

Frederick G. Hamley Papers, 1934-1956

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Hamley, Frederick G. (Frederick George), 1903-1975
Title	Frederick G. Hamley Papers
Dates	1934-1956 (inclusive) 1934 1956
Quantity	6.83 cubic ft.
Collection Number	0405 (Accession No. 0405-001)
Summary	Correspondence, legal and political papers of an attorney, Seattle city councilman, member and chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, and justice of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Lawyer, public official, judge. Born in Seattle in 1903, Frederick G. Hamley graduated from the University of Washington Law School in 1932. While in private practice in Seattle, he became active in city politics as a member of the municipal good-government organization, the New Order of Cincinnatus. With support from the Cincinnatus movement he was elected to the Seattle City Council. He served from 1935 to 1938 along with his close friend, Arthur B. Langlie. In June, 1938, he went from the city council to an administrative post, superintendent of the Seattle Water Department and chairman of the Board of Public Works. He held these positions for only a couple of months.

Hamley functioned as a political adviser to Langlie, mayor of Seattle, 1938-1941, and governor of Washington State, 1941-44, 1949-1957. From August, 1938, through 1940 Hamley worked as an attorney for the Bureau of Reclamation in Grand Coulee, Washington. In 1941 he joined newly elected Governor Langlie in Olympia as his personal legal adviser, then served in various administrative positions, but mainly as director of the Washington Department of Public Service (later known as the State Department of Public Utilities).

In 1943 he moved to Washington, D.C. to become assistant general solicitor of the National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners, and from 1944 to 1949 he served as general solicitor. Hamley returned to Olympia, Washington, in September, 1949, when Governor Langlie appointed him to the

Washington State Supreme Court. He served on the court from then until 1956; in 1955 and 1956 he was chief justice.

In 1954, while living in Washington State, Hamley held civic leadership positions. Governor Langlie invited him to serve on his statewide committee on educational television; the committee elected Hamley its chair. Later that year, after a wage dispute led to a long strike in the timber industry, Governor Langlie, with concurrence of Oregon Governor Paul Patterson, appointed Hamley to chair the Governors' Lumber Fact Finding Board.

In 1956 Hamley was appointed by President Eisenhower to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco and served actively until 1971, when he went on senior status. He died in San Francisco in 1975.

Content Description

The papers consist of correspondence; political and legal writings, including diaries and legal opinions; reports; and other papers, primarily from Hamley's career in Seattle and Olympia, 1933-1956.

Included in his personal papers is a 700-page typed diary covering Hamley's 1935-36 years on the Seattle City Council and his work on Langlie's 1938 campaign for mayor. The Langlie subgroup contains political correspondence with Langlie when Hamley was in Grand Coulee as well as Langlie speeches, some of which were drafted by Hamley. The New Order of Cincinnatus subgroup contains earlier material such as minutes and publications from the organization's campaigns for municipal reform in Seattle, 1933-1938.

Hamley's personal papers include a subject series, 'Unitarian file.' Although much of the content, 1951-55, consists of mimeographed writings from the Unitarian national office, it also reflects Hamley's search for a Unitarian group with whom he could worship in the Olympia area and the establishment of such a group there. Also documented are arrangements for a 1955 visit by a British Unitarian clergyman with a strong interest in criminal justice.

The subgroup Washington Educational Television Committee shows the work of this statewide group in early planning efforts for a non-commercial educational television system. As chair, Hamley received much commentary on draft recommendations and accumulated considerable material, especially from national regional bodies, on the topic. No minutes of meetings are included. The committee completed its report in 1954.

The subgroup Washington Governor's Lumber Fact Finding Panel includes Hamley's correspondence as chair of this seven-member board in 1954 as well as documents and transcripts from the formal hearings. The panel completed its work in late December, recommending a wage increase but a smaller one than requested by the CIO woodworkers union.

