Summary


Title: Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. papers

Date: 1922-2007

Size: 242.99 linear feet (574 boxes, 1 tube)

Source: Purchased from the Estate of Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

Abstract: The Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. papers document the life and work of Pulitzer Prize-winning American historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (1917-2007), noted for his political activities in the Democratic Party and for his acclaimed accounts of nineteenth and twentieth century history. The collection consists of extensive correspondence, journals, writings, research material, office files, and personal records. The papers provide insight into Schlesinger's philosophical, political, and historical thinking, while offering a glimpse of his daily activities. They represent Schlesinger's vocation as a popular and academic historian, as well as his life as a political activist and advisor.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Sound and video recordings are unavailable for use pending preservation transfer. Journals may not be photocopied. Restricted correspondence to be made available in 2050. Classified research material restricted pending government declassification.

Conditions Governing Use: The journals can not be photocopied. Permission to quote must be obtained from the Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Estate, c/o The Wylie Agency, Inc., 250 West 57th Street, Suite 2114, New York, NY 10107

Preferred citation: Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English
Creator History

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (1917-2007) was an American historian as renowned for his political activities as a liberal Democrat as for his critically acclaimed scholarly work. He won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award twice each, while playing a significant role in shaping the intellectual basis of postwar Democratic liberalism.

He was born Arthur Bancroft Schlesinger on October 15, 1917 to Arthur Meier Schlesinger and Elizabeth Bancroft Schlesinger, both well-known historians. Elizabeth was distantly related to historian George Bancroft. Born in Ohio, Schlesinger moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts when his father became a professor of history at Harvard University. Schlesinger changed his middle name to Meier when he was a teenager so as to share a name with his father. Graduating from Harvard University in 1938, Schlesinger eventually published his senior thesis on nineteenth-century theologian and activist Orestes Brownson. He studied at Cambridge University for a year, and then returned to Harvard as a research fellow, where he wrote *The Age of Jackson* (1945), which won him his first Pulitzer Prize. During World War II, he worked in the Office of War Information and the Office of Strategic Services, a forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1946, he returned to Harvard as an assistant professor of history. Despite not having a doctorate, Schlesinger had completed Harvard's own research fellowship program, and his academic career was never adversely affected by his choice not to pursue a doctoral degree. Schlesinger helped found the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), a leading anti-Communist liberal group, in 1947.

Active in Democratic Party politics in Massachusetts, as well as at the national level, Schlesinger was heavily involved in Averell Harriman's campaign for the 1952 Democratic presidential nomination. When Harriman left the race, Schlesinger offered his services to Adlai Stevenson, forging a friendship and political alliance that would last for many years. Schlesinger wrote speeches, made appearances, and provided political advice to Stevenson in both his 1952 and 1956 presidential campaigns. Once sure that Stevenson was not planning to run for the office in 1960, Schlesinger aligned himself with Senator John F. Kennedy, a friend from Massachusetts. After helping to elect Kennedy in 1960, Schlesinger was appointed a special assistant to the President in 1961. He took an extended leave of absence from Harvard University to join the Kennedy Administration, where he worked as a problem solver, Latin American expert, and unofficial liaison to the academic community. Initially under the impression that Kennedy did not intend him to write the history of his presidency, Schlesinger later felt that he was expected to keep detailed notes on what he saw and heard. After President Kennedy's assassination, Schlesinger stayed on briefly during the transitional period of the Johnson Administration. He left the White House in early 1964, never to return to full-time work in the political realm. He did, however, serve as a speechwriter and advisor in the presidential campaigns of Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 and George S. McGovern in 1972. His final active role in a political campaign was with Senator Edward M. Kennedy in his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1980, although he did provide advice to Bill Clinton and Al Gore during their presidential campaigns.

Schlesinger became the Albert Schweitzer Professor of Humanities at the City University of New York in 1966. He settled in Manhattan, where he remained until his death, sharing a fence with neighbor Richard M. Nixon at one point. During his years in New York he led a remarkably active social and political life, associating and collaborating with a broad range of academic, political, and cultural figures, while continuing to articulate his distinctive and historically-informed opinions through books, articles, book and movie reviews, lectures and speeches, petitions, and newspaper editorials.

Schlesinger married twice and had six children. His first marriage, to Marian Cannon, ended in divorce in 1969, and his second marriage, to Alexandra Emmet, lasted until his death in 2007 the end of his life. He had two sons and two daughters from his first marriage, and a son and stepson from his second.

Custodial History

 Portions of the collection had previously been on deposit at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Material deposited in 1968 and 1969, focusing primarily but not exclusively on Schlesinger's time in the White House, remains at the Kennedy Library. Material deposited from 1980 forward has all been incorporated into this collection.

Scope and Content Note

The Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. papers, dating from 1922-2007, document the historian's life and work through extensive correspondence, journals, writings, research material, office files, and personal records. The papers provide insight into Schlesinger's philosophical, political, and historical thinking, while offering a glimpse of his daily activities. The collection represents Schlesinger's vocation as a popular and academic historian, as well as his life as a political activist and advisor. Every era of Schlesinger's life and career appear in the collection; however, much of the material generated by Schlesinger as part of the Kennedy Administration is held by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. The holdings of the Kennedy Library include correspondence, subject files, speech files, and telephone logs from Schlesinger's tenure at the White House. Research material for *A Thousand Days*, as well as various drafts of the book, can also be found among the Schlesinger papers at the Kennedy Library. Nineteen boxes of alphabetical correspondence unrelated to the Kennedy Administration, spanning the years 1945-1960, are held by the Kennedy Library; researchers seeking a complete record of Schlesinger's personal and professional correspondence should be prepared to search the Kennedy Library's collection also.

