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# Guide to the William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Papers

## Manuscript Group 1665

compiled by Tom Hyry

April 2003

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University  
Shield

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### Overview of the papers

<b>Creator:</b>	Coffin, William Sloane.
<b>Title:</b>	William Sloane Coffin, Jr. papers, 1938-2003 (inclusive), 1955-1977 (bulk).
<b>Physical Description:</b>	23.25 linear ft.
<b>Arrangement:</b>	Arranged in five series and one addition: I. Correspondence, 1940-1983. II. Subject Files, 1959-1987. III. Yale University Files, 1955-1977. IV. Writings, 1945-1984. V. Personal Papers and Photographs, 1938-1982.

**Biographical Overview:** William Sloane Coffin, Jr. was born June 1, 1924, in New York City. He attended Deerfield Academy and Phillips Academy Andover before beginning his studies at Yale University in 1942. After one year at Yale, Coffin joined the U.S. Army, in which he served until 1947, when he returned to Yale, graduating with a B.A. in 1949. He went on to study for a year at Union Theological Seminary before joining the Central Intelligence Agency in 1950. In 1953, Coffin began studies at the Yale Divinity School, which he completed in 1956, when he was ordained into the Presbyterian ministry. Coffin spent successive years as the chaplain of Phillips Academy and Williams College before returning to Yale to serve as chaplain from 1957 to 1975. While chaplain at Yale, Coffin became a public figure active in the civil rights movement and protests of U.S. military actions in Vietnam. Coffin served as senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City from 1977 to 1987, when he became president of SANE/FREEZE. Coffin retired to Vermont in the mid-1990s, but remains active as a teacher, lecturer, and writer.

**Summary:** The papers include correspondence, subject files, writings, clippings, audio and video recordings, and other materials that document the career of William Sloane Coffin, Jr. The collection includes documentation relating to the civil rights movement, Vietnam War protests, amnesty for war resisters, the Peace Corps, Operation Crossroads Africa, and Yale University during the time when Coffin served as chaplain of Yale University.

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## Biographical Sketch

William Sloane Coffin, Jr. was born on June 1, 1924, in New York City to William Sloane Coffin, Sr. and Catherine Butterfield Coffin. After the death of Coffin's father in 1933, the family moved to Carmel, California, where William attended public school until the ninth grade, when he attended Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, Massachusetts. He spent the following year in Paris with his family, studying to be a concert pianist with Nadia Boulanger. With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the Coffins returned to the United States, and Coffin completed his high school education at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, graduating in 1942.

Coffin attended Yale University School of Music for one year before enlisting in the United States Army. Coffin served in the army until 1947, rising to the rank of captain while working as a liaison with the French and Soviet armies. He returned to the university upon his discharge and received his B.A. in 1949. Coffin spent the next year studying at Union Theological Seminary, then joined the Central Intelligence Agency for a three year period. Coffin returned to Yale once again in 1953, this time attending the divinity school, from which he received a B.D. in 1956. That same year he was ordained as Presbyterian minister. Coffin then served as chaplain of Phillips Andover Academy and Williams College in successive one year periods, before returning to Yale in 1958 to succeed Sidney Lovett as university chaplain, a position he held until 1975.

While chaplain at Yale, Coffin emerged as a public figure involved in numerous prominent events, activities, and organizations. He became involved in international relief work, beginning with Operation Crossroads Africa. On behalf of that group, he led a group of students to Guinea in the summer of 1960. The following year, Coffin was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on the Peace Corps and established its training program. He trained the first group of Peace Corps volunteers in Puerto Rico during the summer of 1961.

