Guide to the Spencer C. Olin Papers

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Special Collections and Archives
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Spencer C. Olin papers
Date: 1944-2006,
Date (bulk): bulk 1966-2006
Collection Number: MS-F024
Creator: Olin, Spencer C.
Extent: 3.4 linear feet (4 boxes)
Languages: The collection is in English.
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Abstract: This collection comprises the extant professional papers of Spencer C. Olin, founding faculty member, administrator, and professor emeritus of history at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). His papers contain research files related to his book Major Problems in California History, teaching materials for two undergraduate courses titled "California in Modern America" and "Utopian Experiments in American History," research files documenting Orange County, and research files documenting the history of UCI. The papers include photographs, clippings, journal articles, correspondence, and notes.
Access
The collection is open for research. One file of restricted personnel information has been separated and will be open for research in 2073.
Publication Rights
Property rights reside with the University of California. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and Archives.
Preferred Citation
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
Acquisition Information
Processing History
Biography
Spencer Olin is a founding faculty member of the University of California, Irvine (UCI), Department of History and has been a prominent professor and administrator throughout UCI's history. A native Californian, Olin received a B.A. from Pomona College (1958) and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University (1961, 1965). His focus has been on modern American history, particularly California and the West. Over the years, Olin also served UCI in many administrative capacities, including acting vice chancellor for Student Affairs (1965-1966), chair of the Department of History (1977-1982), chair of the Academic Senate (1986-1988), director of the Humanities Core Course (1989-1991), dean of the School of Humanities (1992-1996), and acting Executive Vice Chancellor (1994). In recognition of his dedication and academic excellence, Olin has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr. Distinguished Service Award (1991), the Historical Society of Southern California's Martin Ridge Retrospective Award (2001), the UCI Alumni Association Extraordinary Award (2006), and the UCI Medal (1998), the highest campus honor.
Olin is the author or co-author of six books relating to American history and has published numerous articles, essays, and book reviews in publications such as The Journal of American History, Western Historical Quarterly, Pacific Historical Review, California History, and Radical History. He was a co-curator of the 2006 UCI Library exhibit Under Construction Indefinitely: Forty Years of Designing UCI, during the campus's fortieth anniversary celebration. As of 2007, Olin is retired and lives in Irvine with his wife, Rita Olin, who retired from UCI as a financial analyst.

Biography/Organization History
1937
February 13
Born in Los Angeles, California
1958
Received B.A. from Pomona College
1961 Received M.A. from Claremont Graduate University
1965 Received Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University
1964-1965 Instructor in history, Pomona College
1965 Joined UCI’s faculty as assistant professor of history
1965 September - Acting vice chancellor for Student Affairs
June 1966
1968 Published California’s Prodigal Sons: Hiram Johnson and the Progressives (Berkeley: University of California Press).
1969-1978 Associate professor of history, UCI
1971-1972 Visiting lecturer in history, University of Stirling, Scotland
1972 Published Racism in California: A Reader in the History of Oppression (New York: Macmillan), co-edited with Roger Daniels
1977 - 1982 Chair of the Department of History
1979 Published Why War? Ideology, Theory, and History (Berkeley: University of California Press) with Keith Nelson
1982-1997 Professor of history, UCI
1983-1989 Member and vice president of the board of directors for the Irvine Campus Housing Authority
1986 - 1988 Chair of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate
1989 - 1992 Director of the Humanities Core Course, UCI
1989 - 1991 With Sandra Campbell, co-chair of the UCI Campus Campaign
1991 Co-edited and co-authored Postsuburban California: The Transformation of Orange County Since World War II (Berkeley: University of California Press) with Rob Kling and Mark Poster
1991 Received First Annual Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr. Distinguished Service Award
1992 Acting dean of the School of Humanities
1992 - 1996 Dean of the School of Humanities
1994 Acting Executive Vice Chancellor
1997 Published Major Problems in California History: Documents and Essays (Boston: Houghton Mifflin) with Sucheng Chan
1997 Professor emeritus of history, UC Irvine
1998 Awarded the UCI Medal
2001 - 2002 Acting director of the Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies
2001 Historical Society of Southern California honored California’s Prodigal Sons with the Martin Ridge Retrospective Award
2004-2006 Appointed Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor, in honor of the longest-serving regent in University of California history, to work with the University Archivist on UCI’s Fortieth Anniversary Historical Records Project
2006 Received UCI Alumni Association Extraordinarius Award

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection comprises the extant professional papers of Spencer C. Olin, founding faculty member, administrator, and professor emeritus of history at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). His papers contain research files related to his book Major Problems in California History, teaching materials for two undergraduate courses titled "California in Modern America" and "Utopian Experiments in American History," research files documenting the history of Orange County, California including the Oneida community, and research files documenting the history of UCI. The papers include photographs, clippings, journal articles, correspondence, and notes.