Schlesinger's correspondence spans almost his entire life, beginning when he was first learning to write, and continuing to his death. He corresponded with friends, acquaintances, colleagues, readers, publishers, editors, and relatives. The collection illustrates the often fluid nature of those categories, as Schlesinger often combined friendship with professional and political association. Schlesinger maintained his correspondence according to a variety of filing systems kept in separate offices, and the collection contains letters organized alphabetically, chronologically, and by subject. Since Schlesinger did not use a single consistent means of filing, researchers should consider all the correspondence subseries, as well as relevant writings (in Series III) and research files (in Series IV), when seeking out a particular subject, era, or individual.

The journals chronicle most of Schlesinger's adult life, spanning fifty years beginning in the early 1950s. The time between entries ranges from one day to several months, and the number of pages devoted to a given year ranges from sixty to over four hundred. Schlesinger used his journal to describe meetings, political events, and social engagements; he also frequently expressed his political insights and

The collection includes many unpublished writings, such as lectures, speeches, eulogies, and commencement addresses; drafts of published writings include those of Robert Kennedy and His Times (see Series IV), as well as some article drafts with related correspondence in Series IV.

As a historian and political commentator, Schlesinger was a careful and prodigious researcher. He maintained research files on his full-length works (The Age of Roosevelt, The Age of Jackson and Robert Kennedy and His Times included here), as well as subject files for other writings. The files include clippings, research notes, interviews, correspondence, and student papers.

The collection includes files on Schlesinger’s family and various eras of his own life. These include schoolwork, scrapbooks, photographs, legal documents, and documentation from his service in World War II. There is also a box of political campaign buttons (Box 573). The papers also contain copies of Schlesinger’s F.B.I. files, obtained via the Freedom of Information Act., found in Series V.

Finally, the collection contains appointment books and phone message logs, illustrating the details of Schlesinger’s daily activities from the early 1950s onward.

**Key Terms**

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
- Appointment books
- Buttons (information artifacts)
- Diaries
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Sound recordings
- Video recordings

**Occupations**
- College teachers
- Historians -- United States
- Journalists -- United States

**Subjects**
- Political campaigns -- United States

**Geographic Names**
- United States -- History -- 1945-
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1989
- United States -- Social life and customs -- 1945-1970
- United States -- Social life and customs -- 1971-

**Names**
- Alsop, Joseph, 1910-1989
- Berlin, Isaiah, 1909-1997
- Galbraith, John Kenneth, 1908-2006
- Harriman, W. Averell (William Averell), 1891-1986
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
Kennedy, Robert F., 1925-1968
Niebuhr, Reinhold, 1892-1971
Rauh, Joseph L., 1911-1992
Tree, Marietta, 1917-1991
Americans for Democratic Action
Century Club (New York, N.Y.)
City University of New York
Democratic Party (U.S.)
Harvard University
Series I: Correspondence 1923-2007 (286 boxes)

This series represents a lifetime of communication, both personal and professional. Beginning in his childhood during the 1920s and continuing to the end of his life, Schlesinger's correspondence traces his relationships and activities in the political, literary and academic spheres. The series includes correspondence with friends, colleagues, publishers and organizations, on a variety of subjects ranging from the frivolity of Schlesinger's personal fashion to the gravity of war and political regime change. The spectrum of correspondents reflects the wide-ranging nature of Schlesinger's acquaintanceship. There are letters to and from sitting presidents of the United States, as well as noted intellectuals, authors, critics, government officials, Supreme Court justices, celebrities, students and fans. Schlesinger was always eager to share ideas, and the volume and quality of the letters in this series provide insight into the views of Schlesinger and his friends and associates.

Schlesinger's correspondence from the late 1940s onward was usually sent through an office and secretary, but there are also many examples of letters written or typed by Schlesinger himself. As Schlesinger maintained numerous correspondence files at both his home and CUNY offices, and these files were organized in different ways, researchers should examine all of the correspondence subseries, as the same correspondent may appear in the alphabetical, chronological and/or subject correspondence. Related correspondence can also be found in Series III and Series IV. Apart from the chronological office file (Subseries C), all of the subseries herein contain a combination of incoming and outgoing letters, with Schlesinger's replies often attached to incoming letters. A file of restricted correspondence will become available in 2050 and a file of presidential memoranda will become available as it is declassified.

Much of Schlesinger's office correspondence from 1961-1963 is absent from the collection, to be found in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. The Kennedy Library also possesses a file of alphabetical correspondence from the fifteen years preceding Schlesinger's 1961 White House appointment. Since the Kennedy Library holdings overlap chronologically with this collection, researchers seeking the complete correspondence of a given period, or between Schlesinger and a particular individual, may well have to visit both repositories. The Kennedy Library's finding aid for its Schlesinger papers can be viewed here: https://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/AMSPP.aspx
This subseries incorporates alphabetical correspondence files maintained in Schlesinger's apartment and in separate home and City University of New York offices, and are arranged by correspondent. Individual names predominate, but there are some organizational correspondents as well. As a result of the combination of files, there is some degree of alphabetical overlap across folders. In the case of folders representing spans of letters, the folders have been alphabetized by the first letter or cluster of letters (e.g., Bor-Bri precedes Boy-Bra). Researchers seeking a particular correspondent may need to check more than one folder. Although most of the correspondence is arranged by name within the general alphabetical files, Schlesinger would occasionally maintain separate files for particular correspondents. However, a separate file for an individual does not preclude the presence of letters from that person in the broader alphabetical files. With few exceptions, the original order within each folder has been retained. The majority of the alphabetical correspondence dates from the 1960s onward, but there is a significant amount from the 1940s and 1950s as well.

While many correspondents are represented by only a letter or two, there are some whose exchanges with Schlesinger continued over decades. Noted economist John Kenneth Galbraith, for example, was one of Schlesinger's closest friends, dating back to their meeting at Harvard in the 1930s, and they kept in close touch through the years, even after they were no longer neighbors in Massachusetts. Another Harvard friendship bloomed with Felix Frankfurter, and Schlesinger's correspondence with him continued through Frankfurter's time on the Supreme Court.