Coffin also became a prominent figure in the civil rights movement in the early 1960s. He was one of the "Freedom Riders," a group of black and white activists who rode interstate buses in the South to challenge segregation laws. Following one of these rides in May of 1961, he was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, along with six other demonstrators, and charged with disturbing the peace. He was also arrested on several other occasions for direct actions against segregation laws. In addition to his direct participation in civil rights protests in the South, Coffin recruited and coordinated the work of many northern activists, particularly white students, and he was also a member of the Connecticut Advisory Board of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

With the escalation of military actions in Vietnam, Coffin became heavily involved in the protests against the war. His activism began in 1965 with the formation of Americans For Re-appraisal of Far Eastern Policy, a group founded by Coffin and Allard Lowenstein that pushed for United States recognition of the People's Republic of China, the admission of China into the United Nations, and a cease-fire in Vietnam. Later that year, Coffin joined with a group of religious leaders, including John Bennett, Abraham Heschel, and Daniel Berrigan, to form the National Emergency Committee of Clergy Concerned About Vietnam. Coffin was named executive secretary of the organization. Initially, the group adopted a relatively moderate stance, recommending traditional political action and persuasion to affect change in U.S. policy toward Vietnam.

As the war in Vietnam escalated and lay people became interested in the work of the group, it changed its name to Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam (CALCAV). CALCAV organized mobilizations, supported conscientious objectors and acts of civil disobedience, and urged members to offer draft resisters sanctuary in churches and synagogues. During this time, Coffin became a frequent speaker at anti-war rallies and a highly public figure. At an October 1967 protest in Boston, over 1000 draft resisters turned in their draft cards at a church service led by Coffin. Later that month, he and a number of other activists who had collected cards throughout the country, presented them to officials at the Department of Justice in Washington. As a result of these actions, Coffin was indicted along with Benjamin Spock, Marcus Raskin, Mitchell Goodman, and Michael Ferber on charges of conspiracy to aid draft resisters. They were convicted in 1968, but the charges were dropped in 1970 after the verdict was overturned on appeal. Coffin continued to protest against the war, and even traveled to North Vietnam in 1972 to accompany three released prisoners on their trip back to the United States. In the war's final stages and after its end, Coffin was an outspoken proponent of the granting of amnesty for draft resisters.

Throughout his tenure at Yale, Coffin's actions met with mixed reviews among Yale students, administrators, and alumni. Many older alumni and other conservative Yale factions called for his resignation or removal. While Kingman Brewster, Yale's president, disagreed with Coffin's methods of protest, particularly his stand on and involvement in civil disobedience, he stood behind Coffin's rights to free speech and held that Coffin's influence on Yale was generally positive. Coffin left Yale in December 1975, citing the need to remove himself from the academy in order to work on a global level for social justice, disarmament, and an end to hunger.

After leaving Yale, Coffin published his memoirs, *Once to Every Man*, and in November 1977, he became senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City. While at Riverside, Coffin dedicated himself to a variety of human rights causes, including world hunger, disarmament, homelessness, and poverty, among others. In 1979 he made headlines again by traveling to Iran to hold Christmas services for hostages being held in the American Embassy. In 1987, he left Riverside to become president of SANE/FREEZE, which was renamed Peace Action in 1993.

Coffin married Eva Rubinstein, a ballet dancer and the daughter of Arthur Rubinstein, in 1956 and they had three children: Amy, Alexander, and David. They were divorced in 1968. Coffin re-married in 1969, to Harriet Gibney; they divorced shortly after he left Yale. Coffin's third wife is Virginia Randolph Witson. After becoming president emeritus of SANE/FREEZE in the mid-1990s, Coffin moved to Vermont and continued to teach and lecture.

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## Description of the Papers

The papers document the career of William Sloane Coffin, Jr., best known as chaplain of Yale University and as a political activist. The collection consists of correspondence, topical files, writings, personal papers, audio recordings, and other materials created and collected by Coffin, primarily during the era of his tenure as chaplain at Yale, 1957-1975. There is only sporadic documentation of Coffin's career after 1975. The collection includes ample documentation of the role Coffin played in social and political movements including civil rights, Vietnam War protests, amnesty for draft resisters, disarmament, and international relief work. The following specific groups and organizations are particularly well represented: Operation Crossroads Africa, Peace Corps, Americans For Re-Appraisal of Far Eastern Policy, and Clergy and Laity Concerned about Vietnam. The papers include many other files related to Coffin's involvement in Vietnam War protest and civil rights, particularly his organizing of northern students. Materials relating to Coffin's tenure as chaplain and his ministry at Yale, specifically many of his sermons, are also included. Speeches and other writings comprise another significant part of the collection and provide researchers with insight into Coffin's views on a variety of social, political, and religious themes. The collection also includes a small amount of personal and family papers.