Collection Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 4 series:

Series 1. University of California, Irvine files, 1979-2006. 0.5 linear feet
Series 2. Research files, 1950-2004. 2.5 linear feet
Series 3. Teaching materials, 1970-1985. 0.2 linear feet
Series 4. Writings, 1966-1997. 0.2 linear feet

Separation Note

Publications authored by Olin were removed and catalogued separately in Special Collections. Several widely available journals were removed and discarded.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index this collection in ANTPAC, the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Olin, Spencer C. -- Archives.
University of California, Irvine -- Faculty -- Archives.
University of California, Irvine. Archives.
Oneida Community -- Photographs.
Utopias -- United States -- Archives.
Orange County (Calif.) -- History.
California -- Archives.

Genres and Formats of Materials
Photographic prints -- California -- Orange County -- 20th century.
Clippings -- 20th century.
Letters -- California -- Orange County -- 20th century.
Offprints -- 20th century.
Lecture notes -- 20th century.

Occupations
Historians.
College teachers.

  Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet
  Series Scope and Content Summary
  This series comprises materials generated by Olin as a faculty member and administrator at UCI. Contents include materials related to the UCI Historical Records Project, the groundbreaking ceremony of the Humanities Instructional Building, the UCI Fortieth Anniversary celebration, a search for a dean of Humanities in 1992, and campus honors that Olin received. The series contains correspondence, articles, clippings, transcripts of speeches, and ephemera.
  Arrangement
  Alphabetical by topic
  Restrictions
  A restricted personnel file has been separated and will be open for research in 2073.

Box : Folder 1 :1-3  Chan, Sucheng: articles, correspondence and other materials 1981-1998
  Biography/Organization History
  Chan was a founder of Asian American and ethnic studies as a scholarly discipline in the United States, especially at the University of California. Chan is professor emeritus, University of California, Santa Barbara and former provost at University of California, Santa Cruz. Chan also co-edited Major Problems in California History with Olin. Olin tried to recruit Chan to come to UCI.

  Box : Folder 1 : 5
  Box : Folder
  Box : Folder 1 : 6
  Box : Folder
  568-H-2

Access Information
Access restricted until 2073.
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Box : Folder 1 : 7, 1 : 46  
Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor / UCI Historical Records Project: correspondence, clippings, and other materials 2002-2005  

Box : Folder 1 : 8  
Essays and lectures by Olin concerning UCI administration 1989-2002  

Box : Folder 1 : 9  
Historical Society of Southern California -- Martin Ridge Retrospective Award: program and correspondence 2001  

Box : Folder 1 : 10  
Humanities Instructional Building groundbreaking: invitation, Olin's remarks, and other materials 1996  

Box : Folder 1 : 11  
Remarks on retirements, awards, and eulogies: transcripts, photographs, and programs 1993-2005  

Scope and Content Note  
Includes two 7 x 5 inch color photographs of Olin wearing the UCI Medal.  

Box : Folder 1 : 12  
Third Annual Seminar on Social History and Theory: photograph 1980  

Scope and Content Note  
Includes one 7 x 5 inch black-and-white photograph of Olin with UCI Chancellor Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr. at the 3rd Annual Seminar on Social History and Theory.  

Box : Folder 1 : 13  
UCI Alumni Association Extraordinarius Award: programs, speech transcript, and other materials 2006  

Box : Folder 1 : 14-15  
UCI architecture research: articles, correspondence, and other materials 1979-2005  

Box : Folder 1 : 16-17  
UCI Fortieth Anniversary planning materials: correspondence, notes, and other materials 2005  

Box : Folder 1 : 18  
UCI Fortieth Anniversary Symposium: correspondence, clippings, and other materials 2005  

Box : Folder 1 : 19  
UCI University Club anniversary pamphlets 1987-1997  


Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet  

Series Scope and Content Summary  
This series comprises subject files that Olin created related to his research. Subjects include Orange County regional history and profiles of Orange County cities, the Oneida Colony and the Townerites of Santa Ana, and Olin's book *Major Problems in California History*.  

