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Note
History --History, California --History, Bay AreaGeographical (By Place) --California --Bay AreaEngineering and Technology --Transportation Engineering

Collection number: BANC MSS 72/39 c

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

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Encoded by:
Gabriela A. Montoya

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Adrien Joseph Falk Papers,
Date (inclusive): [ca. 1973-1971]
Collection Number: BANC MSS 72/39 c
Creator: Falk, Adrien Joseph, 1884-1971
Extent: Number of containers: 10 boxes, 1 carton, 2 v. and 1 oversize folder
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Materials relating primarily to Falk's civic activities. Includes letters written to him, many of them from prominent men in San Francisco and in the State; copies of some letters written by him; biographical sketches; personalia; awards and citations; photographs; clippings; speeches; and subject files, including material on Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Adrien Joseph Falk papers, BANC MSS 72/39 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Acquisition Information

The Adrien J. Falk papers were given to The Bancroft Library in August 1971 by his widow, Mrs. Belle Falk. The collection is not an extensive one since Mr. Falk obviously did not systematically save his papers. What was saved reflects what he regarded as the highlights of his career and the activities of which he was justifiably proud. The papers, housed in ten boxes, one carton, two volumes and one oversize portfolio, consist of letters written to him, many of them from prominent men in the city and state; copies of some letters written by him; biographical sketches; personalia; awards and citations; photographs; clippings; speeches; and subject files relating to various causes and to organizations with which he was associated, particularly BART. In general the papers relate to his civic activities rather than to his business career. They are described in greater detail in the Key to Arrangement.

Biography

Adrien J. Falk was born December 9, 1884 in San Francisco. After attending John Swett Grammar School and completing one year at Lowell High School, he left school to take a job as errand boy for a liquor wholesaler. In 1905 he found employment with the wholesale grocery firm of Sussman, Wormser and Company, as S & W was then known, as a billing clerk. He became, in turn, assistant bookkeeper, cashier, credit manager, officer manager, secretary, sales manager, general manager, director, vice-president (in 1930) and president (in 1946). During this period he saw the transition of S & W from a small wholesale grocery business to a leading packer and distributor of canned foods. Retiring from the presidency in 1956, he continued to serve the Company as a consultant.

Mr. Falk continued his interrupted education with classes at the University of California Extension Division, specializing in accounting, business law and office management, and public speaking. He received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of San Francisco in 1953, and served as a Regents Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1958.

Strongly imbued with a sense of civic responsibility, he had an active career in public service also. Even a partial list of activities in this field testifies to his efforts: president of the San Francisco and the California State Chambers of Commerce; president and member of the San Francisco Board of Education; president of the San Francisco Community Chest; president of the San Francisco Board of Trade; chairman of the Conference for the Problems of the Aging (1951); member of the Board of Governors, Bay Area Council; member of the Advisory Council on Social Security for the U. S. Senate Finance Committee; and president of the Mount Zion Hospital. His long and distinguished career was climaxed by his service as director and president of the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, a public service he embarked upon in 1957 at the age of 73.

He received many honors, among them a distinguished service award from the Bay Area Council; the Robert C. Kirkwood Award for significant contribution to the community life of Northern California; and the Urban Transportation Award, presented by the Second International Conference on Urban Transportation. For his many contributions to community welfare, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors proclaimed January 17, 1970, "Adrien J. Falk Day."

Mr. Falk died in San Francisco, April 14, 1971.

Boxes 1-2

Letters written to Mr. Falk

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically with a miscellany of single letters at the beginning of the file. Major correspondents are listed, following the Key to Arrangement.

Box 2

Letters written by Mr. Falk, 1945-1968

Additional Note

One folder of carbon copies of outgoing letters; obviously incomplete. Arranged chronologically.