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## Series I. Correspondence, 1940-1983

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically within four sections: General, Family, Public Opinion Mail, and Speaking Engagements. Other correspondence of a topical nature exists in the Subject Files, Writings, and Yale Files series.

General correspondence consists of letters exchanged between Coffin and civil rights leaders, Vietnam War and peace activists, university administrators, religious figures, politicians, students, and other individuals. The leading civil rights figures that corresponded with Coffin include Ralph Abernathy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, but the correspondence is not particularly substantive. There is a substantial amount of correspondence with individuals involved in the anti-war movement, including Daniel Berrigan, Robert McAfee Brown, Rennie Davis, Richard Neuhaus, Marcus Raskin, Benjamin Spock, and Norman Thomas (see the description of Series II for a more detailed explanation of other correspondence and material related to the civil rights and anti-war movement). Letters between Coffin and several Yale University officials and faculty members, such as Kingman Brewster, A. Whitney Griswold, Reuben Holden, Louis Pollak, Richard Sewall, Gaddis Smith, and Norman Buck comprise another sizable portion of the series. The Brewster correspondence provides a particularly rich picture of Coffin's tenure as chaplain at Yale and of the relationship between these two high profile individuals. The section also includes a small amount of substantive correspondence with Yale students such as Joseph Lieberman, whose one letter describes his decision to decline admission to Skull and Bones, and Strobe Talbott, who writes detailed descriptions of his inner city work in Cleveland in the late 1960s (see Series III for other Yale related material). There is correspondence with religious leaders such as Reinhold Niebuhr, John C. Bennett, Sidney Lovett, and James Robinson and with politicians and public figures such as Jeb Magruder, George McGovern, Ralph Nader, Fred Rogers, and Studs Terkel. The McGovern correspondence includes documentation of Coffin's efforts on behalf of McGovern's presidential bid. Correspondence with colleagues in Outward Bound and the Peace Corps, including Fred Lanoue, Joshua Miner, Bill Moyers, Sargent Shriver, and Spencer Summers comprises another significant portion of the section. Other correspondence and documentation of these organizations can also be found in Series II.

The bulk of the Family correspondence consists of incoming letters to Coffin from an earlier era in his life. Most of the letters from his mother Catherine Coffin and sister Margot Coffin date from the time Coffin served in the

military, during and after World War II. Many of these letters were addressed to both Coffin and his brother Ned. Family correspondence also includes a small number of letters from Coffin's first wife, Eva, primarily written while Coffin was spending a summer in Guinea working with Operation Crossroads Africa volunteers.

Public Opinion Mail consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence that comments on his public actions. These letters are arranged under the following topical headings: General, "Appeal for Theological Affirmation," Conspiracy Trial, Freedom Rides, and *Glamour* magazine article, each of which includes anti- and pro-Coffin folders. Although there are many more supportive letters, the critical correspondence is more dramatic and Coffin was more likely to answer his critics than supporters. The Conspiracy Trial correspondence comprises the most easily identified material in the collection that relates to Coffin's arrest, indictment, conviction, and successful appeal on charges of conspiring to aid draft resisters. The Freedom Rides correspondence contains similar types of materials.

Speaking Engagements correspondence is arranged chronologically into two sub-sections: Accepts and Declines. This section documents the great demand for Coffin as a public speaker and can be used to trace his appearances around the United States and abroad.

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## Series II. Subject Files, 1959-1987

The series is arranged alphabetically by a mixture of corporate and topical headings largely derived from Coffin's own folder titles. It includes a wide range of documentation of the movements, organizations, and events in which Coffin participated. Files include correspondence, printed matter, clippings, ephemera and other materials collected and created by Coffin. Although the contents vary widely, a number of important themes are discernible in the series including relief work, race and civil rights, Vietnam protests, amnesty for draft resisters, and disarmament. Many of these themes are also evident in other parts of the collection, particularly Series I and Series IV.