The subgroup National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners dates from Hamley's earlier career as attorney for this body in Washington, D.C. The bulk of this subgroup was created during the latter part of Hamley's service, 1947-1949, during which he was general solicitor. Much content is mimeographed bulletins to state commissions, together with Hamley's or the assistant solicitor's testimony to Congressional committees on proposed legislation affecting transportation. An earlier portion consists of pleadings by Hamley on cases about freight rates before the Interstate Commerce Commission. One large pamphlet-bound folder of correspondence and invitations in the NARUC subgroup was created after Hamley returned to the state of Washington. Much correspondence in it, however, is between Hamley and his former deputy and other professional colleagues.

The Washington Supreme Court subgroup contains opinions, apparently drafted by Hamley before the justices discussed the cases. Of particular significance are notes Hamley kept on cases heard by the court, 1949-1956. On printed forms he briefly noted the positions of his fellow judges and himself on each case. Also included are typed drafts and handwritten notes on some cases.

The subgroup New Order of Cincinnatus documents that municipal reform group's activities, 1934-1938, and Hamley's role in this non-partisan movement. He was active in it when he ran for city council; thus it includes his campaign speeches as well as those he wrote for Arthur Langlie. Also included is a small bit of ephemera from the more militant opposing organization, the Washington Commonwealth Federation. An open reel tape contained an interview by then graduate student George Scott with Hamley in 1963, but a note on the tape box states that the tape is largely blank. Scrapbooks at the end of the papers also document the New Order of Cincinnatus.

The last listed subgroup consists of only one folder from the period in 1938 when Hamley headed the Seattle Water Department. It consists mainly of his memos to Langlie about various municipal issues in Seattle, especially the street railway system.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Accessions were acquired in 1963, 1970, and 1975 from Hamley and his wife.

Processing Note

The collection is a merger of Accession nos. 405-1, 1498, and 405-3.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal Papers

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Incoming Letters		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/1	Cramer, Justus F.	1949-1953
1/2	A-C, Miscellaneous	1949-1954
1/3	Hoover, J. Edgar	1950-1951
1/4-5	D-M, Miscellaneous	1949-1954

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/6	Roberts, Austin L., Jr.	1952-1953
1/7	Rosellini, Hugh J.	1952, 1954
1/8-9	N-V, Miscellaneous	1949-1954
1/10	White, E. Lawrence	1951-1954
1/11	Whitney, William F.	1954
1/12	W-Z, Miscellaneous	1949-1954
Box/Folder		
1/13-18	Outgoing Letters	1949-1954
2/1	General Correspondence: Concerning Appointment to Washington Supreme Court	1949
2/2	General Correspondence: Concerning Court Photograph	1951
2/3-6	Seattle City Council Diaries 650 p.	1935-1936
2/7	Diary of Langlie's Campaign 50 p.	1938
3/1	Writings	1955
3/2	Writings of Others	undated
3/3	Legislation	1950-1953
3/4	Memorandum Concerning Court Cases of Others	1950, 1952
3/5	Copy of Stock Certificate	undated
3/6	Personal Data on Law Clerk Applicants	undated
3/7	Notes	undated
3/8	Clippings	1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/9	Ephemera	undated
Subject Series		
Box/Folder		
3/10	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)	1949-1954
3/11	Council for Old People	1949
3/12-15	Unitarian File	1951-1955

Washington. Governor. Educational Television Committee.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/16-17	General Correspondence	1954-1956
4/1-2	Working Papers	1954
4/3-8	Reports	1952-1954
5/1-3	Writings of Others	1952-1954
5/4	Handbook	1953
5/5	Survey	1953
5/6	Recommendations	undated
5/7	Resolutions	1953
5/8	Legislation	undated
5/9	News Releases	1953-1954
5/10-13	Newsletters	1953-1954
5/14	Lists	1954

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/15	Notes	undated
5/16	Clippings	1955
5/17	Ephemera	undated