Boxes 3-4

Miscellaneous letters

Additional Note

Letters addressed to Mr. Falk, grouped according to the following categories [Cross references to pertinent letters in Boxes 1 and 2 have been noted on folders]:

BANC MSS 72/39 c  3
Key to Arrangement

Letters commenting on his speeches
Congratulatory letters: election to presidency, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, 1943 (2 folders)
Congratulatory letters: appointment to San Francisco Board of Education, 1944
Letters of appreciation: retirement from presidency of San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, 1944
Congratulatory letters: American Legion’s Americanism award, 1949
Letters of appreciation: retirement from San Francisco Board of Education, 1949
Congratulatory letters: election to presidency of California State Chamber of Commerce, 1950
Letters of appreciation: support of Proposition 3, 1952 (tax exemption for private non-profit schools)
Congratulatory letters: honorary Doctor of Laws degree awarded by the University of San Francisco, June 7, 1953
Letters of appreciation: retirement from presidency of S & W Fine Foods, Inc. 1956
Congratulatory letters: Proposition A campaign, 1956. Mr. Falk served as chairman of the Citizens’ Committee for the Passage of Proposition A, the San Francisco school bond issue. Congratulatory letters: defeat of Proposition 16, 1958. Mr. Falk served as Northern California Chairman, Citizens United against Taxing Schools.
Congratulatory letters: defeat of Proposition 16, 1958. Mr. Falk served as Northern California Chairman, Citizens United against Taxing Schools.
Congratulatory letters: San Francisco Examiner article, 1964
Congratulatory letters: Robert C. Kirkwood award for significant contribution to community life of northern California, 1965
Congratulatory letters: Urban transportation award, 1967
Letters re Bay Area Rapid Transportation, 1959-1968

Box 5
Biographical sketches
Personalia - passport, affidavit of birth, voter registration certificate, etc. Membership cards, certificates, etc.
Awards, testimonials, etc. (2 folders)
See also carton and oversized portfolio
Material re honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, awarded by the University of San Francisco, June 7, 1953. Included: copy of citation, commencement program, invitation, clippings, photographs.
Material re American Legion Americanism award, 1949: clippings. news releases, etc.
Material re Robert C. Kirkwood award, 1965, for significant contribution to the community life of Northern California; clippings, information re nominations, etc.
Programs for events in which Mr. Falk participated.
 Copies of Christmas cards sent by the Falks.

Box 6
Photographs
Additional Note
Many have been removed and cataloged separately: Portraits 15187-15298