Most of the documentation of Coffin's efforts to organize and supply relief work to other countries can be found under Operation Crossroads Africa and Peace Corps. The Operation Crossroads Africa files contain correspondence with James Robinson and other Crossroads Africa officials and participants. Other papers that illustrate Coffin's commitment to relief work in Africa can be found in the Africa file and American Committee on Africa file. The Peace Corps material includes correspondence with Sargent Shriver, Spencer Summers, William Haddad, Joshua Miner, and Bill Moyers, among others, and documents Coffin's early influence on the program. Materials filed under Outward Bound document Coffin's connection with that program and his use of it as a model for training Peace Corps volunteers. The series also includes material relating to Coffin's work with the Commission on Youth Services Program and the National Service Program.

The nine "Race relations" folders comprise the most substantive materials relating to Coffin's civil rights work and include documentation from a wide variety of groups and individuals. The files predominantly contain correspondence and collected materials that document Coffin's organizing efforts and views on race, as well as those of others. Organizations documented include the Congress On Racial Equality, National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund, Northern Student Movement, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Coffin also kept separate folders of materials relating to several of these groups and they are listed under their corporate names. Cross references have been provided. The series includes other materials relating to race and the civil rights movement under the following headings: Civil rights march on Washington, DC; Freedom rides; and United States Commission on Civil Rights, Connecticut Advisory Board.

Coffin's anti-war efforts comprise another major part of this series, spread over many overlapping files. The most voluminous and substantive material can be found under the headings Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam (CALCAV); Americans for Reappraisal of Far-Eastern Policy (AFRFEP); Draft resistance; Conscientious objectors; Resist: A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority; and Vietnam Summer. Rather than representing the inner workings of the organization Coffin helped to found, the CALCAV files serve as more of a topical file of Coffin's anti-war activities. The AFRFEP materials document the work of an earlier group formed to examine and protest United States foreign policy in the Far East. The Draft resistance materials include correspondence, flyers, publications, and other documents of the work of Coffin and others to contest the conscription of young men into the military. These materials include some documentation of Coffin's indictment and trial on charges of conspiring to aid draft resisters. Other documentation relating to this case can be found under the William Sloane Coffin Jr. Defense Fund. A large portion of the Draft resistance papers also consists of letters written to Coffin from individual resisters. These letters document their decisions, efforts, and problems. Documentation under the heading Conscientious objectors includes correspondence of a similar nature, which chronicles Coffin's work to secure conscientious objector status for a variety of individuals. The "Resist" folders document Coffin's collaborative effort to produce the eloquent justification for the use of civil disobedience to protest the war. Vietnam Summer material provides a significant view of the workings and accomplishments of the group, through reports, project profiles, correspondence and memoranda, and posters. A large amount of collected materials, largely newspaper and magazine articles, that provide background information on the anti-war movement have been filed under the generic heading Vietnam. Other folders that contain documentation of protest movements against the Vietnam War can be found under American Friends Service Committee; Committee of Responsibility to Save War Burned and War Injured Vietnamese Children; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Midwest Committee for Draft Counseling; Mobilizations; National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam; New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam; Peace groups; and United States Study Team on

## Religious and Political Freedom in Vietnam.

Related to his anti-Vietnam war work, the series also includes significant documentation of Coffin's involvement in the amnesty and disarmament movements. The Amnesty for draft resisters materials hold a variety of information on this movement, much of it collected by Coffin rather than created by him. With the end of the Vietnam War, Coffin's efforts progressed into the disarmament movement. His efforts in this area are documented under the following headings: International Hearing on Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament; and SANE (National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy). Papers documenting the Voter's Pledge Campaign comprise the bulk of the SANE materials, which do not contain records from his tenure as president of the organization. Researchers should consult the Audiovisual materials for access to nearly thirty audiocassette recordings of presentations made at the Waging War in the Nuclear Age Conference held in 1987 as part of the Riverside Church Disarmament Program.