Arrangement  
Alphabetical by topic  

Box : Folder 1 : 20  

Box : Folder 1 : 21  
Brea: clippings 1957, 1988-1989  

Box : Folder 1 : 22  
Chinese-Americans: clippings, programs, and other materials 1984-1985  

Box : Folder 1 : 23  
City councils composition: reports and notes undated  

Scope and Content Note  
Includes information about the city councils of Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Fullerton, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana, California.  

Box : Folder 1 : 24  
Costa Mesa Historical Society Quarterly newsletters 1977-1984  

Box : Folder 1 : 25  
Costa Mesa Oral History: transcripts, pamphlet, and other materials 1978-1984  

Box : Folder 1 : 26  
Costa Mesa: reports, pamphlet, and other materials 1983-1987  

Box : Folder 1 : 27  
Cypress: clipping 1984  

Box : Folder 1 : 28  
Dana Point: clipping 1989  

Box : Folder 1 : 29  
Fountain Valley: notes undated  

Box : Folder 1 : 30  
Fullerton: clippings and notes 1957  

Box : Folder 1 : 31  
Garden Grove: pamphlet, clipping, and other materials 1987, undated  

Box : Folder 1 : 32  

Box : Folder 1 : 33  
Hispanics: clippings, essay, and other materials 1984-1988  

Box : Folder 1 : 34  
Huntington Beach: clippings and report 1982-1990  

Box : Folder 1 : 35  
Industrial League of Orange County: newsletters and notes 1985-1989

Box : Folder 1 : 36  "Intra-Class Conflict and the Politics of Regional Fragmentation" coded data 1986
Box : Folder 1 : 37  Irvine: clippings and notes 1976-1991
Box : Folder 1 : 38  Japanese-Americans: clippings 1975-1984
Box : Folder 1 : 39  Laguna Niguel: clipping 1985
Box : Folder 1 : 40  La Habra: clipping 1986
Box : Folder 1 : 41  La Palma: notes 1981-1986
Box : Folder 1 : 42  Los Alamitos: clippings 1984-1986

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Major Problems in California History

Chapter 2. The First Californians:

Box : Folder 1 : 43  Newsletters, article, and other materials 1968-1978, 1992-1993
Box : Folder 1 : 44  Photographs, articles, and other materials 1855, 1958, 1984-1997
Scope and Content Note
Materials older than 1958 are reproductions from other sources. Includes two 8 1/2 x 11 inch black-and-white photographs. One photograph is of Native American artifacts, the other is of a Native American man.

Chapter 3. The Spanish Mission System, 1769-1821

Box : Folder 1 : 45  Articles, clippings, and other materials 1978-1997
Scope and Content Note
Articles prior to 1964 are photocopies of original materials from other sources.


Scope and Content Note
Items older than 1969 are photocopies of original materials from other sources.


Scope and Content Note
Items older than 1967 are photocopies of original materials from other sources.

Scope and Content Note
Items older than 1967 are photocopies of original materials from other sources.

Box : Folder 2 : 13  Newport Beach: clipping 1986
Box : Folder 14-15  Oneida Community
Box : Folder 2 : 16  Correspondence 1975-1988
Box : Folder 2 : 17  Diary of R. Victor Hawley: transcripts 1876-1877
Scope and Content Note
Folder contains typed transcripts created in 1978 of Hawley's diaries.

Box : Folder 2 : 18  General materials: prospectus, bibliography, and other materials 1977, undated
Box : Folder 2 : Notes from manuscript collections and newspapers 1978, undated
Box : Folder 2 : 19 | Notes from Oneida Community Historical Collection in Kenwood, New York 1977
Box : Folder 2 : 20 | Oneida Circular / The American Socialist: notes 1975
Box : Folder 2 : 21 | "The Oneida Community and the Instability of Charismatic Authority:" correspondence, notes, and other materials 1974-1977
Box : Folder 2 : 22-24 | Photographs and copy negatives from various sources undated
Scope and Content Note
Includes 32 copy negatives and 9 black-and-white photographs of members and buildings of the Oneida Community in New York and Townerite Group in Santa Ana, California.

