material relating to the lives of Director and his family. Series V contains oversized materials including photographs and other personal material transferred from Series IV.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

Coase, Ronald. Papers

Levi, Edward H. Papers

Simons, Henry C. Papers

Stigler, George. Papers

University of Chicago. Department of Economics. Records

University of Chicago. Law School. Records

Subject Headings

- Director, Aaron
- Coase, R.H. (Ronald Harry)
- Friedman, Milton, 1912-
- Stigler, George Joseph, 1911-
- University of Chicago. Law School
- Monetary policy

INVENTORY

Series I: Correspondence

Series I contains personal and professional correspondence. Topics include discussions and position statements on American monetary policy, the hiring of Ronald Coase by the University of Buffalo, and details of the University of Chicago's Law-Economics program of the early 1960s. Additionally, the series contains a small amount of correspondence relating to the Journal of Law and Economics in the 1950s and 1960s.

Box 1

Folder 1

Greeting cards, 1940-1997

Box 1

Folder 2

Correspondence, 1946-1952

Box 1

Folder 3

Correspondence, 1947

Box 1

Folder 4

Correspondence, 1962-1963

Box 1

Folder 5

Correspondence, 1965-1991

Box 1

Folder 6

Secondary correspondence, D. Redfield and H. Simons, n.d.

Series II: Research and Writing

Series II is comprised of Director's writing, research and teaching material from 1933 to 1994, as well as similar material from some of his students and colleagues. These documents include drafts of papers and lectures, course notes and syllabi, collections of statistical data, court decisions, and reading notes and summaries. Dated materials are placed first, followed by undated materials.

Box 1

Folder 7

Mitchell, Wesley C., "Bentham's Felicific Calculus," annotated reprint, 1918

Box 1

Folder 8

Publications, 1927-1992

Box 1

Folder 9

Garvin, R.L., "A Study of Bank of England Notes Outstanding, 1790-1830," student paper, 1933

Box 1

Folder 10

Drafts, 1933 and n.d.

Box 1

Folder 11

Reprints, 1936-1987

Box 1

Folder 12

Manuscripts and reprints, 1937-1946

Box 2

Folder 1

Drafts and syllabus, 1937-1958

Box 2

Folder 2

Drafts, 1939 and n.d.

Box 2

Folder 3

"War and Economic Organization," lecture material, 1940

Box 2

Folder 4

Economics coursebook, 1946

Box 2

Folder 5

Drafts, 1946 and n.d.

Box 2

Folder 6

Lectures, drafts, and notes, 1956 and n.d.

Box 2

Folder 7

Notes, 1964-1968

Box 2

Folder 8

Smith, Adam, notes on his texts and associated drafts, 1970-1971

Box 2

Folder 9

Rosen, Sherwin, "Public Employment and the Welfare State in Sweden," draft, 1994

Box 2

Folder 10

Bank of England, manuscripts and notes, n.d.

Box 2

Folder 11

Christians, William F., "Analysis, Bank of England Notes Outstanding, 1790-1830" student paper, n.d.

Box 2

Folder 12

Banker's Circular, notes, n.d.

Box 2

Folder 13

Banker's Magazine, notes, n.d.

Box 2

Folder 14

Banking and economy, drafts, n.d.

Box 2

Folder 15

Currency theory, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 1

Economists and monopoly, notes and draft, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 2

Joplin, Thomas, notes on several of his texts, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 3

Kefauver, Cary Estes, notes on court decisions, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 4

Manuscript, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 5

McLellan, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 6

Parliamentary papers, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 7

Patents in England, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 8

Patent practices, draft, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 9

Patent practices, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 10

Photocopied publications, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 11

Poor law opinions, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 12

Smith, Adam, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 13

Smith, Adam, summary of text, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 14

Standard Oil, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 15

Tooke, Thomas, notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 16

Trademarks, drafts and notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 17

War finance literature, discussion outlines and notes, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 18

Watkins, Myron, Industrial Combinations and Public Policy, summary, n.d.

