



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Gilbert Seldes correspondence, 1956-1970**

MssCol 18152

## Summary

**Creator:** Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. (Arthur Meier), 1917-2007

**Title:** Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Gilbert Seldes correspondence, 1956-1970

**Size:** 1 folder

**Abstract:** Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., (1917-2007) was an American historian as well known 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, while playing a significant role in shaping the intellectual basis of postwar Democratic liberalism. Gilbert Seldes (1893-1970) was an American cultural critic, editor, and writer who was the first director of television programs for the Columbia Broadcasting System, and the first dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Gilbert Seldes correspondence consists of nineteen letters (mostly typed) from Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. to his friend Gilbert Seldes; Seldes' typed copies, drafts and memoranda of responses to Schlesinger's letters; a letter dated 21 Dec. 1970 from Schlesinger to Gilbert Seldes' daughter Marian, and a typed draft (5 p.) of Seldes' introduction to a new edition of his 1928 work, *The Stammering Century*. The letters include discussion of their writings and careers, social activities and mutual acquaintances, books they have read, and contemporary topics such as the role of mass media, particularly television, in American culture. Notable content includes Schlesinger's brief and poignant note of 15 June 1968, written shortly after Robert F. Kennedy's death.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Gilbert Seldes correspondence, 1956-1970, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

### Related Materials:

Related collections include the Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, New York Public Library

## Creator History

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., (1917-2007) was an American historian as well known 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, while playing a significant role in shaping the intellectual basis of postwar Democratic liberalism. Gilbert Seldes (1893-1970) was an American cultural critic, editor, and writer who was the first director of television programs for the Columbia Broadcasting System, and the first dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Gilbert Seldes correspondence consists of nineteen letters (mostly typed) from Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. to his friend Gilbert Seldes; Seldes' typed copies, drafts and memoranda of responses to Schlesinger's letters; a letter dated 21 Dec. 1970 from Schlesinger to Gilbert Seldes' daughter Marian, and a typed draft (5 p.) of Seldes' introduction to a new edition of his 1928 work, *The Stammering Century*. The letters include discussion of their writings and careers, social activities and mutual acquaintances, books they have read, and contemporary topics such as the role of mass media, particularly television, in American culture. Notable content includes Schlesinger's brief and poignant note of 15 June 1968, written shortly after Robert F. Kennedy's death.

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically

### **Key Terms**

#### **Occupations**

Authors  
Historians

#### **Subjects**

Mass media and culture -- United States

#### **Geographic Names**

United States -- Intellectual life -- 20th century  
United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1989

#### **Names**

Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. (Arthur Meier), 1917-2007  
Seldes, Gilbert, 1893-1970  
Seldes, Marian