

## Register of the John G. Wright papers

Finding aid prepared by Dale Reed

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**Title:** John G. Wright papers

**Date (inclusive):** 1933-1977

**Collection Number:** 92033

**Contributing Institution:** Hoover Institution Library and Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 9 manuscript boxes(3.6 Linear Feet)

**Abstract:** Speeches and writings, correspondence, resolutions, theses, and notes, relating to Marxian theory, the translation of works of Leon Trotsky, Trotskyist activities in the United States and abroad, and analysis of the post-World War II Chinese and Eastern European states.

**Creator:** Wright, John G.

Hoover Institution Library & Archives

**Access**

The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

**Publication Rights**

For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Library & Archives.

**Acquisition Information**

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Library & Archives in 1992.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], John G. Wright papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Library & Archives.

1902 Born as Joseph Vanzler in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in the Russian Empire

circa 1914 Emigrated to the United States

circa 1920 Graduated from Harvard University. Became a professional chemist

1933 Joined the Communist League of America (subsequently Socialist Workers Party)

1933-1940 Literary collaborator and translator of Leon Trotsky

1939-1956 Member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party

1956 Died in New York City

**Scope and Content Note**

John G. Wright (the political and pen name of Joseph Vanzler) was a leader of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States from the 1930s to the 1950s. Wright was heavily involved with theoretical, journalistic and publishing-house work of the party. A polyglot, he translated texts from various languages into English for publication. His collaborative work with Leon Trotsky was of particular significance. Wright translated many of Trotsky's writings into English for the first time. During Trotsky's period of residence in Mexico at the end of his life (1937-1940), Wright, in New York City, corresponded with him regularly and, having access to major American academic libraries, provided him with Russian-language research materials to support his writing projects, especially his biography of Joseph Stalin. The papers thus shed light on Trotsky's literary activities and on the publishing history of [Stalin](#). Post-World War II materials in the collection also document debates within the Trotskyist movement on analysis of the Chinese and Eastern European states, and the internal struggle within the Socialist Workers Party involving the faction led by Bert Cochran and George Clarke.

The John G. Wright Papers were formerly housed at the Library of Social History in New York City. The Hoover Institution Library & Archives acquired them in 1992.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Communism -- United States

China

Europe, Eastern

Trotsky, Leon, 1879-1940

Fourth International

Socialist Workers Party

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**Biographical File, 1956-1977**

**Scope and Contents**

Obituaries, tributes, lists, and material for projected memorial volume.

- box 1, folder 1           **Obituaries and memorial tributes, 1956**  
                              **Scope and Contents**  
                              Includes tributes by James P. Cannon, George Novack and Morris Stein.
- box 1, folder 2           **Lists of papers and books undated**  
                              **Scope and Contents note**  
                              Includes list of selected Socialist Workers Party records.
- box 1, folder 3           **Projected Pathfinder Press memorial volume, 1977**  
                              **Scope and Contents**  
                              Draft table of contents, draft introductory matter, and working materials.
- Speeches and Writings, 1933-1956**  
                              **Scope and Contents**  
                              Arranged chronologically.
- box 3, folder 1           **"American Perspectives," circa 1933**  
box 3, folder 2           **"A Few Facts" [re France], 1934**  
box 3, folder 3           **"Proposed Theses on the Role and Nature of the Revolutionary Party," 1934**  
box 3, folder 4           **Untitled speech re Paterson, New Jersey, textile strike, 1934**  
                              **Scope and Contents note**  
                              Notes and working materials.
- box 3, folder 5           **"The Bolshevik-Leninists in the SFIO" and La Vérité, 1935**  
box 3, folder 6           **Untitled debate with Sidney Hook re Marxism, circa 1935**  
                              **Scope and Contents**  
                              Notes and working materials.
- box 3, folder 7           **Letter to the editor, *New International*, re Sidney Hook, 1935 March 25**  
                              **Scope and Contents note**  
                              Typescript and cover letter.
- box 3, folder 8           **"The Fate of a Marxist Classic," *The Accumulation of Capital*, 1935 July 8**  
box 3, folder 9           **"Perspectives of the American Revolution," 1936**  
box 3, folder 10          **Untitled speech re Moscow Trials, 1937 March**  
                              **Scope and Contents note**  
                              Notes and drafts.
- box 3, folder 11          **"Roosevelt Beats the War Drums," speech, 1937 November 12**  
                              **Scope and Contents**  
                              Announcement, notes, drafts and working materials.
- box 3, folder 12          **The Truth about Kronstadt, 1938**  
                              **Scope and Contents note**  
                              Mimeograph
- box 3, folder 13          **Untitled speech re GPU murders and kidnappings, 1938**  
                              **Scope and Contents note**  
                              Notes, drafts and working materials.
- box 3, folder 14          **"The Ideological Captives of the Bourgeoisie," 1939 July 15**

