

GUIDE TO THE PAPERS OF  
**THEODORE R. MCKELDIN**

Archives and Manuscripts Department  
University of Maryland at College Park Libraries

Processed by: William Peniston, May 1985  
Guide edited by: Leslie P. May, April 1986  
51 lin. ft.

## BIOGRAPHY

Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin was born in South Baltimore on November 20, 1900. His father, James A. McKeldin, was a Scots-Irish stonecutter from Baltimore, who later became a City policeman. His grandfather, also a stonecutter, was from Belfast, and may have been the son of Joseph McKeldin, also from Belfast, listed in "British Aliens in the U.S. during the War of 1812," compiled by Kenneth Scott and published by the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, 1979. Edward Hazelton McKeldin, his grandfather, was killed fighting for the Union Army at the Battle of the Monocacy, Frederick County, Maryland, on July 9, 1864, and is buried at the National Cemetery at Antietam. His mother, Dora Greif McKeldin, was the daughter of German immigrants. He married Honolulu Claire Manzer on October 17, 1935; they had two children, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Clara Whitney.

In 1925, McKeldin was graduated from the University of Maryland Law School with a bachelor's degree in law. He later studied economics at Johns Hopkins University. In 1927, he established a law firm with Charles E. Moylan and Michael Paul Smith, but was immediately given a political appointment as executive secretary to Mayor William F. Broening of Baltimore because of his support during the 1927 mayoral election. He worked for Broening until 1931 when he returned to his private law practice.

Eight years later, McKeldin ran for mayor of Baltimore only to be defeated by Howard W. Jackson. He suffered another political defeat in 1942 when he opposed Herbert R. O'Connor in the Maryland gubernatorial race. However, the following year he was finally successful in his bid for the mayoralty against Howard W. Jackson.

McKeldin was mayor of Baltimore from 1943 to 1947. Among the achievements of his administration were the completion of Friendship Municipal Airport (now Baltimore-Washington International Airport); the construction of a new civic center; and the management of Baltimore's wartime economy. He also appointed the first black to the Baltimore School Board, which established his reputation as an advocate of racial intergration and civil rights.

In 1946, McKeldin was defeated in his bid for the governorship--this time by William Preston Lane, Jr. However, in 1950, McKeldin won the gubernatorial race against Lane on an anti-sales-tax platform.

As governor of Maryland from 1951 to 1959, McKeldin launched a vigorous program of reform and reconstruction, which included the Sobeloff Commission on State Government and Bureaucratic Administration and a twelve-year plan for state highway construction. He achieved nationwide prominence at the Republican Convention of 1952 when he nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency on July 10.

In 1959, McKeldin ran for Mayor and lost to Harold Grady. He then entered into private law practice with his associate, William Adelson. In 1963 he ran for Mayor for the fourth time and narrowly defeated Philip H. Goodman by about 4,500 votes.

In his second term as mayor, which lasted from 1963 to 1967, McKeldin embarked upon a wide-ranging program of urban renewal, which included paving the way for the the development of the Inner

Harbor, construction of a new municipal building, and the elimination of the slums. He also continued to support the civil rights movement by hosting the Congress of Racial Equality which was held in Baltimore in July 1966.

After his retirement from the Baltimore political scene, McKeldin's interests and activities remained varied. In 1967, he was appointed by President Johnson to a panel of American observers which was to supervise the September elections in South Vietnam and in 1968, McKeldin spoke out against capital punishment in front of the United States Congress. He also remained a strong supporter of the state of Israel and one of the leading sellers of Israeli war bonds throughout the 1960s.

Among his many publications were *The Art of Eloquence* (1952) which he co-authored with John C. Krantz; *Washington Bowed* (1956) which was reprinted as *Hats for General Washington* in 1973; and *No Mean City: an inquiry in civic greatness* (1964).

McKeldin retired in 1968 and died on August 10, 1974.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Theodore R. McKeldin Papers, which cover the period 1930 to 1974, consist of speeches, the bulk of which were made during his gubernatorial career; office files, mostly from his gubernatorial years; papers from national conferences which he attended in the 1960s; books, programs, pamphlets, brochures; and other miscellaneous materials. There are also scrapbooks of newspaper articles pertaining to his career; audio-tapes of various speeches; photographs; and memorabilia.

