A Finding Aid to the
Robert Marshall Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 204
Biographical Sketch

Robert Marshall was born in New York City on January 2, 1901 to prominent New York lawyer and American Jewish leader, Louis Marshall, and his wife, Florence (Lowenstein) Marshall. One of four Marshall children, Robert was raised in New York and received a B.S. degree from the New York State College of Forestry in 1925, a Master of Forestry degree from Harvard University in 1926 and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 1930.

Marshall was a devoted conservationist and environmentalist and he devoted his life's work to these causes. He served first as the Assistant Silviculturist at the Northern Rocky Mountain Experiment Station from 1925-1928 before engaging in exploration, ecological studies, and anthropological research in northern Alaska from 1929-1931. From 1933-1937 Marshall served as Director of Forestry, Office of Indian Affairs, for the U.S. Department of Interior. In 1937 Marshall was appointed Chief of Division of Recreation and Lands, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, the position he held at the time of his death in 1939.

Marshall authored many books and articles on forestry and conservation, including The Problem of the Wilderness (1930), Arctic Village, (Literary Guild selection for May, 1933), The People's Forests (1933), The Forest for Recreation (selection in the U.S. Forestry's Service's A National Plan for American Forestry, 1933), The Universe of the Wilderness is Vanishing (1937), and Alaska Wilderness: Exploring the Central Brooks Range (1970; first edition published in 1956 under the title, Arctic Wilderness). He also made a map of 12,000 miles square miles of previously uncharted country in northern Alaska in 1934 which was published by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Marshall was active in many environmental organizations. He was a member of The Wilderness Society (Executive Committee Member), the Society of American Foresters, the Ecological Society, the Society of Plant Physiologists, the Society of Anthropologists and was a member of the Explorers and the Cosmos Club.

Robert Marshall died in Washington, D.C. on November 11, 1939 at the age of 38. But, as a result of the positive impact he had on all those with whom he came in contact, Marshall continued the pursuits of his life even after his death. In his will, Marshall left one-half of his entire estate to aid trace unionism and the "promotion and advancement of an economic system based upon the theory of production for use and not for profit," and designated the other half for the establishment of two trusts: The Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust, devoted, in the words of his will, to the "safeguarding and advancement of the cause of civil liberties in the United States of America" and the Robert Marshall Wilderness Fund, dedicated to "the preservation of wilderness conditions in outdoor America, including, but not limited to, the preservation of areas embracing primitive conditions of transportation, vegetation and fauna."

In 1941 the U.S. Forest Service dedicated the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area on Flathead and Lewis & Clark National Forests in Montana in "recognition of his distinguished work in development of its system of wilderness areas." In addition, there are three other geographic points in the United States named in his honor: Marshall Lake in the Brooks Range, Alaska; Mount Marshall in the Adirondack Mountains; and the Bob Marshall Recreation Camp in the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.


Scope and Content

The collection describes the life of Robert Marshall, conservationist, forester, and scientific explorer; and the activities of the Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust, a philanthropic trust established by the will of Robert Marshall for the purpose of promoting and establishing civil rights and liberties. The Papers deal primarily with the work of the Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust.

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Robert Marshall Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-204. Robert Marshall Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Received from James Marshall, New York, N.Y., 1979-1983.

Civil rights / Conservationists / Environmental protection / Environmentalists / Forests and forestry / Trusts and trustees

Marshall, Louis, 1856-1929 / Marshall, Robert, 1901-1939

Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust

Consists of correspondence with family members and friends, plus clippings, articles, and correspondence concerning the interests and activities of Robert Marshall. Of particular importance in this series is the large amount of correspondence between Robert Marshall and his father, Louis, for the years 1920-1929.

