

Robert L. Fisher papers, 1951-1989

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Fisher, Robert L. (Robert Light), 1910-1989
Title	Robert L. Fisher papers
Dates	1951-1989 (inclusive) 1951 1989
Quantity	3.04 cubic feet (5 boxes)
Collection Number	4249 (Accession No. 4249-001)
Summary	Papers of an American official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency primarily concerning his work in Jordan and Gaza during the late 1950s to early 1970s.
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	The papers are 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

Robert Light Fisher was born in York, Pennsylvania, in 1910. He received his teaching credential from Western Washington Normal School, Bellingham, Washington, where his father, Charles Henry Fisher, had been president, and went on to receive degrees from Stanford and Columbia in political science. Fisher joined the State Department in 1940 and worked in the U.S. Army's Intelligence Section during World War II. After the war, he served as the Army's liaison for displaced persons in Europe. Fisher joined the United Nations' Commission for Displaced Arabs in the Middle East in the late 1940s and in 1950 was appointed its chair. In 1953 he became assistant director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Jordan, and in 1958 he was appointed director of the UNRWA in Gaza. In 1961 Fisher became director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan. He supervised the establishment of refugee camps and the building of schools and health centers. Fisher obtained a senior post at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut in 1968 and returned to the State Department in 1970. Upon his retirement in 1980, Fisher returned to the state of Washington, where he died in 1989.

Content Description

Diaries, photographs, reports, newsletters, correspondence, cables, memos, clippings, publications, and news releases, 1951-1989 (bulk 1956-1971), concerning Fisher's work on behalf of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

The papers consist almost exclusively of materials relating to Fisher's work in Gaza and Jordan during the late 1950s to early 1970s, with some material from later years. The largest series is the subject series, which is organized according to Fisher's original topical scheme. Photocopies of deteriorating thermofaxes are filed with the original copies. A substantial number of photographs of UNRWA projects and events are included in the papers.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Preferred Citation

Robert L. Fisher Papers. Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, Washington.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Helen S. Fisher (Robert L. Fisher's wife) of Lacey, Washington, 1991.

Processing Note

Processing of the papers was completed in 1993.

Separated Materials

Official United Nations documents have been transferred to the Government Publications division of the University of Washington Libraries. Publications from the Institute for Palestine Studies have been transferred to the main collection of the UW Libraries.

Related Materials

Researchers interested in Robert L. Fisher's personal life may wish to consult the Charles Henry Fisher papers, Accession No. 1987-14, which consists of 49 letters from Robert Fisher's father during the time when he was field director of the UNRWA (1962-1964).

Detailed Description of the Collection

Diaries and calendars, 1956-1958, 1964-1971

Box1-2

Biographical information, 1964-1990

Box-folder3/1

Biographical information - condolences, 1989

Box-folder3/2

Incoming letters, 1978

Box-folder3/3

Reports

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/4	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	1969-1970
3/5	Miscellaneous	1986

Speeches and writings, 1957-1968

Box-folder3/6

Photographs

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/7-8	"Official"	1967-1969
3/9-13	Jordan	1965-1968
3/14-18	Miscellaneous	1964-1976
Box		
5	Photo albums	1954-1974

Organizational directives, 1959-1962

Box-folder3/19

Memo, 1964

Box-folder3/20

Subject series

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/21	Conciliation Commission for Palestine	1962-1964
3/22	Confidential draft paper of 1958	1958
3/23	Development Bank of Jordan, Ltd.	1951-1979
3/24	Gaza basic papers	1960-1962
3/25	Humor	1956-1960
3/26	Ideas, etc.	1959
3/27	Ideas for publications	1969
3/28	Materials for articles	1963
3/29	Middle East crisis	1967
3/30	Problems facing UNRWA as it changes directors	1958-1959
3/31	"The Refugee Problem"	1969
3/32	Refugee resettlement through the medium of individual grants in Jordan	1960
3/33	Relations between UNRWA and UAR government	1960-1961
3/34	Solution to the Palestine (refugee) problem	1953-1967
3/35	Statistics	1950-1973
3/36	Status of the Gaza mission, UNRWA	1959

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/37	Transfer from Jordan to Beirut	1968
3/38	United Nations Emergency Force - miscellaneous items	1960-1961
3/39	West Bank data base project	1984
3/40	Women's Auxiliary of UNRWA	1958-1965

Proceedings, 1978

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Hearings transcript - U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Committee, 1976

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Ephemera, undated

Box-folder3/43

Publications

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/44	UNRWA	undated
4/1	American Friends Service Committee	1958
4/2	Middle East Institute	1974
4/3	Miscellaneous	1956-1989

Financial records, 1974-1978

Box-folder4/4

Newsletters

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv42764>

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/5	UNRWA	1962-1986
4/6	Miscellaneous	1974-1986

News releases

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/7	UNRWA	1968-1978
4/8	Miscellaneous	1977

Maps, 1955-1957

Box-folder4/9

Clippings, 1963-1978

Box-folder4/10

Miscellany, 1968

Box-folder4/11

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

International relief
 Palestinian Arabs--Services for
 Political refugees--Services for--Middle East
 Refugees, Palestinian Arab--Education
 Refugees, Palestinian Arab--Jordan
 Refugees, Palestinian Arab--Services for
 United Nations--Officials and employees--Archives

Personal Names :

Fisher, Robert L. (Robert Light), 1910-1989--Archives

Corporate Names :

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Form or Genre Terms :

Calendars
 correspondence
 Diaries
 Newsletters

Photograph albums
Photographs
Press releases
Publications
reports

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

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