These materials have been divided into ten series which include:

- Series I:       Speeches, Addresses, and Remarks
- Series II:      Office Files
- Series III:     Conference Papers
- Series IV:     Books, Programs, Pamphlets, and Brochures
- Series V:       Scrapbooks
- Series VI:      Awards, Certificates, and Proclamations
- Series VII:     Cartoons
- Series VIII:    Photographs
- Series XI:      Audio Materials
- Series X:       Memorabilia

## PROVENANCE

Theodore R. McKeldin donated part of this collection to the University of Maryland College Park Libraries in 1968, after he retired from public office. This accession included papers and memorabilia, and probably the scrapbooks. Additional materials--more memorabilia, plus speeches and reports--were given to the University by his wife, Honolulu Claire McKeldin in 1974, following the death of her husband. An autographed copy of McKeldin's work, Washington Bowed, was withdrawn from the University of Maryland

at College Park Libraries' general stacks in 1991 and added to Series IV.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Series I: Speeches, Addresses, and Remarks, 1930-1974 (6.5 lin.ft.)

This series contains primarily McKeldin's own speeches, although there are a few addresses by other people as well. Occasionally there is a letter written by McKeldin or received by him. These miscellaneous items have been maintained in this series, since that is where they were originally found; but also because they comprise a very small portion of the files. Most of these speeches are from his gubernatorial years, typewritten on onion-skin copy paper, with some published speeches as well.

The speeches cover a wide range of topics including: state of the state addresses, budget messages, speeches on George Washington and Valley Forge, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson. There are also addresses concerning the state of Israel, the United Nations, trade organizations, youth groups, and service clubs, as well as remarks on Negro integration, peace, religion, politics, safety, and sports, etc. This series also includes testimonials, memorials, eulogies, and campaign speeches.

The materials are arranged chronologically, and there are two indices--one by subject and one by date. The "Index to Speeches--Subject" was prepared by the processor for those speeches previously arranged topically, but now interfiled into the chronological sequence. The "Index to Speeches--Chronological" was prepared by McKeldin's secretary and covers only the gubernatorial years. The indices may be found in Box 1.

### Series II: Office Files, 1949-1965 (2 lin. in.)

This series primarily consists of information on appointments that McKeldin made while he was governor of Maryland. Two of the files concern the supervisors of elections and the commissioners of the State Accident Fund. There is also a petition of the employees of the Chesapeake Bay Ferry System seeking job security and adequate recompense and pension funding upon completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and cover letters from reports from the State Roads Commission. Other miscellaneous papers of an official nature, as well as some campaign propaganda, are also included in the series.

### Series III: Conference Papers, 1966-1968 (1.75 lin. ft.)

This series contains papers relating to four major conferences which McKeldin attended in the 1960s. Those conferences were: the White House Conference, "To Fulfill These Rights" (June 1966); the National League of Cities (Las Vegas, Nevada, December 1966); the South Vietnamese Elections of September 1967; and the Timothy Dwight College conference at Yale University (March 1968). These papers are arranged chronologically by the date of the conferences and then then by type of material, which include personal notes, letters and and memoranda, newspaper clippings, publications, background information, etc.

Series IV: Books, Programs, Pamphlets, and Brochures, 1955-1973

(7 lin. in.)

This series consists of programs from church services, high school and college commencements, social organization dinners, and other affairs at which McKeldin spoke. It also contains pamphlets and brochures on buildings, parks, and other historical sites, with which McKeldin was involved as well as an autographed copy of McKeldin's book Washington Bowed. This series is arranged by type of material and then by date.

Series V: Scrapbooks, 1936-1967 (27 lin. ft.)

These scrapbooks contain a collection of newspaper clippings on McKeldin's career. The original chronological order of these materials has been preserved.

Series VI: Awards, Certificates, and Proclamations, 1956-1966

(10 lin. in.)

This series includes certificates of appreciation, awards conferring honorary citizenship of several major cities of the United States, and honorary membership certificates for service organizations and social associations. There are also copies of important documents like the Emancipation Proclamation, the Declaration of Independence for the State of Israel, and other such documents.

Series VII: Cartoons, 1942-1966 and undated (10 lin. in.)

This series contains several political cartoons on or about McKeldin's career. Some of these cartoons were created by McKeldin's staff for campaign purposes.

Series VIII: Photographs, 1956, 1966, and undated (0.25 lin. ft.)

These photographs are of individuals whom McKeldin knew or groups with which he was involved. Many of these photographs are autographed. There are also depictions of buildings, ships, and historical events. These photographs have been separated from the collection and added to the Photographic Collection. The accession numbers are: 363, 936, 955-959, 974, 1095-1096, 1575-1581, 1589, 1592, 1594, 1685-1686, 7406, 11,296.

Series IX: Audio Materials, 1963 (3 lin. in.)

This series consists of three reel-to-reel tapes of political speeches given by McKeldin on April 26, May 2, and May 3, 1963. These tapes have been separated from the collection and added to the Processed Tape Collection. Two phonograph records of speeches given in 1952 are also at the University. They are found in the Phonograph Collection (Box 2).

Series X: Memorabilia, 1955-1977 and undated (98.75 lin. ft.)