The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization. Letters are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box 1. Folder 1. American Civil Liberties Union, 1933, 1935-1939
Box 1. Folder 2. American Congress for Peace and Democracy, 1938-1939
Box 1. Folder 3. American Student Union, 1936-1939
Box 1. Folder 4. American Youth Congress, 1936-1939
Box 1. Folder 5. Billikopf, Jacob, 1920-1921, 1926, 1930-1931
Box 1. Folder 6. Committee on Spanish American Affairs, 1937-1939
Box 1. Folder 7. Dies Committee [communist charges], 1938-1939
Box 1. Folder 8. Fish, Hamilton [communist charges], 1935
Box 1. Folder 10. Marshall, James, 1928-1934, 1938, undated
Box 1. Folder 11. Marshall, Lenore G., 1928-1933
Box 2. Folder 1. Mooney, Thomas J., 1936-1939
Box 2. Folder 2. National Negro Congress, 1936, 1938
Box 2. Folder 4. People’s Lobby, 1937-1939
Box 2. Folder 5. Reynolds, Robert R., 1936
Box 2. Folder 6. Socialist party, USA, 1933-1936
Box 2. Folder 7. Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, 1936
Box 2. Folder 9. United Cannery, Agricultural, Producing and Allied Workers of America, 1938-1939
Box 2. Folder 10. United Federal Workers of America, 1938-1939
Box 2. Folder 12. Wirt, William A. [communist charges], 1934 April
Box 2. Folder 13. Workers Alliance of America, 1937, 1939-1940
Box 2. Folder 14. Writings, undated
Box 2. Folder 15. Miscellaneous, 1919, 1937-1939

Series B. Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust, 1938-1973

Extent 4.6 linear feet (11.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence, minutes, reports and grant applications.

Arrangement

Subseries 1. Administration Records, 1938-1973, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of general correspondence, letterbooks, financial records, trustees minutes and other records concerning the operation and maintenance of the trust.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 16. General correspondence, 1938-1946
Box 2. Folder 17. General correspondence, 1947-1948
Box 2. Folder 18. General correspondence, 1949-1951
Box 3. Folder 1. General correspondence, 1956-1957
Box 3. Folder 2. General correspondence, 1958-1965, undated
Box 3. Folder 3. Letterbook [Index], 1956-1964
Box 3. Folder 4. Letterbook, 1956-1959
Box 3. Folder 5. Letterbook, 1960-1964
Box 3. Folder 6. Final distribution of assets and securities transactions, 1959, 1961-1964
Subseries 2. Grant Applications

Extent 3.8 linear feet (9.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of applications from persons and organizations for grants from the Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust. Robert Marshall was very concerned about the civil liberties and rights of the American Indian, and a large part of this subseries contains information concerning the assistance given by the Robert Marshall Civil Liberties Trust to the Association on American Indian Affairs and the National Congress of American Indians.