Clippings (2 folders)
Obituaries
Speeches

Boxes 7-8
Additional Note
Notes for speeches and/or completed typescript copies with emendations. Occasionally printed or mimeographed copies. Grouped according to Mr. Falk’s designations.
Additional Note
Included also is a folder containing some of his printed articles and statements. printed excerpts from talks, etc.
| Box 7 | Agriculture  
| Chamber of Commerce  
| Charitable organizations  
| Clubs  
| Conventions  
| Education  
| Box 8 | Government  
| Labor  
| Political  
| Rapid Transit  
| Religious groups  
| Social security  
| Miscellaneous  
| Boxes 9-10 | Subject files  
California. Proposition 3, 1952. It proposed to exempt from taxation, property used exclusively for non-profit school purposes of less than collegiate grade, owned and operated by religious, hospital or charitable foundations or corporations. Included are copies of Mr. Falk’s statement supporting the proposition and clippings.  
California. University. Outline of Mr. Falk’s seminar; notes for his lectures.  
S & W Fine Foods, Inc. Achievement “A” award, War Food Administration. 1944; material re Mr. Falk’s 50th anniversary with the firm; material re his retirement from the presidency.  
St. Mary’s College. Publications re symposia by and for business and industrial executives in which Mr. Falk participated.  
San Francisco. Board of Education. Primarily clippings.  
San Francisco. Chamber of Commerce. Clippings and certificate of appreciation.  
San Francisco. Mary’s Help Hospital. Material relating primarily to the hospital building fund.  
San Francisco. Old St. Mary’s Centennial, 1954. Programs and commemorative booklet.  
San Francisco. St. Anthony Dining Room. Clipping and an article.  
San Francisco. University of San Francisco. Reports, newsletters, etc.  
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District. Clippings, new releases, reports, informational digests, programs, photographs, etc. (4 folders)  
| Box 10 | Miscellaneous  
| Carton 1 | Awards, citations, testimonials, etc. - plaques  
Additional Note  
Included: copy of the invitation, announcements, clippings, copies of post luncheon remarks, etc.  
| volume v. 2 | Scrapbook re Bay Area Rapid Transit District, compiled for Mr. Falk by a friend.  
Additional Note  
Included: photographs, announcement of election to presidency, clippings, etc.  
| portfolio Portfolio | Primarily awards, citations, resolutions and testimonials (oversize)  
<p>| Correspondence Miscellany (single letters) Bekins, Milo W., 1891- |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondent</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biggs, Reginald Harcourt</td>
<td>Feb. 6, 1950</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bissinger, Paul Adolph</td>
<td>July 28, 1958</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bufano, Beniamino</td>
<td>Aug. 14, 1944</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California. University. College of Agriculture, Davis</td>
<td>Mar. 14, 1958</td>
<td>Letter Re Mr. Falk's lectures for Dept. of Agricultural Economics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call, Asa Vickrey</td>
<td>Dec. 14, 1954</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocker, William Willard</td>
<td>Feb. 20, 1950</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond, Earl D.</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1955</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DiGiorgio, Robert</td>
<td>Aug. 21, 1950</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich, Philip S.</td>
<td>Feb. 6, n.y.</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funsten, Benjamin Reed</td>
<td>Feb. 8, 1950</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giannini, Amadeo Peter</td>
<td>May 17, 1945</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson, Phil Sheridan</td>
<td>Aug. 20, 1964</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hale, Prentis Cobb</td>
<td>Feb. 6, 1950</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hegland, Sheridan N.</td>
<td>Feb. 14, 1955</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoover, Paul Edward</td>
<td>Nov. 20, 1959</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurley, Patrick Jay</td>