This series consists of a number of plaques presented to McKeldin by various organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, the B'nai Brith Exodus Lodge, the Mayor's Traffic Safety Commission, the National Law Fraternity, and other honor societies, social organizations, and service clubs.

There is also a bronze bust of McKeldin (located in the Maryland Room), a brass name plate, and a trophy given to McKeldin. These articles have been separated from the collection and placed in the Memorabilia Collection. Accession numbers of these items are #293-311, 364, 426-427.

## PROCESSING

The original order of the papers has been preserved as much as possible, although certain changes have been made. For example, a number of speeches, which were originally filed according to subject matter, have been interfiled with all other chronologically arranged speeches. An index to these speeches was prepared to capture their subject content.

An additional box of speeches was incorporated into the collection in June 1987. Headings on these folders were noted and added to the speech subject index. The speeches were then interfiled chronologically and appropriate notations were made in brackets in the chronological index. All duplicates were discarded. Some of the papers pertaining to the conferences which McKeldin attended in the 1960s were well organized, while others were not. Those papers which were already organized were kept in their original order, while the other material was arranged according to the type of material and then by date.

Staples were removed from all materials and replaced by plastic paperclips. Papers, which had suffered from water damage, had to be separated piece by piece and then paperclipped. The scrapbooks were placed in flat acid-free boxes without any further processing for preservation. All other notebooks have been dismantled, and the contents placed in acid-free folders in their original order. All files have been placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

## RELATED MATERIALS

Materials related to McKeldin's terms as governor can be found at the Maryland State Archives, while mayoral materials are to be found at the Baltimore City Archives. Related materials in the collections of the Historical Manuscripts and Archives Department include a typed letter signed by McKeldin to Helen N. Coleman regarding the preservation of Lake Drive (Maryland Manuscript #2299); phonograph records of speeches made in 1952 (Budget Address to the Legislature--February 6, 1952; Speech--August 7, 1952); and two photographs of McKeldin (Photograph accession #363).

**BOX INVENTORY**

**SERIES I: SPEECHES, ADDRESSES, AND REMARKS**

- Box 1**  
Index to speeches, Subject  
Index to speeches, Chronological  
Speeches, 1930-1945 (5f)
- Box 2**  
Speeches, 1946-1952 (6f)
- Box 3**  
Speeches, January 1952-April 1953 (4f)
- Box 4**  
Speeches, May 1953-May 1954 (4f)
- Box 5**  
Speeches, June-October 1954 (4f)
- Box 6**  
Speeches, November 1954-September 1955 (4f)
- Box 7**  
Speeches, October 1955-August 1956 (4f)
- Box 8**  
Speeches, September 1956-March 1957 (3f)
- Box 9**  
Speeches, April 1957-May 1958 (3f)
- Box 10**  
Speeches, March-December 1958 (3f)
- Box 11A**  
Speeches, 1959-1961 (5f)
- Box 11B**  
Speeches, 1962-1965 (4f)
- Box 12**  
Speeches, 1966-1974 (5f)
- Box 13**  
Speeches, undated (2f)

SERIES II: OFFICE FILES

Box 13 (cont'd)

Petition of the Employees of the Chesapeake Bay Ferry System, 1951  
State Roads Commission--Correspondence, 1949-1952  
Commissioners of the State Accident Fund, undated  
Supervisors of Elections--list with biographic sketches, 1957  
Miscellaneous, 1943 (?) -1965  
(includes campaign propoganda, correspondence as governor and mayor of Baltimore, etc.)  
League of Maryland Horsemen, 1951

SERIES III: CONFERENCE PAPERS

Box 13 (cont'd)

White House Conference, "To Fulfill these Rights" (June 1966)  
Speeches (including The Road To Justice by L.B. Johnson)  
The Main Report  
Council's Report and Recommendation to the Conference, and List of Participants

Box 14

White House Conference, "To Fulfill these Rights" (June 1966) (cont'd)  
Draft Report of the Conference  
Draft of the Council's Report  
Other Drafts  
Background Information  
Miscellaneous (includes agendas, transportation schedules, programs, maps, statements, summaries of meetings, and other related materials)

Box 15

White House Conference, "To Fulfill these Rights" (June 1966) (cont'd)  
Letters and Correspondence  
Press Coverage I (notebook)  
Press Coverage II  
Response of Baltimore  
National League of Cities (December 1966)  
Agendas and Programs  
Presiding Officer Details  
Remarks  
Report of Resolution Committee  
Magazines and Brochures  
Reservation and Important Information  
Schedule of Events and Invitations



(Series III, cont'd)

Box 15 (cont'd)

National League of Cities (December 1966) (cont'd)  
Resolutions Committee (McKeldin-Vice Chairman)  
Nominating Committee  
General Information and Correspondence