box 3, folder 15

**"Shachtman and the Slippery Ice of Russian History," speech, 1939-1940**

**Scope and Contents**

Notes and drafts.

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**Outline History of Russian Bolshevism 1940**

box 3, folder 16

**Book One**

**Scope and Contents note**

Mimeograph

box 3,  
folder 17-18

**Book Two**

box 3, folder 19

**Notes and drafts**

box 4, folder 1

**Edited typescript 1977**

box 4, folder 2

**Untitled speech re splits in Bolshevik history, 1940**

box 4, folder 3

**Untitled speech re situation in Soviet Union, 1940 December 26**

**Scope and Contents note**

Notes

box 4, folder 4

**"What Are Russia's Chances?" [re German invasion], 1941 June**

box 4, folder 5

**Untitled speech re party organization, Socialist Workers Party convention, 1942**

box 4, folder 6

**Untitled speech, anniversary of founding of Second International, 1942 May 1**

box 4, folder 7

**Untitled speech, anniversary of death of Leon Trotsky, 1942 August**

box 4, folder 8

**Exchange of notes with other Socialist Workers Party leaders re revolutionary defeatism, 1942-1944**

box 4, folder 9

**Untitled speech, anniversary of death of V. I. Lenin, 1943 January**

**Scope and Contents note**

Typescript

box 4, folder 10

**Untitled speech, Socialist Workers Party National Committee plenum, 1943 October 31 - November 1**

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box 4, folder 11

**"How Long Before the Revolution?," 1944**

box 4, folder 12

**Untitled speech re Germany, 1944**

box 4, folder 13

**Untitled speech, anniversary of Russian Revolution, 1944 November**

box 4, folder 14

**"The British Labor Victory: Its Meaning for the American Workers," national lecture tour, 1945 September - November**

box 4, folder 15

**"Stalin," speech re publication of Leon Trotsky's 1946**

box 4, folder 16

**"Theses on the American Revolution," 1946**

box 4, folder 17

**Untitled writing re Soviet Union, 1947**

box 4, folder 18

**Untitled speech re war and depression, 1947**

box 4, folder 19

**"The Twin Evils: War and Depression," May Day speech, 1947 May 3**

box 4, folder 20

**Untitled remarks, educational meeting re British Labour Party, 1947 September 18**

box 4, folder 21

**Untitled writing re Yugoslavia, 1948**

box 4, folder 22

**"The Soviet Union Today," speech, 1949**

box 4, folder 23

**Untitled speech re devaluation, 1949 October 6**

box 4, folder 24

**Untitled speech, anniversary of Russian Revolution, 1949 November**

box 4, folder 25

**Untitled speech re Yugoslavia, Socialist Workers Party convention, 1950**

box 4, folder 26

**Untitled speech re Eastern Europe, Socialist Workers Party National Committee plenum, 1950 February**

box 4, folder 27

**Review of Benjamin I. Schwartz, "Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao," circa 1951**

box 4, folder 28

**Untitled remarks, unidentified meeting, 1951 January**

box 4, folder 29

**"The Colonial Revolution: Greatest Event of Our Time," speech, 1951 November 30**

box 5, folder 1

**Foreword and notes to Leon Trotsky, "The First Five Years of the Communist International," Volume II, 1953**

box 5, folder 2

**Untitled speech in opposition to Cochran-Clarke faction, 1953**

box 5, folder 3

**"Stalin and Stalinism," speech, 1953 April 17**

box 5, folder 4