Several relatively minor themes can be discerned throughout the remainder of the series. In the course of his peace and disarmament work, Coffin collected papers relating to several southeast Asian and Latin American countries. These materials generally date from the late 1970s and 1980s and are listed under country names, as well as the following headings: Campaign for Civil Rights; Center for the Study of the Americas; Institute of Social Studies; National Appeal for Justice in Latin America; "Sanctuary and the Law: A Guide for Congregations;" and Solidarity Committee with the Argentine People. A substantial amount of documentation, dating from the 1970s, exists for the Institute for World Order. Coffin's involvement in campus ministry groups and other religious organizations can be found under the Fund for Theological Education (Rockefeller Foundation), National Association of College and University Chaplains, National Campus Ministry Association, National Council of Churches of Christ, and New Haven Council of Churches. Finally, the series includes material relating to local social and political groups based in New Haven, including the Black Panther Party, Black Women's Boycott, Community Progress, Inc., and New Haven Women's Liberation.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Box Folder</b>
Abortion, 1976-1977	17 1
ACCION, 1962-1966	17 2



Africa [correspondence, memoranda, and minutes from several students and student groups working on African relief], 1961-1970 <a href="#">See also: Series II. Subject Files, 1959-1987 Folder 147 - 154</a>	17	3
American Committee on Africa, 1966-1970	17	4
American Friends Service Committee, 1963-1970	17	5
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### **Series III. Yale University Files, 1955-1977**

Yale University Files consist of materials specific to Coffin's position as Yale chaplain and as pastor of Church of Christ in Yale University. The series is arranged alphabetically. Materials related to his years as a student in Yale College and Yale Divinity School can be found in Series IV and Series V.

The majority of the series concerns Church of Christ in Yale University. In addition to General files that document day to day administration of the church, the section includes a considerable amount of correspondence with individuals who served as guest preachers. While most of this correspondence is routine, covering travel and other details, some of it does relate to the content and themes of sermons preached at Battell Chapel. Coffin's work with undergraduate deacons is documented among the files relating to the Board of Undergraduate Deacons.

A substantial amount of documentation regarding Yale organizations and groups, such as Dwight Hall, Yale Hunger Action Project, Yale in China, and Yale Religious Ministry, comprise another important part of the series. Files under the heading of Denominational groups document Coffin's work with different religious groups on campus.

The Yale files also include a small amount of topical material relating to local protest and political activities, such as the Local 35 strike, May Day, Yale Draft Refusal, and Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee.



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Alstrom, Sidney. "A History of Yale and the Church: The Great Awakening"		x-ref
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Appointment to Chaplaincy of Yale [congratulatory letters], 1958	30	2
Bible study, 1965, 1971	30	3
Chapels [Battell and Dwight; includes information re: budget, flower schedule, and organ ], 1959-1975	30	4 - 9
Chaplain's office memoranda and correspondence [miscellaneous], 1959-1961	30	10
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Class of 1926 [40th reunion letter and petition to Kingman Brewster protesting the activities of Staughton Lynd], 1966	35	59
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Refugee Thanksgiving [for Bengali refugees], 1971	36	95
The Resistance[newsletter], 1967-1968	36	96
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Yale Hope Mission, 1962-1968	36	110
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Yale Men Abroad, 1962	37	120
Yale-New Haven Halfway House, 1966	37	121
Yale-New Haven Hospital. Department of Religious Ministry, n.d.	37	122
Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee, 1971	37	123
Yale Religious Ministry, 1965-1975	37	124 - 129
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## Series IV. Writings, 1945-1984

The series is arranged in six sections: Books; Letters to the editor; Notes and quotations; Sermons, speeches, and interviews; Student; and Topical.

The Books section includes a draft and reviews of Coffin's autobiography, *Once to Every Man: A Memoir*, as well as correspondence relating to its publication. The Books section also contains a proposal and correspondence relating to a never completed book to have been titled "To Walk the Earth Like Men."

Notes and quotations include a small amount of material Coffin used in other writings.

Sermons, speeches, and interviews are arranged chronologically and cover a variety of topics. They reflect the major themes of the collection found in Series I and II and document Coffin's religious, social, and political views and activities. Of particular note is an interview of Coffin conducted by Nat Hentoff, which appeared in the August 1968 issue of *Playboy*. Coffin's speeches during late 1967 and his appearance with Benjamin Spock on *Meet the Press* in early 1968 document the issues surrounding his 1967 arrest for conspiring to aid draft resisters. Recordings of many of the public appearances are in the Audiovisual materials series, and cross references have been provided.