Box 16

South Vietnamese Elections (September 1967)  
Record of Trip  
Background Information  
General Information (including results)  
Remarks and Speeches  
Letters and Correspondence  
Military Information  
Election Pamphlets, Posters, and Handbills (mostly in  
Vietnamese)  
Maps  
Magazines and Brochures  
Newspaper Clippings

Box 17

Timothy Dwight College (Yale University, March 1968)

SERIES IV: BOOKS, PROGRAMS, PAMPHLETS,  
AND BROCHURES

Box 17 (cont'd)

Book-Autographed copy of McKeldin's Washington Bowed, 1957  
Programs, 1955-1973 and undated (3f.)  
Miscellaneous Information 1965  
(includes note on Samuel Chase, " U.S.S.  
Constellation," Old Trinity Church, and other  
Maryland Historical facts)

Box 18

Pamphlets, Brochures, etc., 1950-1972  
Brochures, Magazines, Articles, etc., 1962-1970  
Miscellaneous Brochures, 1961-1971

SERIES V: SCRAPBOOKS

Box 19

1932-1937

Box 20

November 1937-August 1939

Box 21

August 1939-May 1941

(Series V, cont'd)

- Box 22  
May 1941-August 1942
- Box 23  
July 1951-March 1952 (3 vol.)
- Box 24  
April-December 1952 (3 vol.)
- Box 25  
January-December 1953 (3 vol.)
- Box 26  
January-December 1954 (2 vol.)
- Box 27  
January-December 1955 (2 vol.)
- Box 28  
January-June 1956 (2 vol.)
- Box 29  
July-December 1956 (2 vol.)
- Box 30  
January-August 1957 (2 vol.)
- Box 31  
September-December 1957
- Box 32  
January-December 1958 (2 vol.)
- Box 33  
May-September 1963
- Box 34  
September 1963-February 1964
- Box 35  
February-July 1964
- Box 36  
July-December 1964
- Box 37  
December 1964-June 1965
- Box 38  
June-October 1965

(Series V, cont'd)

Box 39

October 1965-May 1966

Box 40

May 1966-April 1967

Box 41

May-December 1967

**SERIES VI: AWARDS, CERTIFICATES, AND PROCLAMATIONS**

Box 42

Awards, Honorary Citizenship Certificates, Honorary  
Membership Certificates, Other Miscellaneous Awards,  
1956-1966

**SERIES VII: CARTOONS**

Box 42 (cont'd)

Political Cartoons 1942-1966 and undated

**SERIES VII: PHOTOGRAPHS**

(transferred to the photograph collection; refer to series  
description above for further information)

**SERIES IX: AUDIO MATERIALS**

(transferred to the processed tape and phonograph collections; refer  
to series description above for further information)

**SERIES X: MEMORABILIA**

(transferred to the memorabilia collection; refer to series  
description above for further information)

MCKELDIN PAPERS ADDENDA  
PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

(donated by Mrs. Courtney McKeldin to the University of Maryland at College Park Libraries on February 15, 1989)

Box 1

Files on book projects; personal files (1970s).

Box 2

Files on trips; 1955 Governor's Conference files; anecdotes and poems collected for speeches; business receipts (1950s, 1970s).

Box 3

Personal letters received from political leaders and prominent correspondents (1950s); inauguration material for 1965 and 1969 Presidential inaugurations; files re trips to Europe (1960s).

Box 4

Personal letters, photographs, files on trips (1950s-1960s).

Box 5

Photographs (1950s-1960s), correspondence and receipts (1950s).

Box 6

Personal files (1979); photographs (1960s).

Box 7

Photographs (1960s).

Box 8

Photographs (1950s).

Box 9

Photographs (1950s); misc. engravings (various).

Box 10

Photographs (1950s); correspondence (1940s).

Box 11

Appointment diaries (1940s); files on trip to Korea (1950s);  
photographs (1950s).

Box 12

Appointment diaries (1950s).

Box 13

Photographs (1950s).

Box 14

Photographs (1960s).

Box 15

20th Southern Governors' Conference photographs (1954);  
Photographs (1950s-1960s).

Box 16

Photographs (1940s-1950s).

Total amount: 16 cubic feet of materials.

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Note: 35 Marylandia books were previously donated by Mrs. McKeldin to the University of Maryland at College Park Libraries on January 31, 1989; that donation was acknowledged by Peter H. Curtis, Curator of Marylandia, on February 2, 1989.

Addenda:

Box 17:

Newspaper clippings of 1963 major campaigns; clipping books regarding his gubernatorial career; clippings book (1927-1933); photo albums (2) regarding Governor's Day (1954) and launching of U.S.S. Pachaug Victory (1944); letter from Secretary of State Dean Rusk inviting McKeldin to be special ambassador to Ferdinand Marcos' inauguration; photos of horses.