Other long-term friends corresponding with Schlesinger included columnist Joseph Alsop, civil libertarian and lawyer Joseph Rauh, and Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel. As with many of Schlesinger's friends in the intellectual and political realms, they were all closely allied with liberal politics at the time. As a founding member of the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), Schlesinger developed many lasting friendships with liberal, though staunchly anti-Communist, politicians and intellectuals like himself. Reinhold Niebuhr, the influential theologian who combined a liberal political viewpoint with deeply held religious convictions, was another founding member of the ADA, and Schlesinger corresponded with him often, considering Niebuhr one of the great minds of the century.

Although Schlesinger's ties to liberal politics and the Democratic Party kept him in regular contact with people who shared his opinions, he had friends and acquaintances who had vastly different world views. Conservative icon William F. Buckley, Jr. was a longtime friend whose correspondence with Schlesinger refers not just to their occasional public appearances together in debates or on television, but also to their social relationship.

In some cases, an individual's correspondence with Schlesinger shows a change in their relationship over time. Hubert Humphrey, the liberal senator noted for his legislative success, was a close associate of Schlesinger's, pursuing many of the same political goals in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s, however, when the two drifted apart as a result of Humphrey's positions while serving as Vice President and Schlesinger's support of other candidates against him, their correspondence vividly illustrates the split. In contrast, Schlesinger's relationship with author Rebecca West began with a heated exchange of insulting letters about a published comment of his, and then matured into a close friendship between the two writers and their families.

Other frequent and significant correspondents in this subseries include Max Ascoli, Isaiah Berlin, McGeorge Bundy, Bernard DeVoto, Averell Harriman, Mary McCarthy, George McGovern, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Richard Rovere, Gilbert Seldes, Theodore Sorensen, Marietta Tree, Sacha Volman, James Wechsler, Morton White, and Charles Wintour.
Guide to the

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. papers

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In those instances where Schlesinger corresponded with a number of individuals or organizations on the same subject, he often filed the correspondence by subject, rather than correspondent. This subseries consists of those files, alphabetized by subject. In many cases, the subject designations represent recurring elements from Schlesinger's own life and career, including correspondence related to CUNY and the Schlesinger Library at Harvard, honoring his parents. There are also files of permission requests to quote or otherwise use his writings, quote requests from authors and publishers hoping for a Schlesinger blurb on the book jacket, invitations declined by Schlesinger, and correspondence regarding his personal appearances in lectures and interviews. There are even files Schlesinger labeled Kooks, containing the less flattering and less coherent correspondence from strangers and readers.

When the subject designations did not stem from Schlesinger's professional life, they alluded to political and world affairs. Of particular interest in that category are files on McCarthyism from the 1950s, the Democratic Party platform in 1984, and presidential campaign letters and memos from 1960. Having written about the Sacco-Vanzetti case of the 1920s, Schlesinger maintained a correspondence file about the continued study of the case in the 1950s and 1960s.

In some cases, the subject correspondence demonstrates the intersection of personal matters with public affairs. The file on William F. Buckley, for example, contains correspondence relating to an early 1960s controversy sparked by Buckley's use of a Schlesinger quotation, intended sarcastically, as an advertisement for one of his books. Although Schlesinger and Buckley were friends, there was talk of legal action. The incident is further elucidated in Series IV.A. In the case of subject correspondence files labeled with an individual's name, the file may contain correspondence with, as well as about, that individual, as in the case of the Buckley file.
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b. 186 f. 9  Newspaper statement ads
b. 187 f. 1  Nixon tapes case
b. 187 f. 2  Office of Strategic Services
b. 187 f. 3  Organization of American Historians
b. 187 f. 4  Organizations
b. 187 f. 5  Pamphlets on American history
b. 187 f. 6  Pentagon papers

Permission requests

b. 188 f. 1  *Atlantic Monthly*

b. 188 f. 2-3  *Foreign Affairs*

b. 188 f. 4-5  *Harpers*

b. 188 f. 6  *The Imperial Presidency*

b. 188 f. 7  *New York Review of Books*

b. 188 f. 8  *New York Times Magazine*

b. 189 f. 1  Oral histories (JFK; RFK)

b. 189 f. 2  *Partisan Review*

b. 189 f. 3-4  *Robert Kennedy and His Times*

b. 189 f. 5  *Sources of the New Deal*

b. 190 f. 1-4  *A Thousand Days*

b. 191-193  General

b. 194 f. 1  Players Club

b. 194 f. 2  *Political Science Quarterly*
b. 194 f. 3  Presidential campaign 1960
b. 194 f. 4  Princeton University
b. 194 f. 5  Princeton University conference 1968
b. 194 f. 6  Professors (Schweitzer chair)
b. 194 f. 7  Publications requested
              Quote requests
b. 195 f. 1  Alfred A. Knopf
b. 195 f. 2  Atheneum Publishers
b. 195 f. 3  Atlantic Monthly Press
b. 195 f. 4  Charles Scribner’s Sons
b. 195 f. 5  Columbia University Press
b. 195 f. 6  Conde Nast Traveler
b. 195 f. 7  Doubleday and Company
b. 195 f. 8  G.P. Putnam’s Sons
b. 195 f. 9  Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
b. 195 f. 10  Holt, Rinehart and Winston
b. 195 f. 11  Harper Row
b. 195 f. 12  Houghton Mifflin
b. 195 f. 13  Little, Brown and Company
b. 195 f. 14  Macmillan
b. 195 f. 15  McGraw-Hill, Inc.
b. 195 f. 16  New England Quarterly
b. 195 f. 17  Oxford University Press
b. 195 f. 18  Prentice-Hall, Inc.
b. 195 f. 19  Random House
b. 195 f. 20  Simon Schuster
b. 195 f. 21  University of North Carolina Press
b. 195 f. 22  Viking Press
b. 195 f. 23  W.W. Norton and Company
b. 195 f. 24  William Morrow and Company
b. 195 f. 25  General
b. 196 f. 1  Radcliffe College
b. 196 f. 2  Radio scripts
b. 196 f. 3  Rauh, Joseph L. Jr.
b. 196 f. 4-5  Reading requests
b. 197 f. 1-2  Reinhold Niebuhr Award
b. 197 f. 3  Research Institute of America
b. 198 f. 1-2  Robert F. Kennedy Book Awards
b. 198 f. 3-4  Robert F. Kennedy Memorial
b. 198 f. 5  Robert F. Kennedy television special
              Roosevelt Centennial
Series I: Correspondence (cont.)