**"Cochranite Level of Discussion: Mechanical Thinking Plus Sophistry Plus Slander," speech, 1953 May 3**

box 5, folder 5

**Untitled remarks re Cochran-Clarke faction, Socialist Workers Party National Committee plenum, 1953 May 28**

Scope and Contents note

Notes

box 5, folder 6

**"Djilas Case," 1954**

box 5, folder 7

**Untitled May Day speech, 1954 May 1**

box 5, folder 8

**Untitled writing re Hu Feng purge in China, 1955**

box 5, folder 9

**"Preliminary Notes on Automation," 1955 January 3**

box 5, folder 10

**Untitled resolution on colonialism, 1955 June 29**

box 5, folder 11

**"The Soviet Union Today," draft resolution, 1955 August 12**

box 5, folder 12

**"Draft Amendment on the Third Chinese Revolution" [with Farrell Dobbs and Morris Stein], 1955 September 13**

box 5, folder 13

**Untitled writing re 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1956**

**Scope and Contents note**

Notes and drafts

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**"ABC of Marxism," International Workers School lecture series, (repeated for many years) undated**

box 5, folder 14

**General**

box 5, folder 15

**Dialectics**

**Scope and Contents note**

Notes and drafts

box 6, folder 1

**Historical materialism**

box 6, folder 2

**Marxian economics**

box 6, folder 3

**"Bolshevik Traditions (Intra-Party Conduct)," undated**

box 6, folder 4

**"The Collapse of the Second International," undated**

box 6, folder 5

**"Documents for the History of the Comintern," undated**

box 6, folder 6

**"Kamo: The Story of a Worker-Bolshevik," undated**

box 6, folder 7

**"Marxism and the Law," undated**

box 6, folder 8

**"Marxist Approach to Slogans," undated**

box 6, folder 9

**"Material Base of Thought," undated**

box 6, folder 10

**"On the USSR Theses," undated**

box 6, folder 11

**"The Proletarian Viewpoint," undated**

box 7, folder 1

**Untitled writing re American history undated**

box 7, folder 2

**Untitled writing re antisemitism undated**

box 7, folder 3

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**Untitled writing re atomic energy undated**

box 7, folder 4

**Untitled writing re Nikolai Bukharin undated**

**Scope and Contents note**

Notes and working materials

box 7, folder 5

**Untitled writing re China undated**

box 7, folder 6

**Untitled writing re Communist International 1st Congress undated**

box 7, folder 7

**Untitled writing re Darwinism undated**

**Scope and Contents note**

Notes

box 7, folder 8

**Untitled writing re fascism undated**

box 7, folder 9

**Untitled writing re Ludwig Feuerbach undated**

box 7, folder 10

**Untitled writing re Karl Kautsky undated**

box 7, folder 11

**Untitled writing re John Maynard Keynes undated**

**Scope and Contents note**

Notes and working materials

box 7, folder 12

**Untitled writing re V. I. Lenin undated**

box 7, folder 13

**Untitled writing re Lovestoneites undated**

box 7, folder 14

**Untitled writing re Vaclav Machajski undated**

box 7, folder 15



**Untitled writing re Russian Revolution undated**

box 7, folder 16

**Untitled writing re Iakov Sverdlov undated**

box 7, folder 17

**Untitled writing re Leo Tolstoy undated**

box 7, folder 18

**Untitled miscellaneous writings undated**

**Writings by Others, 1933-1955**

**Scope and Contents**

Arranged alphabetically by author. Includes manuscripts translated and/or edited for publication by Wright.