Box 3

Folder 19

Friedman, Milton, "The Monetary Theory and Policy of Henry Simons," Henry Simons lecture, delivered at the Law School, University of Chicago, May 5, 1967, typescript draft (p. 1-2 missing), circa 1967

Box 3

Folder 20

Drafts, n.d.

Box 4

Folder 1

Notes and articles, n.d.

Box 4

Folder 2

Notes and court decisions, n.d.

Box 4

Folder 3

Notes, n.d.

Box 4

Folder 4-16

Notes, n.d.

Series III: George J. Stigler Collection

Series III contains material collected by Director, related to the work of his colleague George J. Stigler (1911-1991). The materials in this series comprise a small collection of Stigler's drafts, articles, and correspondence dating from 1932 until his death in 1991. Additionally, this series contains notes and correspondence relating to the founding of the Stigler Professorship in the University of Chicago's economics department. These materials are organized chronologically, with undated materials placed at the end of the series.

Box 5

Folder 1

Manuscripts and articles, 1932-1994

Box 5

Folder 2

Lectures, articles, and correspondence, 1938-1985

Box 5

Folder 3

Drafts, 1968-1973

Box 5

Folder 4

Drafts, 1968-1991

Box 5

Folder 5

Drafts, 1970

Box 5

Folder 6

Henry Calvert Simons remembrance, reprint, 1974

Box 5

Folder 7

"De Gustibus Non Est Disputandum," reprint, 1977

Box 5

Folder 8

Demsetz, H., correspondence 1982

Box 5

Folder 9

Manuscripts and publications, 1983-1994

Box 5

Folder 10

Stigler Professorship Fund, correspondence and list of donors, 1993-1994

Box 5

Folder 11

Draft, n.d.

Box 5

Folder 12

Drafts and notes, n.d.

Series IV: Personal

Series IV contains material related to the personal lives of Director and his family. Among the materials collected here are Director's certificate of marriage to Maude Katherine Hill and Maude's will and death certificate. Additionally, the series contains various memorabilia from Director's international travels. The series also includes a folder containing contracts and correspondence relating to Director's faculty appointments at the University of Chicago from 1952 to 1969. Oversize personal material and photographs can be found in Series V.

Series IV: Personal

Box 6

Folder 1

Address directory, n.d.

Box 6

Folder 2

Codicil to will, 1985

Box 6

Folder 3

Director, Maude Katherine Hill, will and death certificate, 1962-1978

Box 6

Folder 4

Gift of personal residence to University of Chicago, 1993-1994

Box 6

Folder 5

Gumbert, Milton J., death certificate, 1984

Box 6

Folder 6

Holiday gift purchases, 1994

Box 6

Folder 7

Marriage certificate, 1937

Box 6

Folder 8

Passport, 1951

Box 6

Folder 9

Pocket diaries, 1970-1972

Box 6

Folder 10

Postcards, blank, 1940s

Box 6

Folder 11

Postcards, blank, n.d.

Box 6

Folder 12

Real estate documents, 1965

Box 6

Folder 13

Reproduction of portrait of John Stuart Mill, n.d.

Box 6

Folder 14

Travel memorabilia, 1940s

Box 6

Folder 15

University of Chicago faculty appointments, 1952-1969

Series V: Oversize Materials and Photographs

Series V contains a certificate presented to Director by the governor of Texas on May 5, 1963. It also holds folders containing photographs of Director, his wife, Maude Katherine Hill Director, and Joel Seidman.

Box 7

Folder 1

Certificate, "Honorary Texas Citizen," 1963

Box 7

Folder 2

Photographs of unidentified children and Maude Katherine Hill Director, 2001 and n.d.

Box 7

Folder 3

Portrait of Director, n.d.

Box 7

Folder 4

Photograph of Joel Seidman, n.d.