Subseries I.C. Chronological File 1964-1994 (44 boxes)

This subseries consists of a monthly office file, comprised of outgoing correspondence, maintained during Schlesinger's tenure at the City University of New York. Researchers seeking a complete record of communication with a particular individual or on a given subject should check the relevant dates in the chronological office file. Other correspondence subseries do include some of Schlesinger's outgoing responses attached to letters, but this subseries is composed entirely of chronological outgoing letters.

b. 206 f. 1-6  1964 Apr-Sept
b. 207 f. 1-7  1964 Oct-1965 Apr
b. 208 f. 1-8  1965 May-Dec
b. 209 f. 1-5  1966 Jan-May
b. 210 f. 1-6  1966 June-Oct
b. 211 f. 1-6  1966 Nov-1967 Apr
b. 212 f. 1-6  1967 May-Oct
b. 213 f. 1-6  1967 Nov-1968 Apr
b. 214 f. 1-6  1968 May-Oct
b. 215 f. 1-5  1968 Nov-1969 Mar
b. 216 f. 1-6  1969 Apr-Sept
b. 217 f. 1-7  1969 Oct-1970 Apr
b. 218 f. 1-8  1970 May-Dec
b. 219 f. 1-7  1971 Jan-July
b. 220 f. 1-7  1971 Aug-1972 Feb
b. 221 f. 1-7  1972 Mar-Sept
b. 222 f. 1-7  1972 Oct-1973 Apr
b. 223 f. 1-9  1973 May-1974 Jan
b. 224 f. 1-7  1974 Feb-Aug
b. 225 f. 1-6  1974 Sept-1975 Feb
b. 226 f. 1-8  1975 Mar-Oct
b. 227 f. 1-10 1975 Nov-1976 Aug
b. 228 f. 1-10 1976 Sept-1977 June
b. 229 f. 1-9  1977 July-1978 Mar
b. 230 f. 1-9  1978 Apr- Dec
b. 231 f. 1-9  1979 Jan-Sept
b. 232 f. 1-10 1979 Oct-1980 July
b. 234 f. 1-9  1981 Apr-Dec
b. 235 f. 1-8  1982 Jan-Aug
b. 236 f. 1-8  1982 Sept-1983 Apr
b. 237 f. 1-10 1983 May-1984 Jan
b. 238 f. 1-9  1984 Feb-Oct
b. 239 f. 1-13 1984 Nov-1985 Nov
Series I. Correspondence (cont.)
Subseries I.C. Chronological File (cont.)

b. 243 f. 1-10 1988 Sept-1989 June
b. 244 f. 1-10 1989 July-1990 April
b. 245 f. 1-12 1990 May-1991 April
b. 246 f. 1-10 1991 May-1992 Feb
b. 247 f. 1-10 1992 Mar-Dec
b. 248 f. 1-12 1993
b. 249 f. 1-8 1994 Jan-Aug

Subseries I.D. Unfiled Correspondence 1920s-2007 (14 boxes)

Schlesinger also filed correspondence chronologically, particularly in years when he did not have a full-time secretary. The limited selection of folders arranged by year indicates that this filing method was not Schlesinger's first choice, and was usually dictated by circumstance. This subseries contains those folders representing individual years of correspondence, without regard to correspondent or subject. Both incoming and outgoing letters are included. The presence of a folder in this subseries representing a given year does not preclude other correspondence from that year appearing in the Alphabetical, Subject Correspondence or Chronological File subseries.

b. 250 f. 1-5 1920s-1938
b. 251 f. 1-7 1939-1950s
b. 252 f. 1-7 1950-1960
b. 253 f. 1-3 1960s
b. 253 f. 4 1960
b. 253 f. 5 1961
b. 254 f. 1-5 1964-1970
b. 255 f. 1-5 1970s-1990s
b. 300 1990s
b. 301
b. 302 f. 1-2 1999
b. 303-307 2000-2007

Subseries I.E. Publication-related 1940s-2007 (15 boxes)

Schlesinger considered himself a writer by profession, and through most of his professional life, he maintained files of correspondence related to his written work. This subseries consists of correspondence related to Schlesinger's published books, arranged alphabetically by title. The files contain a variety of correspondence, including initial solicitations of the material, negotiations, editing suggestions, input from other experts, and responses from readers both familiar and unfamiliar to Schlesinger. Schlesinger's files of letters he wrote to the editorial pages of various newspapers and magazines, as well as responses to those letters, are also included. For correspondence related to Schlesinger's published articles, see Series III.A.

b. 279 f. 1-5 The Age of Roosevelt
b. 280 f. 1-3 American Presidents series
b. 281 f. 1-4 American Presidents series
b. 281 f. 5 American Statesmen series
Guide to the
Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. papers

Series I: Correspondence (cont.)
Subseries I.E. Publication-related (cont.)