box 8, folder 1

**Cannon, James P., "The Struggle for a Proletarian Party." Socialist Workers Party, *Internal Bulletin*, 1940 April**

**Scope and Contents note**

Printed copy with editorial annotations and notes by Wright

box 8, folder 2

**Commission of Inquiry into the Charges Made Against Leon Trotsky in the Moscow Trials. The Case of Leon Trotsky, 1937**

**Scope and Contents note**

Corrections and insertions

box 8, folder 3

**Dewey, Frank. "Rudolf Hilferding," undated**

box 8, folder 4

**Dobbs, Farrell, Morris Stein, and Joseph Hansen. "Statement on the Internal Party Situation," 1953**

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**Fischer, Oscar**

box 8, folder 5

**"Die Stalinisten erinnern sich an Thälmann: Warum hat Stalin nicht geholfen?" 1939-1940**

box 8, folder 6

**"Verfall und Aufstieg: Wanderer ins Nichts," circa 1941**

box 8, folder 7

**International Communist League. "War and the Fourth International," 1934**

**Scope and Contents note**

Drafted by Leon Trotsky. Printed copy with editorial annotations and notes by Wright.

box 8, folder 8

**Johre. Untitled writing re Thomas Mann undated**

**Scope and Contents note**

Typescript (in English) edited and likely translated by Wright.

box 8, folder 9

**Kim, Chang Sei. Untitled memoirs of a Korean physician undated**

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box 8, folder 10

**Meyer, F. "Antwort auf die Anmerkungen Gen. Yalts," undated**

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes a holograph.

box 8, folder 11

**Morrow, Felix. "The Myth of French Democracy," circa 1940**

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**Munis, Grandizo**

box 8, folder 12

**"Una internacional contra el internacionalismo," 1941 February**

box 8, folder 13

**"The Stagnation of Political Centrism," undated**

box 8, folder 14

**O'Rourke, Walter. Untitled writing re Mexico, 1941 June 8**

box 8, folder 15

**Parti Communiste Internationaliste [France]. "The Conception of the Party," circa 1945**

box 8, folder 16

**Peng, Shu-tse. "The Third Chinese Revolution and Its Perspective," 1954 December 1**

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**Plekhanov, Georgii. "Belinsky and Rational Reality," *Fourth International*, 1955 Spring**

box 8, folder 17

**Typescript translated by Wright**

box 8, folder 18

**Notes and working materials for translation**

box 8, folder 19

**Printed copy**

box 8, folder 20

**R. "Theses on the Crisis of Stalinist Bonapartism," 1941 January 31**

box 8, folder 21

**Revolutionary Communist Party [China]. "The Founding Convention of the Revolutionary Communist Party of China," 1948 September 10**