<td>Jan. 31, 1945</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns, George W.</td>
<td>Feb. 23, 1950</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Lyndon Baines</td>
<td>July 31, 1964</td>
<td>Letter Thanking Mr. Falk and other BART members for the gift presented him as a reminder of his visit to the Bay Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kefauver, Estes</td>
<td>June 14, 1952</td>
<td>Letter Expression of pleasure on having appeared with Mr. Falk on a television program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koshland, Daniel Edward</td>
<td>1892-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter, Feb. 8, 1950
Lochead, James Kenneth, 1891-
Letter, Feb. 10, 1950
McKinnon, Harold Richert, 1894-
Letter, Jan. 27, 1950
Mailliard, John Ward, 1891-
Letter, Feb. 7, 1950
Mayer, Charles, 1903-
Letter, June 8, 1953
Mercier, Armand Theodore, 1881-
Letter, Feb. 10, 1950
Miller, George Paul, 1891-
Letter, Dec. 15, 1964
Moyers, Bill D., 1934-
Letter, July 10, 1964
Writing as special assistant to President Johnson, expressing appreciation for the work done in connection with the President’s visit to BART.
Newhall, Scott, 1914-
Letter, Aug. 17, 1964
Writing as executive editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, re BART.
Reagan, Ronald, 1911-
Letter, Nov. 20, 1968
Writing as governor of California, thanking him for serving on the Task Force on Transportation.
Rolph, Thomas, 1885-
Letter, July 27, 1944
Romney, George, 1907-
Letter, Oct. 23, 1967
Thanking him for the tour of BART facilities.
San Francisco. City Planning Commission.
Letter, Aug. 24, 1945
Enclosure; copy of letter, Aug. 24, 1945, from the Commission to Mayor Roger D. Lapham. Re the report of the Post-War Committee, of which Mr. Falk was a member.
San Francisco. Recreation Commission
Letter, Nov. 14, 1947
Thanking Mr. Falk for his aid in the bond campaign.
San Francisco Bay Area Council, Inc.
Letter, July 16, 1953
From Frank E. Marsh, executive vice president and general manager, reviewing projects approved by the Citizens Post War Planning Committee.
San Francisco Employers Council
Letter, July 14, 1947
From George O. Bahra, president, thanking him for work done in connection with passage of legislation outlawing jurisdictional strikes and boycotts.
Sevier, Randolph, 1897-
Letter, Feb. 3, 1955
Shelley, John Francis, 1905-
Letter, Dec. 4, 1962
Spellman, Francis Joseph, 1889-
Letter, Dec. 15, 1954
Sproul, Robert Gordon, 1891-
Letter, Feb. 23, 1950
Stettinius, Edward Reilly, 1900-1949
Letter, Jan. 7, 1949
Thanking him for serving on the Advisory Council on Social Security.
Sullivan, Mark R.
  Letter, Feb. 13, 1950
Waste, William Ewing, 1897-
  Letter, May 7, 1965
Watson, John S.
  Letter, Feb. 6, 1950
Weill, Michel David, 1887-
  Letter, Feb. 28, 1950
Worthington, Leslie Berry, 1902-
  Letter, Dec. 1, 1959
Younger, Jesse Arthur, 1893-
  Letter, Sept. 1, 1953
Zellerbach, James David, 1892-
  Letter, Feb. 13, 1950
Alioto, Joseph Lawrence
  2 letters, 1949-1968. One written while member of the San Francisco Board of
  Education; one while mayor of San Francisco.
Bay Area Rapid Transit District
  2 letters, 1968, From B. R. Stokes, general manager, and from Stanley D. Forsythe,
  transit advisor to the general manager.
Bechtel, Stephen Davison, 1900-
  5 letters, 1945-1968. Most of them refer to Mr. Falk’s work with BART.
Brown, Edmund Gerald, 1905-
  8 letters, 1950-1966. Writing as district attorney, San Francisco; attorney general;
  and governor of California. any thank Mr. Falk for his support.
Browne, Alan K.
California. State College, San Francisco
  6 letters, 1955-1962. Include letters from presidents J. Paul Leonard and Glenn S.
  Dumke.
California. University
  President; and letter notifying him of appointment as Regents Professor of
  Agricultural Economics.
California. University. Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics
  5 letters, 1957-1958. Include letters from George L. Mehren, director. Some refer to
  Mr. Falk’s appointment as Regents Professor of Agricultural Economics.
California. University, Berkeley. Institute of Industrial Relations
  2 letters, 1958. Re Mr. Falk’s participation in the 10th annual summer management
  conference.
California. University, Berkeley. School of Business Administration