The Student writings section covers a breadth of topics and consists of papers Coffin wrote for undergraduate courses in Yale College and graduate courses at Union Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School. It also includes materials from Russian lessons he took while in the military to prepare for his position as liaison to the Soviet army.

The Topical section includes published and unpublished articles, essays, notes, and other types of writings grouped by subject, according to Coffin's own arrangement scheme. The writings cover social, political, and religious themes, and several of the topics overlap with materials found in Series II, including amnesty, civil rights, draft cards, race, and Vietnam.

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Phillips Academy, Andover, “Daily Chapel Talks”, 1956	40	27
Parents' Day address [Yale University], 1959 Oct 24	40	28
“Crossroads Africa” [Yale Reports, No. 210], 1960 Dec 25	40	29

“The Church and Civil Rights” [Yale Reports, No. 237], 1962 Jan 14	40	30
“The Racial Problem in Christian Perspective” [speech at the assembly program inaugurating the United Consolidated Relief Fund], 1963 Feb 21 <a href="#">See: Series IV. Writings, 1945-1984 Folder 108</a>		x-ref
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Untitled sermon, based on Matthew 14:22-23, Battell Chapel, Yale University, 1964 Apr 12	40	33
Untitled speech delivered at civil rights rally in Hartford, CT, 1965 May 26	40	34
“The Spirit of Lamech,” sermon at Battell Chapel, Yale University, 1966 Jan 9	40	35
Viewpoint[radio show hosted by Rev. Dana F. Kennedy], 1966 Dec 17 <a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 47U</a>		x-ref
Keynote address at State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights meeting, 1967 Feb 19	40	36
“On Civil Disobedience” [lecture for the Washington Seminar], 1967 Feb 21	40	37
Untitled sermon at service for draft resisters at Arlington Street Unitarian Church, Boston, 1967 Oct 16	40	38
Statement before the Justice Department, 1967 Oct 20	40	39
<i>Meet the Press</i> appearance [with Benjamin Spock], 1968 Jan 20	40	40
Third National Resistance Day rally [Yale University], 1968 Apr 3	40	41
Civil disobedience interview at Yale University, 1968 Jul 31 <a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 48U</a>		x-ref
<i>Playboy</i> interview with Nat Hentoff [originally published in August 1968 issue], 1968 Aug	40	42

“From Generation to Generation” [parents' weekend address at Yale University], 1968 Oct 20	40	43
Ford Hall Forum appearance [re: civil disobedience and civil rights], 1968 Oct 27	40	44
<a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 49</a>		
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“Rev. William Sloane Coffin on the Crisis of Conscience in America” [SANE, Greater Philadelphia Council], 1969 May 27	40	46
<a href="#">See also: Audiovisual Materials Box 50U</a>		
Untitled speech delivered at Bryant Park, New York, NY [re: Nixon and the Vietnam War], 1969 Oct 15	40	47
“Powers of Light vs. Darkness” [sermon], 1970 Oct 4		x-ref
<a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 51U</a>		
Untitled sermon on talented servants, 1970 Nov 15		x-ref
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“The Paralytic” [sermon on Mark 2], 1971 Jan 10		x-ref
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Untitled talk given at the Memorial Service for All the Dead of the War, National Cathedral, Washington, DC, 1971 Apr 23	40	48
Untitled sermon on non-violence, Battell Chapel, Yale University, 1971 May 2		x-ref
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Untitled sermon on I Corinthians 1, 1971 May 12		x-ref
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Untitled speech delivered at Ecumenical Witness, Kansas City, MO, 1972 Jan 16	40	49
Untitled sermon based on John 8: 2-11, Battell Chapel, Yale University [re: amnesty for draft resisters], 1972 Apr 16	40	50
“Loyalty to God” interview with Lewis Rambo, [ca. 1972]	40	51
“A World for All of Us: A Proposal,” Cincinnati General Assembly of the Christian Church, 1973 Oct 27	40	52
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“Whatever a Man Sows That He Will Reap” [sermon], 1974 Oct 6 <a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 56U</a>		x-ref
“William Sloane Coffin and Welfare Moms and Others on World Food Crisis”, 1974 Nov <a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 57</a>		x-ref
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World Communion Sunday, sermon at Battell Chapel, Yale University, 1975 Oct 5	40	54
“Abounding in Hope,” sermon at unidentified location, 1984 Dec 9	40	55
“None of the Roots” [speech before conference of the Headmasters' Association], n.d.	40	56
Untitled sermon on Matthew 12, n.d. <a href="#">See: Audiovisual Materials Box 59U</a>		x-ref
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“Bits and Pieces” [assorted short writings], n.d.	42	83
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“Law and Civil Disobedience: the Role of Law in American Society” [Yale Reports #335], n.d.	42	84
“On Civil Disobedience” [sermon at Battell Chapel, Yale University], 1964 Nov 1	42	85
“On Civil Disobedience” [ <i>Una Sancta</i> Vol. 24, no. 2], 1965 Oct 17	42	86
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“The Roots of Prejudice”, n.d.	43	111
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## **Series V. Personal Papers and Photographs, 1938-1982**