Washington. Governor. Fact Finding Committee on the Pacific Northwest Lumber Strike

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/18	General Correspondence	1954
6/1-2	Reports	1954
6/3-5	Exhibits of Union	1954
6/6-9	Exhibits of Employers	1954
7/1-2	Rebuttal of Union	1954
7/3	Reply Brief of Employers	1954
7/4	Answers of Union	1954
Unfolded	Transcripts of Committee Hearings	Oct.-Dec.,1954
8/1	List	undated
8/2	Notes	undated
8/3	Clippings	1954
8/4	Ephemera	1954

National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
9/1-2	General Correspondence	1949-1950
Correspondence Regarding		
Box/Folder		
9/3	Invitations	1949-1950
9/4	Nuremburg Film	1949
9/5	Speaking Engagements	1949-1950
Box/Folder		
9/6	Minutes of Executive Committee	1954
9-10	Bulletins	1947-1949
10/1-4	Statements Before Committees of Congress	1947-1949
10/5	Pleadings	1945-1947
11/1-3	Oral Arguments	1945-1957
11/4-7	Unprinted Briefs	1940-1948

Washington. Supreme Court

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
12/1-13	Draft Opinions	Sept., 1949- Sept., 1953
13/1-8	Draft Opinions	Jan., 1954-May, 1956
13/9	Opinions	1949-1956

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/10-11	Notes on Cases	Sept., 1949- Jan., 1950
14/1-6	Notes on Cases	June, 1950- June, 1951
15/1-4	Notes on Cases	Nov., 1951- Nov., 1952
16/1-8	Notes on Cases	May, 1953-May, 1956

Langlie, Arthur B.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
17/1-6	General Correspondence 240 items	1938-1949
17/7-8	Speeches of Langlie 80 items	1941-1952

New Order of Cincinnatus, Seattle

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
18/1	Historical Data	undated
18/2	Bylaws	undated
18/3-5	General Correspondence	1934-1937
Minutes		
Box/Folder		
18/6-8	General Meetings	1934-1936

Container(s)	Description	Dates
18/9-10	Executive Board	1934-1936
18/11	1934 Convention	1934
Box/Folder		
18/12	Financial Records	1935
18/13-14	Speeches and Writings	1934-1936
18/15	Recommendations to the City Council	1935-1938
Newsletters and Bulletins		
Box/Folder		
18/16-17	<i>Cincinnati Newsletter</i>	1937-1938
18/18	<i>Cincinnati Bulletin</i>	1935-1936
18/19	<i>Cincinnati Weekly</i>	1936
18/20	<i>Electric Fist</i>	1933-1934
18/21	<i>New Order of Cincinnati</i>	1935
18/22	<i>Commonwealth Messenger</i>	1936
Box/Folder		
18/23-28	Campaign Literature	1934-1938
18/29	Lists	1933
18/30	Notes	undated
18/31	Interview	1963
Box		
19	Scrapbooks 2 volumes	1934-1936

Seattle Public Works Department

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
18/32	General Correspondence	1938

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

City council members--Washington (State)--Archives
City councils--Washington (State)
Courts of last resort--Washington (State)
Courts--Washington (State)
Judges--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
Lawyers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
Municipal government--Washington (State)
Pacific Northwest Lumber Strike, 1954
Public service commissions--United States
Public utilities--United States
Strikes and lockouts--Lumber trade--Washington (State)
Television in education--Washington (State)

Personal Names :

Hamley, Frederick G. (Frederick George), 1903-1975--Archives
Langlie, Arthur B. (Arthur Bernard), 1900-1966

Corporate Names :

International Woodworkers of America
National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners
New Order of Cincinnatus
Seattle (Wash.). City Council
Washington (State). Governor's Lumber Fact Finding Panel
Washington (State). Supreme Court
Washington State Educational Television Commission

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government
Washington (State)--Politics and government

Form or Genre Terms :

Diaries

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

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