b. 282 f. 1 American Statesmen series
b. 282 f. 2 The Big Decision
b. 282 f. 3 The Bitter Heritage
b. 282 f. 4 Collins Biographical Dictionary
b. 282 f. 5 The Crisis of Confidence
b. 283 f. 1-2 Cycles of American History
b. 283 f. 3 Dictionary of American Biography
b. 283 f. 4-6 The Disuniting of America
b. 284 f. 1 The Disuniting of America
b. 284 f. 2 The Dynamics of World Power
b. 284 f. 3 Encyclopedia of the U.S. Congress
b. 284 f. 4 Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations
b. 284 f. 5 Facts on File
b. 284 f. 6 The General and the President
b. 284 f. 7 Guide to Politics
b. 284 f. 8 History of United States Political Parties
b. 285 f. 1-6 The Imperial Presidency
b. 286 f. 1-3 A Life in the 20th Century
b. 286 f. 4 The National Experience
b. 287 f. 1-3 The National Experience
b. 287 f. 4-5 Orestes Brownson
b. 287 f. 6 Paths of American Thought
b. 287 f. 7 Presidents, Parties and Power in America
Robert Kennedy and His Times
b. 288 f. 1 Ballantine Books
b. 288 f. 2 Corrections
b. 495 f. 7 Editing
b. 288 f. 3 English edition
b. 288 f. 4 Esquire
b. 288 f. 5 Foreign rights
b. 288 f. 6 French edition
b. 495 f. 8 John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
b. 288 f. 7 Letters to author
b. 288 f. 8 Letters to Ethel Kennedy
b. 288 f. 9 Literary Guild
b. 289 f. 1 National Book Award
b. 289 f. 2 Party
b. 495 f. 9-10 Permission to quote
b. 289 f. 3 Promotion
b. 289 f. 4 Readers
b. 289 f. 5 Serialization
 Whereas most correspondence, whether professional or personal, with Schlesinger's friends and colleagues was incorporated into the various filing systems represented by the other correspondence subseries, Schlesinger kept most of his family correspondence separate. Spanning childhood to old age, the family correspondence includes letters to and from Schlesinger's parents, wives and children. A greater percentage of the family correspondence is handwritten. It includes personal accounts of trips and events, as well as more introspective analyses than most of the correspondence found in the other subseries. His frequent letters to his parents during World War II provide a unique contemporary record of his thoughts and experiences at that time.

 Kinderman, Katharine Schlesinger
 Schlesinger, Alexandra Emmet
 Schlesinger, Andrew
 Schlesinger, Arthur Sr.
 Schlesinger, Christina
 Schlesinger, Elizabeth Bancroft
 Schlesinger, Elizabeth Bancroft and Arthur Sr.
 Schlesinger, Marian Cannon
 Schlesinger, Robert
 Schlesinger, Stephen
 Schlesinger, Tom
 Schlesinger children 1960s
 Unidentified grandmother 1930s
Series II: Journals circa 1930, 1950-2003 (14 boxes)

The bulk of Schlesinger's journals cover the years 1952-2002. They document Schlesinger's work for the Democratic Party in the 1950s; his tenure as a member of John F. Kennedy's campaign and presidential staffs; his activities as a journalist, professor, and public intellectual after moving to New York in 1966; his role as an advisor to the Democratic Party and its leadership, such as Robert and Ted Kennedy, Averell Harriman, George McGovern, Bill Clinton and Al Gore; and his friendships with other politically-oriented intellectuals, the staffs of the Kennedy and other presidential administrations, and prominent cultural figures. The earliest journals in this series date back to the early 1930s and are included here in their original handwritten versions. A teenage Schlesinger began keeping them to record his travel experiences and his observations and musings about his destinations.

Schlesinger wrote not just for public consumption, but also for himself, and his personal journals provide perhaps the greatest insight into his opinions, and in some cases his daily life. Although entries include some information and reflections on Schlesinger's private life, their focus, like Schlesinger's, is on current events. The journals are not deeply introspective. Personal remarks usually center on his progress on current writing, his teaching, and personal and family milestones. Mentions of such topics are, in any case, brief.

Most of the journal entries report and comment on the news of the day. Schlesinger is often present and frequently participating in the events he describes. For instance, Schlesinger went to nearly every Democratic National Convention during his adulthood, and often had some official or unofficial role or influence; he was on President Kennedy's staff and participated in meetings on such topics as Cuba, Vietnam, and civil rights legislation; he drafted speeches, and took official trips, such as one to South America in 1961; and he found himself at the center of the events in the aftermath of the President's assassination. Later, after leaving official public life, his friends and colleagues in political and other circles continued to call on Schlesinger for advice and to comment on their plans of action, speeches, letters, and editorials. At dinners, cocktail parties, and informal gatherings, he was there as Robert Kennedy decided whether to run against Lyndon Johnson in 1968, as George McGovern mounted his 1972 campaign, and as Ted Kennedy struggled seemingly every four years over his presidential aspirations. His views on Bill Clinton's campaign and presidency are here, as well as his contributions as an unofficial consultant to the Al Gore campaign in 2000.

Schlesinger was very active socially and many of his entries are framed as reports on a party, a trip to a friend's country home, or a lunch at the Century Club. Although he is often not the main character in the events about which he writes, he narrates with a distinct point of view while reporting facts and the opinions of others.

In addition to the usual motivations for keeping a journal, Schlesinger used his as an aid in writing his books, letters, articles, memorials, and speeches recalling past events. For this reason, entries may contain annotations made some years after the fact. Schlesinger also sent copies of pages to colleagues to help them recall or write about specific past events. Although an edited version of these journals was published after Schlesinger's death (Journals, 1952-2000 by Arthur M. Schlesinger; edited by Andrew Schlesinger and Stephen Schlesinger. New York: Penguin Press, 2007), it is not clear whether or not he planned for their publication in some form as he wrote them. He certainly used them as source material for his memoirs, however, as well as for other writings requiring him to look retrospectively at events in his own lifetime.

The journal entries are sometimes supplemented with copies of letters, memoranda, speeches, invitations, meeting minutes, and other related material. Of note, in this regard, are the letters to and from John Kennedy during the 1960 campaign. Some earlier entries, in the 1950s, consist of actual meeting minutes and notes rather than conscious journal entries.