Box : Folder 2 : 25-27 | Photograph album circa 1875-1915
Scope and Content Note
Includes 34 black-and-white photographs of members and buildings of the Oneida Community in New York and the Townerites in Santa Ana, California. The photographs are undated reproductions of originals. Olin presumably created the album.
Processing/Project Information
The album was dissembled and housed in archival photograph sleeves. The original pages were photocopied to show the original format of the album; the photocopies are in Box : Folder 2 : 28.

Box : Folder 2 : 28 | Preservation photocopies of photograph album
Box : Folder 2 : 29 | Towner, James W., frontier law, and utopian socialism: notes, articles, and other materials 1877, 1911-1913, 1931, 1972
Scope and Content Note
Materials older than 1972 are photocopies of originals from other sources.

Box : Folder 2 : 30 | Women and Family in the Oneida Community, 1837-1881, photocopies of dissertation by Marlyn Hartzell Dalsimer 1975
Box : Folder 2 : 31 | Orange: clipping and pamphlet 1982-1988

Orange County
Box : Folder 2 : 32 | Bankruptcy: clippings 1994-1995
Box : Folder 2 : 33 | Board of Supervisors research: clippings, articles, and other materials 1967-1991
Box : Folder 2 : 34 | City Councils composition research: notes undated
Box : Folder 2 : 36 | Land and real estate: clippings and pamphlets 1984-1991
Box : Folder 3 : 1 | Political development: clippings and article 1980-1990, 2004
Box : Folder 3 : 2 | Political history: notes 1983
Box : Folder 3 : 3 | Political leadership: notes and appendix of occupational composition of Orange County Board of Supervisors and selected city councils 1984, undated
Box : Folder 3 : 4-5 | Slow-growth initiative: clippings 1984-1992
Box : Folder 3 : 7-8 | Statistical analysis of occupations of Orange County City Council members, 1940-1985: report 1987
Box : Folder 3 : 9 | Transportation: clippings 1984-1989
Box : Folder 3 : 10 | Placentia: clipping 1984
Box : Folder 3 : 12 | Postsuburban California: reviews -- clippings and correspondence 1984-1995
| Box : Folder 3 : 19-20 | Urban history and global cities research: articles 1983-2001 |
| Box : Folder 3 : 25 | Vietnamese: research studies, clippings, and other materials 1983-1984 |
| Box : Folder 3 : 26 | Westminster: notes and clipping 1985-1986 |
| Box : Folder 3 : 30 | Vietname: research studies, clippings, and other materials 1983-1984 |


| Box : Folder 4 : 1 | "California in Modern America"
| Box : Folder 4 : 2 | "Utopian Experiments in American History"
| Box : Folder 4 : 4 | "California's Utopian colonies: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1979-1983"
| Box : Folder 4 : 5 | "European Utopian socialists: lecture notes and articles 1974-1985"
| Box : Folder 4 : 6 | "Fourierism in America: lecture notes undated"
| Box : Folder 4 : 7 | "Free love and sexual anarchism: lecture notes and article circa 1980-1982"
| Box : Folder 4 : 8 | "Introductory material: syllabi, course notes, and other materials 1981-1982"
| Box : Folder 4 : 9 | "The Mormons: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1974-1985"
| Box : Folder 4 : 10 | "Photographs of Olin at Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony historic site undated"


| Box : Folder 4 : 11 | "Photographs of Olin at Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony historic site undated"
| Box : Folder 4 : 12 | "Science and utopia in the Marxist tradition: lecture notes and articles 1970-1980"
| Box : Folder 4 : 13 | "The Shakers: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1944, 1979, undated"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box : Folder 4 : 17</th>
<th>“The Oneida Community and the Instability of Charismatic Authority,” article photocopy 1980</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box : Folder 4 : 18</td>
<td>“Toward a Synthesis of the Political and Social History of the American West,” offprint 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box : Folder 4 : 19</td>
<td>“Utopianism,” article photocopy 1984</td>
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