The series contains photographs, clippings, family materials, travel information, and other materials that provide biographical information and documentation of Coffin's personal and family life. The series is arranged alphabetically. The photographs consist of a small number of portraits of Coffin that were routinely supplied to press outlets doing stories related to his work. Biographical information includes press releases provided by the Faculty Information Service of the Yale News Bureau, as well as completed questionnaires for class and reunion books. Clippings provide a representation of Coffin's activities but are by no means comprehensive. Other news coverage of Coffin's activities can be found under topical headings in previous series.

A small amount of material documenting Coffin's life prior to becoming chaplain at Yale comprises another portion of the series. This is found in a scrapbook from his year in Paris in the late 1930s, his Military papers, and the Yale Glee Club European tour materials. Coffin's "Statement of Faith" provides an articulation of his theological views during the early years of his career as a minister.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Address lists, n.d.	44	1
Awards and certificates, 1963-1968	44	2
Biographical information, 1960-1971	44	3
Clippings, 1961-1978, n.d.	44	4
<a href="#">See also: Oversize Folder 2</a>		
Coffin, Catherine [appraisal of estate], 1982	44	5
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, 1959-1968	44	6
Education fund for Coffin children, 1972-1974	44	7
Financial documents, 1970-1972	44	8
Itineraries and schedules, 1962-1968, n.d.	44	9
Journal fragments, n.d.	44	10
Memorabilia, 1946, n.d.	44	11
Military papers, 1946-1947, n.d.	44	12 - 13
Ordination service, 1956	44	14
Paris scrapbook, 1938-1939	44	15 - 16
Phillips Academy, Andover, 1940, 1954-1956	44	17 - 18
Photographs, n.d.	44	19

Police report of break-in at Coffin residence, 1962	44	20
Real estate, 1959-1974	44	21 - 22
Sabbatical in San Francisco Bay area, 1973	44	23
Statement of faith, [ca. 1957]	44	24
Travel visas, 1972, 1977	44	25
Writings about Coffin, 1967	44	26
Yale Glee Club European Tour, 1948	44	27

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## Oversize

Description	Box	Folder
Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam—Posters, 1967	45	1
Personal—Clippings [advertisement protesting Coffin's appearance at Centenary College], 1967	45	2
Vietnam Summer News, 1967	45	3

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## Audiovisual Materials

The Audiovisual Materials series is separated into two sections: Coffin, William Sloane and Recordings of others. Items are arranged chronologically within each, and cross references from other series have been provided for all headings.

Original audio, film, and video recordings, as well as preservation masters and duplicating masters may not be played. Readers may only play use copies. If a use copy of a particular recording does not exist, researchers must consult with the reference archivist for policies and procedures regarding the creation of duplicating master and use copies of original recordings.