The journals are typed, though there are some handwritten annotations and additions. Several entries appear to have
been typed from notes (by Schlesinger or his secretary, Gretchen Stewart); others were written
directly on the typewriter. It is not possible to determine when or who typed the entries, except
when Schlesinger refers explicitly to the action of typing himself. (See, for instance, January 26,
1974 when his son Robert comes in and taps on a few keys in mid-sentence.) During the 1950s,
a variety of paper and typewriters were used. Sometimes copies were made of pages or pages
were retyped later from carbons or copies. Multiple copies of the same entries have been
retained when there appears to be some possible variation.

Entries in the journal are dated the day Schlesinger wrote them rather than with the date of the
events described. Depending on the regularity with which he was keeping the journal at the time,
entries could cover a single day or take a more retrospective view of a preceding month or even
months.

The years of Adlai Stevenson's unsuccessful campaigns for president, 1952 especially, are well
represented; otherwise entries are sporadic in the 1950s. Schlesinger began keeping his journal
more regularly during Kennedy's presidential campaign. It is only in 1961 that the journal takes
on regularity and uniformity in presentation, and he begins to use continuous page numbers.
Schlesinger's White House years, 1961-1963, are the best documented in the journals,
averaging over 400 pages per year. The journals for most other years consist of 60-100 pages,
the exceptions being 1968, 1971, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1982, and 1983 which are each 150 pages
or longer. Schlesinger tended to write in his journal more often during important political years,
notably those with presidential elections.

b. 309 1930s (10 items)
 v. 1-10
b. 310 f. 1-12 1950, 1952
b. 311 f. 1-18 1953-1961
b. 312 f. 1-17 1962-1963 June
b. 313 f. 1-26 1963 July-1968 June
b. 314 f. 1-27 1968 July-1972
b. 315 f. 1-34 1973-1978
b. 316 f. 1-39 1979-1983
b. 317 f. 1-26 1984-1987
b. 318 f. 1-37 1988-1992
b. 320 f. 1-20 1997 Oct-2003
Drafts
b. 321 f. 1-5 1961-1974
b. 322 f. 1-3 1974-1987

Series III: Writings 1946-2005 (64 boxes)
This series includes Schlesinger's unpublished work or early drafts of published material.
Additional drafts, many of articles written for academic and popular periodicals, can be found
attached to correspondence in Series I.E.

Subseries III. A. Articles 1948-1994, 2005 (23 boxes)
b. 256 f. 1-30 1948-1958
b. 257 f. 1-33 1959-1966
b. 258 f. 1-35 1967-1968
b. 259 f. 1-19 1969
b. 260 f. 1-22 1970
Series III: Writings (cont.)
Subseries III. A. Articles (cont.)

b. 261 f. 1-22  1971
b. 262 f. 1-23  1972
b. 263 f. 1-31  1973
b. 264 f. 1-31  1974
b. 265 f. 1-24  1975
b. 266 f. 1-17  1976
b. 267 f. 1-29  1977-1978
b. 268 f. 1-34  1979
b. 270 f. 1-24  1982
b. 271 f. 1-22  1983
b. 272 f. 1-37  1984-1985
b. 273 f. 1-17  1986
b. 274 f. 1-34  1987-1988
b. 275 f. 1-21  1989
b. 276 f. 1-21  1990-1991
b. 278 f. 1-32  1993-1994, 2005

Subseries III. B. Lectures 1946-2003 (31 boxes)

Schlesinger was both a professor and highly sought-after speaker. This subseries includes his lecture notes for some of his classes at the City University of New York, as well as individual lectures and lecture series he gave for various groups around the world. Schlesinger lectured in venues all around the United States, including numerous university commencements. International settings for the lectures include England, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, and Korea. This subseries also incorporates Schlesinger's testimony before various Congressional subcommittees. In many cases, the typewritten lecture notes contain handwritten annotations by Schlesinger and supporting material, such as correspondence with the sponsors of the lecture.

Schlesinger was called upon to share his insights on both American history and current events. Many of the lectures in the collection reflect his expertise in the life and presidency of Franklin Roosevelt, including a series of lectures on Roosevelt and his times for the London Commonwealth Fund. The life and legacy of John F. Kennedy was another frequent subject from the 1960s onward. The notes for his year-long class entitled Intellectual History extend beyond American history to all of Western philosophy. His series of lectures on Venice and the American Novel combine his interests in history and art. When American politics dominated the news, Schlesinger contributed to the discussion in his personal appearances. Lectures from the mid-1970s include Impeachment: Paradox & Dilemma and What Do We Tell Our Students?-Thoughts After Watergate. The subseries also contains notable speeches from such special occasions as Adlai Stevenson's memorial service and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the New York Public Library.

Although not listed in this guide, the collection contains sound and video recordings of various Schlesinger appearances and interviews. They include the four-part CBS News series “Schlesinger in Albany,” interviews publicizing Robert Kennedy and His Times, and appearances with John Kenneth Galbraith, Larry King, and other notable figures. Sound and video recordings are unavailable for use at this time pending preservation transfer.

b. 323 f. 1-9  1946-1957
b. 324 f. 1-5  1957-1960
b. 325 f. 1-3  Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Commonwealth Fund, London) 1959
Robert Kennedy and His Times is one of Schlesinger's most significant and best-remembered books. A painstakingly researched historical biography, it told the story of the late Robert Kennedy in the context of the era in which he rose to prominence. Although Schlesinger was a close friend of Kennedy, and includes personal reminiscences in the book, Robert Kennedy and His Times is not a memoir or a personal history (as was, for example, A Thousand Days). The two early drafts of the book included in this subseries illustrate the writing and editing process a Schlesinger history book would undergo before publication.

Draft 1

b. 354 f. 1-12  Foreword; Chapters 1-12
b. 355 f. 1-10  Chapters 13-22
b. 356 f. 1-13  Chapters 23-36
b. 357 f. 1-12  Chapters 37-48
Series III: Writings (cont.)
Subseries III. C. Robert Kennedy and His Times (cont.)

