Guide to the Thomas Vernor Smith Papers 1934-1945

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.SMITH.TV

Title Smith, Thomas Vernor. Papers

Date 1934-1945

Size 6.75 linear feet (14 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Thomas Vernor Smith (1890-1964) Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago, Illinois State Senator (1936-1938), Congressional Representative, (1938-1940). This collection includes letters from the years of Smith's political activity, 1934-1941. Among the other papers are reprints of some of his publications and speeches, and many mimeographed items relating to military government and problems of post-war education in the occupied countries.

Information on Use

Access
This collection is open for research.

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

Biographical Note
Thomas Vernor Smith (1890-1964) wrote under the name T.V. Smith and was active academically and politically in Chicago. A native of Texas, he received a B.A. from the University of Texas in 1915 and an M.A. in 1916. He taught at the University of Texas from 1919 to 1921. In 1922, he received a PhD from the University of Chicago, where he served as Professor of Philosophy, and later dean, until 1948. Smith was among the producers and moderators of the University’s Round Table radio program.

During the 1930’s, Smith interested himself in politics, and ran successfully for State Senator in 1935. His next campaign was in 1938, when he was elected Congressman-at-large for Illinois. He gained national recognition when he engaged Senator Robert A. Taft in a series of radio debates which were later published as Foundations of Democracy. In the 1940
congressional election, he was defeated. During the war, Smith was made Lieutenant Colonel (1943-1945), and conducted courses on military government for the Army. He also participated in experimental programs for re-educating German prisoners of war. In 1946, he was a member of the United States Educational Commission in Japan and Germany. Smith left Army service as a Colonel.

In 1948, Smith became the Maxwell Professor of Citizenship and Philosophy at the University of Syracuse, where he served until his retirement in 1959. He held visiting and lecture positions at numerous universities and published widely on philosophy, politics and public service.

Smith and his wife, Nannie Stewart, had two children, a son Gayle and a daughter Nancy. He died in 1964 in Hyattsville, Maryland.

**Scope Note**

Series I, Correspondence, contains letters from the years of Smith’s political activity, 1934-1941. Arranged alphabetically, the letters contain a great deal of material on the history of the Democratic Party in the Chicago area during the period and reflect the concerns of constituents and political and community groups like the Hyde Park Protective Agency and the ACLU. Among Smith’s correspondents are: Baker Brownell, Paul and Ruby Darrow, Thurman Arnold, James T. Farrell, Robert M. Hutchins, Harold Ickes, Ed. Kelly, Frank Knox, Robert A. Taft, Chicago Mayor Edward Kelly Illinois Governor Henry Horner, and Paul Douglass.

Series II, Miscellaneous, contains material collected through Smith’s academic and political career. This includes handwritten notes, calling cards, annotated articles, a copy of a letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Breckinridge, speech notes, invitations, programs and newspaper clippings.

Series III, Political Material, contains legislation, correspondence and ephemera from Smith’s time in the Illinois State Senate and as Congressmen-at-Large. This includes newsletters, organization resolutions, correspondence with politicians, information from various committees, pamphlets and campaign materials.

Series IV, Military, contains material on Military Government and Education in post-war Europe, including lectures by Smith in Army courses on military government for occupation army personnel; material prepared by him for re-educating Germans, some of which is translated into German; survey studies of the postwar situation with regard to German education; weekly bulletins of the Allied Control Commission, with reports on opinion in the occupied territory; and drafts of constitutions for different areas in Germany. The series is organized by area of interest: Germany, Japan and Italy.
Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings

- Smith, Thomas Vernor, 1890-1964
- Arnold, Thurman Wesley, 1891-1969
- Brownell, Baker, 1887-1965
- Douglas, Paul Howard, 1892-1976
- Hutchins, Robert Maynard, 1899-1977
- Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952
- Military education
- Chicago (Ill.)-Politics and government
- Illinois-Politics and government
- Hyde Park (Chicago, Ill.)
- Douglas Family

INVENTORY

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Series II: Miscellaneous Materials

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Box 11
Folder 3
Two poems and collected quotes

Box 11
Folder 4
News clippings, including "What is a University," speech of R.M. Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago, 18 April 1935

Box 11
Folder 5
Newspaper Clippings

Box 11
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Miscellaneous

Series III: Political Materials

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   Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Materials of Instruction, course on Military Government, May 17-
   June 29, 1945, Ft. Kearney, R.I.
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   Course in Military Government
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   “American History and Institutions”
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   “The Constitution” memo
"The Midas Myth touched with Diabolism." Manuscript, in German with some chapters translated into English, Preface, and Chapter I-II.

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"The Midas Myth," Chapter IX-XIII

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"The Midas Myth," Appendixes, including Appendix A, An address by TVS at the opening of the University of Catania, 4 Nov 1943

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"America from the Inside"

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Papers regarding Office of Military Government for Germany

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Allied Control Commission, Public Relations Branch, weekly bulletin, July-October 1944

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Allied Control Commission Education Sub-commission, Education Reports

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Public Education in Germany

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Draft Constitutions for Wurttemberg-Baden, Bavaria, Hessen, and Berlin

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Willard E. Givens, "Tokyo and Return"

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Books for Japan Mission

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Education in Italy