

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 50 M 135, 62 M 66

Location D5-i-5

Title Louis Fischer. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1909-1950

Date of receipt 7/5/50, 11/6/50, 8/10/62

Received from Louis Fischer

Volume on arrival 3 l.f.

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 6 AB, 1 ½AB; 3 l.f.

Condition Generally good - some of the clippings are disintegrating

Restrictions None

Description

(SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

(SEE ATTACHED SHEET)

Accessioned by TT

Date 4/29/88

LOUIS FISCHER PAPERS

Biographical Note

Louis Fischer was a teacher, lecturer, foreign correspondent, writer, and biographer. Fischer was born in Philadelphia in 1896; he taught school there in 1917 and 1918, but left to pursue a career as a foreign correspondent. Fischer became an expert on the Soviet Union, and wrote a biography of Lenin, published in 1964. An admirer and a personal acquaintance of Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), Fischer wrote a biography of India's political and religious leader, The Life of Mahatma Gandhi (1950). Fischer held positions as a research associate and visiting lecturer at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from 1961 until the time of his death in 1970.

## Scope and Content

The collection consists entirely of papers concerned with Fischer's biography of Mahatma Gandhi. The two series are Sources for the Gandhi Biography (ca1909-1949) and Drafts of the Gandhi Biography (1948-1950). The first series consists of material collected by Fischer. There are clippings, press releases, articles, completed questionnaires, original correspondence, and transcripts and facsimiles of correspondence.

One group of folders, which presumably follows Fischer's arrangement, is loosely organized around chronological periods in the life of Gandhi and Indian affairs. Another group is loosely organized by subject matter or type of material. Most of the folders contain clippings with press releases, articles, and correspondence interspersed throughout; all of the material is concerned with Gandhi, India, or Fischer as biographer. The clippings date from various times of Gandhi's life and career, and from the time of his death and after. Included are clippings of articles by Fischer himself. There are accounts of Gandhi's habits and activities by Indians who knew him well. Many of these, including one separate file, are responses to a written interview or questionnaire prepared by Fischer. There are three photographs of Fischer with Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) and Mohammed Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) along with another photograph of a group of people including Rajkumari Amrit Kaur; at least one photograph of Gandhi is in the collection.

A final group of folders contains correspondence with other material interspersed. There is correspondence, 1948-1949, between Fischer and Kishorial G. Mashruwala, the editor of Harijan, Gandhi's weekly newspaper. Other Fischer letters include letters with close friends of Gandhi and members of his family, as well as specialists on India. Some printed matter accompanies the letters. The rest of the correspondence includes original letters (1914-1948) and transcripts (ca.1909-1947) of Gandhi letters. The

original letters include six (1937-1948) addressed to sister Kurshed Naoroji, a member of Gandhi's ashram at Sabarmati, and one 1948 letter to Fischer. There are transcripts of letters in both English and Gujarati, an Indian script used frequently by Gandhi. Separate files of letters, 1921-1928, with C.F. Andrews (1871-1940), 1919-1944 with Rabindranath Tagore (1918-1941), and (1934-1947) with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Gandhi's English language secretary. Several letters between Fischer and Indian friends of Gandhi, including the industrialist Shantikumar Narottam Morarjee, offer commentary on some of the Gandhi letters.

The second series, Drafts of Gandhi Biography, is Fischer's first and final drafts of The Life of Mahatma Gandhi with his emendations.

LOUIS FISCHER PAPERS

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1-3	Sources for the Gandhi Biography (ca1909-1949)
4	Letters to Princess Amrit Kaur (1934-1947)
	Drafts of the Gandhi Biography (1948-1949)
5	First Draft
6-7	Final Draft