Draft 2

b. 358 f. 1-14 Foreword; Chapters 1-14
b. 359 f. 1-13 Chapters 15-27
b. 360 f. 1-14 Chapters 28-41

Subseries III. D. Additional Writings 1948-2005 (3 boxes)

In addition to being in demand as an academic and popular lecturer, Schlesinger's oratorical skills made him a frequent commencement speaker and eulogist. This subseries includes Schlesinger's own typed copies of various commencement addresses, arranged chronologically, as well as memorial tributes to many of his friends and colleagues, arranged alphabetically. One unique item in this subseries is a dramatic adaptation of Henry Adams's *Democracy*, one of Schlesinger's favorite written works, although it is uncertain what, if any, venue was planned for performing the adaptation.

b. 361 f. 1-3 Commencement addresses 1978-2001
b. 361 f. 4 *Democracy (adaptation of Henry Adams book)*

Memorial tributes 1948-2005

b. 362 f. 1-5 A-L
b. 363 f. 1-4 M-Y; unidentified

Series IV: Research Files (142 boxes)

Some of Schlesinger's research files consisted of material gathered on subjects in which he took an interest, or which might have provided the basis for a book, article, or lecture, while his other research files were directly connected to the history books he wrote. The files contain published material, transcripts, notes, and annotations.
Schlesinger kept current on a wide variety of subjects, including political, cultural and intellectual topics. Even as he researched and wrote his books, he was often called upon to write articles, lecture, and appear on panels, and he consequently maintained files on those subjects which interested him or had the potential to contribute ideas for one of his articles or lectures. His subject files contained clippings, notes, student papers, letters to and from Schlesinger himself, relevant third-party correspondence, and interview transcripts. This subseries offers a glimpse of how Schlesinger gathered data on subjects of interest, and how that data may have influenced his thinking.

Some of the more extensive files Schlesinger maintained included those on international affairs, such as the Communist Party, the Cold War, Vietnam, and the Bay of Pigs. Schlesinger's interest in American governmental affairs manifested itself in files on McCarthyism, the presidency, the vice presidency (which Schlesinger believed should be abolished), and various presidential campaigns.

Having continued his father's practice of polling historians for their rankings of the relative success of American presidents, Schlesinger kept records on both his polls and his father's, tracing the changes over time in how some presidents were viewed by American historians. His file on his own book *The Cycles of American History* provides support for his theory, also adapted from his father's, that the American electorate alternated between periods of liberalism and conservatism on a thirty-year cycle.

In some cases, Schlesinger's subject files centered on individuals or organizations of both historical and personal significance. John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Reinhold Niebuhr, Adlai Stevenson, Averell Harriman and even Schlesinger himself have files dedicated to them, as do Harvard University and Americans for Democratic Action.

Of special note are the subject files on multiculturalism, National History Standards, and Schlesinger's book *The Disuniting of America*. When Schlesinger was on the committee for establishing a set of history standards for American education, he publicly disavowed the results because of his differences with the rest of the committee over its application of multicultural principles. While not objecting to more inclusive curricula, Schlesinger believed that the new standards risked turning history into “therapy.” His reaction became enormously controversial, and the ensuing response to his statements led him to write *The Disuniting of America*, a treatise outlining what he saw as the shift from a shared American culture to a splintered one. These subject files provide insight into Schlesinger's thoughts on the matter, as well as the response to his public statements on the issue.

b. 364 f. 1 Academe
b. 364 f. 2 Academy of American Poets
b. 364 f. 3 Adams, Brooks
b. 365 f. 1 Adams, Henry
b. 365 f. 2 Africa
b. 365 f. 3 Africa Conference
b. 365 f. 4 Age of Action
b. 365 f. 5-6 Age of Jackson
b. 366 f. 1-2 Age of Jackson
b. 366 f. 3 Age of Roosevelt
b. 366 f. 4 Alarums
b. 366 f. 5 Alliance for Progress
b. 367 f. 1 America, meaning of
b. 367 f. 2 1982
b. 367 f. 3 1983
Series IV: Research Files (cont.)
Subseries IV. A. Subject Files (cont.)

b. 376 f. 8 Civil War
b. 376 f. 9 Civility
Class notes

b. 377 f. 1-20 1966-1977
b. 378 f. 1-9 1978-1982
b. 379 f. 1-11 1982-1988
b. 380 f. 1-6 1989-1993
b. 380 f. 7 Reading lists
b. 380 f. 8-9 Seminars
b. 381 f. 1-2 Clinton, Bill
b. 381 f. 3-5 Cold War
b. 382 f. 1 Cold War revisionism
b. 382 f. 2 Columbus, Christopher
b. 382 f. 3 Committee in Defense of History
b. 382 f. 4-6 Communist Party
b. 383 f. 1-2 Communist Party
b. 383 f. 3 Compulsory godliness
b. 383 f. 4-6 Congress for Cultural Freedom
b. 384 f. 1-2 Congress for Cultural Freedom
b. 384 f. 3 Constitution
b. 384 f. 4 Croly, Herbert
b. 385 f. 1 Cuba
b. 385 f. 2-3 Cuban Missile Crisis
b. 385 f. 4 Cultural imperialism
b. 385 f. 5 Culture
b. 386 f. 1 Currie, Lauchlin
b. 386 f. 2-4 Cycles of American History
b. 387 f. 1 Davies, Joe
b. 387 f. 2 Deaths
b. 387 f. 3 Democracy
b. 387 f. 4 Democratic Convention 1972
b. 387 f. 5 Democratic Party
b. 387 f. 6 Dewey, John
b. 387 f. 7 Diplomatic history
b. 388 f. 1 Dissent
b. 388 f. 2-3 Disuniting of America
b. 388 f. 4 Dulles, Allen
b. 388 f. 5 Dunne, Finley Peter
b. 388 f. 6 Dworkin, Ronald
b. 388 f. 7 Dynasties
b. 389 f. 1 Education
Series IV: Research Files (cont.)
Subseries IV. A. Subject Files (cont.)