  6 letters, 1957-1958. Include letters from Roy W. Jastram and E. T. Grether, Re Mr.
  Falk’s participation in seminars and conferences.
Calkins, Allard A.
  5 letters, 1950-1953
Christopher, George, 1907-
  5 letters, 1955-1959. Writing as mayor of San Francisco.
Cutler, Leland Whitman, 1885-
  2 letters, 1950-1953
Deutsch, Monroe Emanuel
  See California. University.
Doherty, Frank P.
  2 letters, 1950-1952
Dumke, Glenn S.
  See California. State College, San Francisco.
Ettelson, Lee, 1898-
  2 letters, 1951-1960
Goodman, Louis Earl, 1892-  
  2 letters, 1950
Grether, Ewald T., 1899-  
  See California. University, Berkeley. School of Business Administration.
Haas, Walter A., 1889-  
  5 letters, 1944-1958
Harris, George Bernard, 1901-  
  4 letters, 1964-1967
Heller, Walter S.  
  2 letters, 1943-1950
Hellman, Isaias Warren, 1899-  
  2 letters, 1945-1950
Johnston, Eric A., 1896-  
  2 letters, 1945
Killion, George Leonard, 1901-  
  2 letters, 1945-1950
Knight, Goodwin Jess, 1896-  
  6 letters, 1951-1958. Most of them written while governor of California.
Koster, Frederick Jacob, 1868-  
  2 letters, 1950-1954
Kuchel, Thomas Henry, 1910-  
  6 letters, 1950-1962
Lapham, Roger Dearborn, 1883-1966  
  6 letters, 1945-1965. Some written while mayor of San Francisco.
Leonard, John Paul, 1901-  
  See California. State College, San Francisco.
Levit, Bert W.  
  4 letters, 1947-1951
Lurie, Louis R.  
McAteer, J. Eugene  
  3 letters, 1958-1966
McCaffrey, Stanley E.  
  2 letters, 1967-1968
McGuicken, Joseph Thomas, 1902-  
  7 letters, 1952-1966. Four of them written while archbishop of San Francisco.
McIntyre, James Francis Aloysius, 1886-  
Magnin, Cyril  
  2 letters, 1945-1968
Mailliard, William Somers, 1917-  
Maloney, Thomas A.  
  3 letters, 1950-1954. Writing as a member of the California Legislature.
Marks, Milton  
  2 letters, 1952-1967
Marsh, Frank Edward, 1901-  
  2 letters, 1945-1953
Mehren, George L.  
  See California. University. Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.
Millikin, Eugene Donald, 1891-  
  2 letters, 1949-1950. Writing as a member of the U. S. Senate.
Mitty, John Joseph, 1884-  
Petersen, Theodore Scarborough
2 letters, 1950-1951
Reilly, George R.
5 letters, 1948-1954
Robinson, Elmer Eugene, 1887-
Rossi, Angelo Joseph, 1878-1948
2 letters, 1942-1943. Writing as mayor of San Francisco, re Mr. Falk's appointment
as Deputy Chief of the Air Raid Warden Service, San Francisco Civilian Defense
Council.
Roth, Almon E.
Salvation Army
10 letters, 1949-1959. Written from Territorial and Divisional Headquarters offices, San Francisco.
San Francisco. Board of Supervisors
addressed to Mrs. Falk is a letter of condolence from the clerk of the Board.
San Francisco. Mary's Help Hospital
13 letters, 1956-1968. Re Mr. Falk's help in fund raising activities for construction of
a clinic and new hospital.
San Francisco. St. Anthony Dining Room
San Francisco. University of San Francisco
9 letters, 1951-1968. Re Mr. Falk's speaking engagements, participation in
institutes, etc., and the award of an honorary degree.
Sproul, Robert Gordon
See California. University.
Stanford University
5 letters, 1947-1962. Include letters from presidents Donald B. Tresidder and J. E.
Wallace Sterling.
Sterling, John Ewart Wallace, 1906-
See Stanford University.
Sullivan, Jerd F., Jr.
4 letters, 1947-1963
Sweigert, William Thomas
2 letters, 1950-1959
Swig, Benjamin Harrison
7 letters, 1950-1967
Towne, Arthur W.
2 letters, 1950-1956
Tresidder, Don Bertrand, 1894-1948
See Stanford University.
U. S. Social Security Administration. Region IX
2 letters, 1959-1964. Commenting on his talk delivered before a regional conference
of social security field representatives, and on his help in securing the 1950
amendments to the Social Security Act. Included; comprehensive analysis of 1950
amendments prepared by SSA, with covering letter from Mr. Falk, Aug. 28, 1950,
addressed to members of the California State Chamber of Commerce.
Warren, Earl, 1891-
13 letters, 1944-1955. Most of them written while he was governor of California. Two
of the letters relate to Mr. Falk's appointment to the State Advisory Council,
Employment Stabilization Commission.
Wente, Carl Frederick, 1889-
4 letters, 1947-1956
Wilbur, Brayton, 1896-
3 letters, 1948-1950
Zellerbach, Harold Lionel, 1894-
3 letters, 1950-1956