box 8, folder 22

**Rizzi, Bruno. "La bureaucratisation du monde," 1939**

box 8, folder 23

**Sternberg, Fritz. "Draft of the Economic Part of the Program of the Fourth International," undated**

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**Trotsky, Leon**

box 9, folder 1

**"Will Japan Commit Suicide?" *Liberty* 1933 November 18**

box 9, folder 2

**"Politics in the Reichstag Trial," *New Republic*, 1934 January 3**

box 9, folder 3

**"If America Should Go Communist," *Liberty*, 1935 March 23**

box 9, folder 4

**"How Should the Bolshevik-Leninists Act in Spain? Letter to a Spanish Comrade," 1936 April 12**

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Trotsky, Leon

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- box 9, folder 5                   **"Revolutionary Interlude in France," *Nation*, 1936 August 8**  
box 9, folder 6                   **Transcript of answers to American comrades, 1937**  
box 9, folder 7                   **"Did Stalin Poison Lenin?" *Liberty*, 1940 August 10**  
  **Stalin, 1941**  
box 9, folder 8                   **Working materials provided by Wright**  
box 9, folder 9                   **Memoranda by Wright, Charles Malamuth and Jean van Heijenoort re editorial**  
  **changes to text made by Malamuth**  
box 9, folder 10                  **Miscellaneous writings.**  
  **Scope and Contents note**  
  Translations of excerpts and notes by Wright
- box 9, folder 11
- Wollenberg, Erich. "The Red Army," 1938**
- Unidentified writers**
- box 9, folder 12
- "La montée revolutionnaire atteint l'URSS," 1953**
- box 9, folder 13
- "Report on Yugoslavia," 1950 May**
- box 9, folder 14
- "Zwei Kamenews, zwei Lebenswege," undated**
- box 9, folder 15
- Untitled writing re Palestine undated**  
  **Scope and Contents note**  
  Includes a holograph (in German).
- box 9, folder 16
- Untitled series of writings on women and socialism undated**  
  **Miscellany, 1941-1953**  
  **Scope and Contents**  
  Printed matter and artwork.
- box 9, folder 17                   **Leaflets, cards, and style sheet undated**  
box 9, folder 18                   **Printed matter. Issues of *Les cahiers de l'économie soviétique* and clippings**  
  **1941-1953**  
box 9, folder 19                   **Artwork for press undated**  
  **Correspondence File 1934-1956**  
  **Scope and Contents**  
  Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Includes some letters by third parties. Editorial  
  correspondence of Bert Cochran from 1945 to 1947 is interfiled with that of Wright. Wright  
  and Cochran shared editorial duties on *The Fourth International* during this period.
- box 1, folder 4                   **General 1943-1955**  
box 1, folder 5                   **Baghavan, R.S. (Ceylon) 1948-1954**
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box 1, folder 6	<b>Bartell, Mike 1945-1947</b>
box 1, folder 7	<b>Birchman, Robert L. 1945</b>
box 1, folder 8	<b>Braden, Mark 1945</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>Breitman, George 1943-1955</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>Canfield, Cass (Harper and Brothers; re Leon Trotsky manuscripts) 1937</b>
box 1, folder 11	<b>Cannon, James P. 1944-1954</b>
box 1, folder 12	<b>Carlson, Grace 1943-1947</b>
box 1, folder 13	<b>Chester, Bob 1945-1955</b>
box 1, folder 14	<b>Clarke, George, 1945</b> <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes 1953 memorandum about Clarke.
box 1, folder 15	<b>Cochran, Bert, 1945-1946</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes 1953 resolutions of Cochran-Clarke faction.
box 1, folder 16	<b>Copeland, Vince 1944-1946</b>
box 1, folder 17	<b>Cornell, Charles 1946</b>
box 1, folder 18	<b>Creel, Warren 1944-1947</b>
box 1, folder 19	<b>Curtiss, Charles 1945-1948</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes 1939 note from Lillian Curtiss in Coyoacán.
box 1, folder 20	<b>Davenport, William 1945-1946</b>
box 1, folder 21	<b>Dobbs, Farrell 1945-1953</b>
box 1, folder 22	<b>Dollinger, Sol (United Auto Workers), 1945</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes press releases and letters of protest re beating of Dollinger.
box 1, folder 23	<b>Dowson, Ross (Canada) 1946</b>
box 1, folder 24	<b>Dunayevskaya, Raya 1937-1948</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes letters from Coyoacán.
box 1, folder 25	<b>Dunne, Vincent Raymond 1945</b>
box 1, folder 26	<b>Forkosch, Morris D. (re Trotsky heirs) 1941</b>
box 1, folder 27	<b>Frank, Pierre (France) 1945</b>
box 1, folder 28	<b>Frankel, Jan (Coyoacán) 1937</b>
box 2, folder 1	<b>Geldman, Max 1945-1952</b>
box 2, folder 2	<b>Geller, Jules 1944-1951</b>
box 2, folder 3	<b>Glass, Frank 1944-1945</b>
box 2, folder 4	<b>Goldman, Albert (re Trotsky manuscripts) 1941-1945</b>
box 2, folder 5	<b>Gordon, Eloise 1944-1947</b>
box 2, folder 6	<b>Gordon, Sam 1945-1948</b>
box 2, folder 7	<b>Hansen, Reba 1945</b>
box 2, folder 8	<b>Haston, Jock (Great Britain) 1946</b>
box 2, folder 9	<b>Healy, Gerry (Great Britain) 1952-1953</b>
box 2, folder 10	<b>Karsner, Rose 1951</b>
box 2, folder 11	<b>Keemer, Edgar 1944-1945</b>
box 2, folder 12	<b>Kitt, Bill 1944-1945</b>
box 2, folder 13	<b>Konikow, Antoinette (mother-in-law of Wright) 1934-1946</b>
box 2, folder 14	<b>Kovalesky, Theodore 1943-1947</b>
box 2, folder 15	<b>Lee, Grace 1947</b>
box 2, folder 16	<b>Leinwand, Rose (sister of Wright) 1943-1945</b>
box 2, folder 17	<b>Liberty (re Trotsky manuscripts) 1938</b>
box 2, folder 18	<b>Malamuth, Charles (re Trotsky manuscripts) 1938-1940</b>