b. 389 f. 2 Eisenhower, Dwight D.
b. 389 f. 3 Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
b. 389 f. 4-5 Electoral College
b. 389 f. 6 Electronics
b. 389 f. 7 Emerson, Ralph Waldo
b. 389 f. 8 *Encounter*
b. 389 f. 9 English-Speaking Union
b. 389 f. 10-13 *Evolution of American Thought*
b. 389 f. 14 Executive privilege
b. 389 f. 15 *Face the Nation*
b. 389 f. 16 Fair Deal
b. 390 f. 1 Fairbank, John K.
b. 390 f. 2 Farrell, J. T.
b. 390 f. 3 Federal Bureau of Investigation
b. 390 f. 4 Film
b. 391 f. 1-10 Finletter conference
b. 391 f. 11-13 Foreign policy
b. 392 f. 1 Foreign Service
b. 392 f. 2 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library
b. 392 f. 3-4 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Foundation
b. 392 f. 5 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Four Freedoms Foundation
b. 393 f. 1 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Four Freedoms Foundation
b. 393 f. 2 Franklin Mint
b. 393 f. 3 Galbraith Fund
b. 393 f. 4 Generations
b. 393 f. 5 Genteel tradition
b. 393 f. 6 Ghost writing
b. 393 f. 7 Good Neighbor Policy
b. 393 f. 8 Gordievsky, Oleg and Hopkins, Harry
b. 393 f. 9 Gore, Albert Jr.
b. 393 f. 10 Government
b. 393 f. 11 Grant, Frances
b. 393 f. 12 Guyana
b. 394 f. 1 Harding, Warren G.
b. 394 f. 2-5 Harriman, Averell
b. 395 f. 1 Harriman, Pamela
b. 395 f. 2-6 Harvard University
b. 396 f. 1 Harvard fellow travelers
b. 396 f. 2 Hays, Brooks
b. 396 f. 3 Henty, G.A.
b. 396 f. 4 Hersh, Seymour
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<td>Hildreth, Richard</td>
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<td>Hiss, Alger</td>
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<td>b. 396 f. 7</td>
<td>Historical forgeries</td>
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<td>b. 396 f. 8-9</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td>b. 397 f. 1</td>
<td>History, inscrutability of</td>
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<td>b. 397 f. 2-3</td>
<td>History and secrecy</td>
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<td>b. 397 f. 4-5</td>
<td>History of American Life</td>
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<td>Hofstadter, Richard</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 2</td>
<td>Holmes, Oliver Wendell</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 3</td>
<td>Holocaust</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 4</td>
<td>Honorary degrees</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 5</td>
<td>Hoover, Herbert</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 6</td>
<td>Howells, William Dean</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 7</td>
<td>Humphrey, Hubert</td>
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<td>b. 398 f. 8</td>
<td>The Ike Age Revisited</td>
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Subseries IV. B. Book Files 1940s-1990s (69 boxes)

In researching the history books he considered his life's work, Schlesinger gathered voluminous files of data in the form of published material, note cards, transcripts and annotations. In some cases, he organized his research by subject and in other instances, his research was organized by chapter. The largest amount of research in this series informed Schlesinger's three books on the career of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Some research also seems to have been intended for the planned subsequent volumes in that series. One set of research files for the Roosevelt books is arranged alphabetically by subject, while another set is arranged numerically by section number. These section numbers range from 22 to 33; the first twenty-one sections were not received with the collection. The other large section of book-related research in this subseries relates to Robert Kennedy and His Times. Among the other research for that work are a great many oral histories from those who knew and worked with Robert Kennedy, some conducted by Schlesinger himself and others obtained by Schlesinger from other sources. Selected pages of the oral histories have been classified for national security reasons and may be declassified on a case-by-case basis over time. Also of note here are Schlesinger's original note cards for The Age of Jackson, his first major success.

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This series consists primarily of the files Schlesinger maintained on personal matters, including his finances, his legal affairs, and his family. Also included are photographs, scrapbooks, campaign buttons, and other personal items retained in the course of Schlesinger's lifetime.

The earliest material in this series dates to the 1920s, and includes elementary school work and summer camp items from Schlesinger's own childhood. His high school work at Exeter and college days at Harvard are also represented, as are his years of World War II service in the O.S.S. and O.W.I. Other personal files in this series relate to Schlesinger's parents, wives, and children. Some highlights of the series include essays by the young Schlesinger, including his "History of Cambridge," commemoratives of his milestone birthday parties, and material he kept from his children's formative and young adult years. A published chronology of all Schlesinger's writings through 1984, compiled with his cooperation, is included in this series (see Box 518, Folder 1). Researchers seeking titles or dates of Schlesinger's publications should find the chronology quite useful. Most historically noteworthy of all may be the copies of Schlesinger's own file obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. The file contains the F.B.I. reports on Schlesinger's background checks by the Bureau before his government appointment in 1961, as well as other memoranda about him from the Bureau's files.

Among the photographic highlights in this series are the pictures Schlesinger included in his autobiography; photos of Schlesinger with notable figures from Adlai Stevenson to Bill Clinton; autographed pictures of Lauren Bacall and Carol Channing; photos documenting Schlesinger's single performance in The Will Rogers Follies; and Schlesinger's photographs of the "Kennedy years," featuring portraits and candid shots from his time in the White House, including pictures of Schlesinger with President Kennedy.

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Schlesinger's personal and professional meetings. In later years, birthdays of family members
and friends (including their years of birth) are noted on the appropriate day's entry. Schlesinger
appears to have maintained the appointment books himself, and they serve as a means of
reconstructing Schlesinger's days and evenings as he met with the important cultural, intellectual
and political figures of his time. Most years have more than one corresponding appointment
book. The phone message books were maintained by Schlesinger's secretary from 1966-1988.
Entries list the caller, the time and date of the call, and any message left. In addition, the series
contains a book detailing Schlesinger's periodical subscriptions in the 1970s and 1980s, and a
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