Arrangement The applications are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization and the letters are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 4. African Academy of Arts and Research, 1946
Box 4. Folder 5. American Association of University Professors [re: academic freedom], 1959-1961
Box 4. Folder 7. American Committee for Cultural Freedom [re: security and loyalty cases], 1954-1958
Box 4. Folder 8. American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, 1940-1941
Box 4. Folder 10. American Council of Spanish Speaking People, 1953
Box 5. Folder 1. American Council on Race Relations, 1946-1950
Box 5. Folder 2. American Foundation for Continuing Education [re: political education], 1959
Box 5. Folder 5. American Labor Conference on International Affairs, 1944-1945
Box 5. Folder 6. American Veterans Committee [re: civil liberties], 1951-1957, 1959
Box 5. Folder 7. American Veterans Committee [grant application], 1951-1952
Box 5. Folder 11. Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), 1941, 1943, 1947-1950
Box 5. Folder 12. Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), 1951-1952
Box 6. Folder 1. Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), 1953-1955
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Box 6. Folder 5. AAIA [The American Indian], 1948-1951
Box 6. Folder 6. AAIA [bulletins], 1940-1958
Box 6. Folder 7. AAIA [miscellaneous reports], undated
Box 6. Folder 8. Bennett, Thomas Browne [re: communism], 1954-1955
Box 6. Folder 12. Brandeis University [re: Civil Rights Program], 1958-1959
Box 6. Folder 14. Bureau for Inter-Cultural Education [re: race relations], 1947
Box 7. Folder 1. C-E, General.
Box 7. Folder 2. Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 1959-1960
Box 7. Folder 3. Ciepley (Marion)-Rappaport (Irwin) Legal Fund, 1960-1961
Box 7. Folder 4. Committee for People's Rights in Eastern Pennsylvania, 1940
Box 7. Folder 5. Council for Civil Rights in the Nation's Capital, 1948
Box 7. Folder 7. Descendants of the American Revolution, 1940-1941
Box 7. Folder 8. Education Guild [re: teachers], 1956-1957
Box 7. Folder 10. Emergency Civil Liberties Committee [re: Bill of Rights test cases], 1955
Box 7. Folder 11. Emergency Rescue Committee [re: exit visas], 1941
Box 7. Folder 13. Flynn, Elizabeth Gurley [re: Smith Act], 1954
Box 7. Folder 15. Frontier Films, 1940-1941
Box 8. Folder 3. Institute of Ethnic Affairs, 1946-1950
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Box 8. Folder 5. International Rescue Committee, 1948-1949
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Box 8. Folder 8. Julian, Joe [re: Communism], 1955-1957
Box 8. Folder 9. Karamu House [re: cultural arts], 1941-1943
Box 8. Folder 10. Kutcher, James [re: Kutcher Civil Rights Committee], 1953-1954
Box 8. Folder 12. League of American Writers, 1940-1941
Box 8. Folder 14. Manumit School, 1941
Box 8. Folder 15. McCollum, Vashti [re: Church and State], 1948
Box 8. Folder 17. Mooney, Thomas J., 1941
Box 9. Folder 2. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [re: racial discrimination], 1939-1941
Box 9. Folder 4. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [re: racial discrimination], 1960-1965
Box 9. Folder 7. National Committee on Segregation in the Nation's Capital, 1949
Box 10. Folder 5. NCAI [bulletins, miscellaneous records, etc.], 1950-1961, undated
Box 10. Folder 6. NCAI [Senate hearings], 1952
Box 11. Folder 2. National Federation for Constitutional Liberties [re: labor rights], 1940-1941
Box 11. Folder 3. National Mental Health Foundation [re: mental institutions], 1948-1950
Box 11. Folder 6. New York Conference for Inalienable Rights, 1941
Box 11. Folder 10. Princeton Committee for the Trenton Six, 1951
Box 11. Folder 13. Public Affairs Committee [re: publication of pamphlets], 1948-1955
Box 12. Folder 3. Remington, William W. [briefs], undated
Box 12. Folder 4. Resettlement Campaign for Exiled Professionals [re: immigrant rescue], 1951
Box 12. Folder 8. Service Bureau for Intercultural Education [re: Black Education], 1942-1943
Box 12. Folder 10. Socialist Party of California [re: Supreme Court Case], 1957-1958
Box 13. Folder 1. Southern Electoral Reform League [re: Poll Tax], 1940-1942
Box 13. Folder 2. Southern Negro Youth Congress, 1940-1941
Box 13. Folder 4. Southern Tenant Farmers Union [re: sharecroppers], 1942-1946
Box 13. Folder 5. Southern Workers Defense League [re: labor rights], 1942-1944
Box 13. Folder 6. Stroup, Herbert [re: Jehovah's Witness Study], 1941
Box 13. Folder 9. Thomas, Norman [re: Charney and Trachtenberg], 1956
Box 13. Folder 10. Town Hall, 1941
Box 13. Folder 12. Tuskegee Institute [re: Black Civil Rights], 1957-1958
Box 13. Folder 13. Union for Democratic Action [re: Mississippi Civil Rights], 1955
Box 13. Folder 17. Wirin, A.L. [re: California ACLU], 1956-1957
Box 13. Folder 18. Workers Defense League, 1941-1943
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**Subject Tracings**

Note: The following list of subjects and individuals is a selective index to many of the topics and individuals in the ROBERT MARSHALL PAPERS. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. It does not attempt to list every subject or individual nor does it try to indicate all places that a listed subject or individual appears in the collection. When used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List, the Subject Tracings should help the researcher locate topics. References are to boxes and folders: e.g.; 2/11 means Box 2, Folder 11.

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