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box 2, folder 19	<b>Mandel, Ernest (Belgium) 1945-1953</b>
box 2, folder 20	<b>Marcy, Sam 1956</b>
box 2, folder 21	<b>Mei, Lei Dar (re China) 1955</b>
box 2, folder 22	<b>Moreno, Nahuel (Argentina) 1955</b>
box 2, folder 23	<b>Morrow, Felix 1943</b>
box 2, folder 24	<b>Murphy, Patrick 1944</b>
box 2, folder 25	<b><i>New International</i> (re Trotsky manuscripts) 1939</b>
box 2, folder 26	<b>Novack, George 1945-1952</b>
box 2, folder 27	<b>O'Brien, Vaughan T. (Coyoacán) 1938-1939</b>
box 2, folder 28	<b>Olshausen, George G. 1947-1948</b>
box 2, folder 29	<b>O'Rourke, Walter (Coyoacán) 1940</b>
box 2, folder 30	<b>Pablo, Michel (France) 1948</b>
box 2, folder 31	<b>Roberts, Dan 1944</b>
box 2, folder 32	<b>Rubinstein, Moisei (Mexico) 1936</b>
box 2, folder 33	<b>Saettone, Ruben (re Argentina) 1945</b>
box 2, folder 34	<b>Selander, Ted 1945-1947</b>
box 2, folder 35	<b>Sinclair, Louis (Great Britain) 1948</b>
box 2, folder 36	<b>Stein, Morris and Sylvia 1943-1948</b>
box 2, folder 37	<b>Swabeck, Arne 1942-1955</b>
box 2, folder 38	<b>Torchia, Rose 1945-1946</b>
box 2, folder 39	<b>Trainor, Larry and Augusta 1944-1947</b>
box 2, folder 40	<b>Trotskaia, Nataliia Sedova 1945</b>
box 2, folder 41	<b>Trotsky, Leon 1937-1940</b>
box 2, folder 42	<b>Van Heijenoort, Jean, 1937-1946</b>
	<b>Scope and Contents note</b>
	Includes letters from Coyoacán.
box 2, folder 43	<b>Vanzler, Edith (first wife of Wright) 1945</b>
box 2, folder 44	<b>Vanzler, Tyl (son of Wright) 1945-1953</b>
box 2, folder 45	<b>Walker, Charles R. (re Trotsky manuscripts) 1937</b>
box 2, folder 46	<b>Weber, Sara (Coyoacán) 1937-1938</b>
box 2, folder 47	<b>Weiss, Murry 1942-1951</b>
box 2, folder 48	<b>Weiss, Myra Tanner 1944</b>
box 2, folder 49	<b>Wild, Mr. (Great Britain; re Trotsky manuscripts) 1937</b>
box 2, folder 50	<b>Wolfe, Bernard (Coyoacán) 1937</b>
box 2, folder 51	<b>Wolfe, Bertram D. 1941</b>