



# Guide to the Democratic Digest records, 1953-1961 and undated

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Democratic Digest records, 1953-1961 and undated

**Creator:**

Democratic Digest

**Abstract:**

Official magazine of the Democratic National Committee, published monthly in Washington D.C. Its editors were Clayton Fritchey, Sam Brightman, and Philip M. Stern, with political cover art by Leo Hershfield. Collection contains editorial files of the Democratic Digest, dating from 1953-1961, with the contents of the files falling into three large categories: correspondence, editorial, and art files. The correspondence includes many letters from readers, critics, and Democratic Senators and Governors, chiefly in response to political issues of the day such as McCarthyism, corruption, civil rights, economics, labor, nuclear weapons, farm subsidies, party politics, and elections. Editorial files contain edited copy for articles and columns; TV and radio scripts, including speeches by Democratic candidates; and many clippings reprinted in the Digest. About a third of the collection consists of hundreds of pieces of original layout art, including political cartoons by Leo Hershfield and others, and a few photographs of political leaders such as Truman, Stevenson, and Johnson. Finally, a smaller group of printed materials published for the Democratic 1960 national campaign includes political leaflets, pamphlets, party platforms and position papers, a newsprint publication examining of the records of Nixon and Kennedy, and a few other items.

**Extent:**

23 Linear Feet  
Approx. 9300 Items

**Physical Location:**

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

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.00303

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/democraticdigest/>

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Democratic Digest Records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## **Background**

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### **Scope and Content**

Collection contains editorial files of the Democratic Digest, dating from 1953-1961, with the contents of the files falling into three large categories: correspondence, editorial, and art files. The correspondence files, arranged in alphabetical order, include telegrams and memoranda between the Democratic Digest staff, the Democratic National Committee and other organizations, and many letters from readers, critics, and Democratic Senators and Governors, chiefly responding to political issues of the day, such as McCarthyism, scandals and corruption, civil rights, the American economy, labor, farm subsidies, nuclear weapons, war, and elections, and offering criticism on the content of the publication. There is also some personal correspondence.

Voluminous editorial files contain nearly complete content for issues, and are filed in publication order by month and year, 1955-1961. The files enclose copy for articles and columns, with many corrections and layout notes; condensed versions of TV and radio addresses, including speeches by Democratic candidates; and many clippings from original articles reprinted in the Digest, attached to the magazine's own copy. Some of this material is brittle and fragile.

About a third of the collection consists of hundreds of pieces of original layout art, printers proofs of covers, and political cartoons, and a handful of photographs of Democratic leaders of the time such as Truman, Stevenson, and Johnson (Box 25). For an unknown reason, there is also a portrait of Durham native and Duke alumnus and benefactor William Washington Flowers. A few complete copies of the Digest are sometimes included in the artwork files next to associated cover art. There are many examples of production artists' layout materials that include original art and sketches, and paste-ups on boards with directions for layout. The original art for the cover cartoons by noted illustrator Leo Hershfield is rendered in vivid watercolors. The artwork and layouts are loosely arranged in chronological order.

Finally, a smaller group of printed materials deriving from the Democratic 1960 national campaign includes political leaflets, pamphlets, party platforms and

position papers, a newsprint publication examining of the records of Nixon and Kennedy, and a few other items.

## **Biographical/Historical**

The Democratic Digest was the small-format magazine of the Democratic National Committee, with its offices based in Washington, D.C. The monthly issues chiefly consisted of editorial columns, election news, political cartoons and satire, and many reprinted articles and opinion pieces from pro-Democratic U.S. newspapers. Its predecessor, also titled the Democratic Digest, was published by the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee from 1933-1953. The Democratic Digest was continued in 1961 as The Democrat.

The chief editor during the time represented by this collection was Clayton Fritchey (1904-2001), a journalist who was also assistant to the Secretary of Defense and assistant to President Truman; he also had close relations with Adlai Stevenson in various capacities. The managing editor was Samuel C. Brightman (1911-1992), noted Washington correspondent and Democratic Party public relations manager. Serving as senior editor was Philip Stern (1926-1992), also director of research for the Democratic National Committee (1953-1956); and deputy assistant to the Secretary of State for Public Affairs (1961-1962). The Democratic Digest's cover artist was Leo Hershfield, noted illustrator and courtroom artist; many pieces of his original artwork are in the Art and Layout Series.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

## Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## Acquisition Information

The Democratic Digest records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in May 1961.

## Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff, 1961

Encoded by Paula Jeannet, Carrie Mills, November 2013

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 61-369

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition. Some materials are brittle and fragile and require careful handling.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

[Democratic Digest](#) (serial publication; library has volumes 1-8, 1953-1961)Perkins Library, Duke University[Samuel C. Brightman papers, 1932-1992](#) (Democratic Digest managing editor)Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University, N.Y.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Elections -- United States -- History
- Journalism -- Political aspects
- Legislators -- United States -- Correspondence

- Political campaigns -- United States -- History
- Political cartoons
- Photographs
- Layouts (printer matter)
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1989
- United States -- Politics and government -- Periodicals
- Cartoons (working drawings)
- Editorial cartoons
- Political parties -- United States -- History
- Presidential candidates -- United States
- Presidents -- United States -- Election
- Press and politics -- United States
- Brightman, Samuel C. (Samuel Charles), 1911-
- Democratic Digest
- Democratic National Committee (U.S.)
- Democratic Party (U.S.)
- Fritchey, Clayton
- Hershfield, Leo
- Stern, Philip M.

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## Collection Inventory

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### Democratic Digest records, 1953-1961

**Physical Description:** 28 boxes

Files for issues 1959 Jan.-Aug.	Box 1
Files for issues 1959 Sept.-1960 May	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
There is no folder for February 1960.	
Files for issues 1960 June-Nov.	Box 3
Files for issues 1961 Jan.-Feb.	Box 4
Alphabetical correspondence files, A-C	Box 4
Alphabetical correspondence files, C-K	Box 5
Alphabetical correspondence files, L-R	Box 6
Alphabetical correspondence files, S-Z	Box 7

Cartoons and layout art, 1954 Dec.-1955 Dec. <b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 11x17 in.	Box 8
Cartoons and layout art, 1956 Jan.-May <b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 11x17 in.	Box 9
Cartoons and layout art, 1956 June-1960 <b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 11x17 in.	Box 10
Cartoons and layout art, 1956 June-1960 <b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 11x17 in.	Box 10-A
Files for issues 1955 Jan.-Mar.	Box 11
Files for issues 1955 Apr.-June	Box 12
Files for issues 1955 July-Sept.	Box 13
Files for issues 1955 Oct.-1956 Jan.	Box 14
Files for issues 1956 Feb.-May	Box 15
Files for issues 1956 June-Aug.	Box 16
Files for issues 1956 Sept.-1957 Apr. <b>Scope and Contents note</b> No December or January folders.	Box 17
Files for issues 1957 May-Nov.	Box 18
Files for issues 1957 Dec.-1958 Jun.	Box 19
Files for issues 1958 July-Dec.	Box 20
1960 Election	Box 21
1960 Election	Box 22
Artwork, layouts <b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 10x12 in.	Box 23
Larger artwork and layouts <b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 16x20 in.	Box 24

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Larger artwork and layouts	Box 25
<b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 16x20 in.	
Larger artwork and layouts	Box 26
<b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 16x20 in.	
Larger artwork and layouts	Box 27
<b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 16x20 in.	
Larger artwork and layouts	Box 28
<b>Physical Description:</b> Box dimensions: 16x20 in.	

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