Description	Box
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Coffin, William Sloane

CBS News documentary "Crossroads Africa: Pilot for a Peace Corps, 1961

Original 16mm reel-to-reel tapes [restricted] 46

Duplicating master [restricted] 46D

Use copy [VHS] 46U

Viewpoint[radio show hosted by Rev. Dana F. Kennedy], 1966 Dec 17

Original [reel-to-reel; restricted] 47

Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted] 47D

Use copy cassette 47U

Civil disobedience interview at Yale University, 1968 Jul 31

Original [reel-to-reel; restricted] 48

Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted] 48D

Use copy cassette 48U

Ford Hall Forum [two reel-to-reel original tapes; restricted] 1968 Oct 27 49

"Rev. William Sloane Coffin on the Crisis of Conscience in America" [SANE, Greater Philadelphia Council], 1969 May 27

Original [reel-to-reel; restricted] 50

Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted] 50D

Use copy cassette 50U

"Powers of Light vs. Darkness" [sermon], 1970 Oct 4

Original [reel-to-reel; restricted] 51

Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted] 51D

Use copy cassette 51U

Untitled sermon on talented servants, 1970 Nov 15

Original [cassette; restricted] 52

Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted] 52D

Use copy cassette 52U

"The Paralytic" [sermon on Mark 2; tape also includes Jaroslav Pelikan's Thanksgiving, dated 1970 Jan 22], 1971 Jan 10

Original [reel-to-reel; restricted] 53

Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted] 53D

Use copy cassette 53U

Untitled sermon on I Corinthians 1, 1971 May 12

Original [reel-to-reel; restricted]	54
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	54D
Use copy cassette	54U
“A World for All of Us: A Proposal,” Cincinnati General Assembly of the Christian Church, 1973 Oct 27	
Original [cassette; restricted]	55
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	55D
Use copy cassette	55U
“Whatever a Man Sows That He Will Reap” [sermon], 1974 Oct 6	
Original [cassette; restricted]	56
Duplicating master [two reel-to-reel tapes; restricted]	56D
Use copy cassette	56U
“William Sloane Coffin and Welfare Moms and Others on World Food Crisis” [original cassette; restricted] 1974 Nov	
Untitled speech at University of Illinois, Carbondale, 1975 Sep 15	
Original [reel-to-reel; restricted]	58
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	58D
Use copy cassette	58U
Untitled sermon on Matthew 12, n.d.	
Original [reel-to-reel; restricted]	59
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	59D
Use copy cassette	59U
Untitled speech to high school seniors [re: “walking on water” passage in book of Matthew], n.d.	
Original [reel-to-reel; restricted]	60
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	60D
Use copy cassette	60U
Untitled sermon on commencement day [original reel-to-reel tape; restricted] n.d.	
Untitled sermon re: freedom [original reel-to-reel tape; restricted] n.d.	
Recordings of others	
Alstrom, Sidney. “A History of Yale and the Church: The Great Awakening”, n.d.	
Original [two reel-to-reel tapes; restricted]	63
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	63D
Use copy cassette	63U

Concerned Citizens. "Human Beings Fused Together" [original cassette; restricted] 1970s	64
Hertzburg, Arthur. "Jewish and Christian Identity in the Secular World" [original reel-to-reel tape; restricted] n.d.	65
Lovett, Sidney. Talk for Lenten series at Yale University with an introduction by Coffin [original reel-to-reel tape; restricted] 1965 Mar 28	66
"The Homosexual and the Church." Panel discussion with Bill Johnson, Susan Day, Henri Nouwer, and Jim Dittes. [original cassette; restricted] n.d.	67
Unidentified sermon at Battell Chapel on II Corinthians 12:9, n.d.	
Original [reel-to-reel; restricted]	68
Duplicating master [reel-to-reel; restricted]	68D
Use copy cassette	68U
Riverside Church Disarmament Program, "Waging War in the Nuclear Age Conference", 1987 Oct 16-17	
Afghanistan: Superpowers Come Close (Eqbal Ahmad)-Tape I [original cassette; restricted]	69
Afghanistan: Superpowers Come Close (Eqbal Ahmad)-Tape II [original cassette; restricted]	70
Central America: Democracy/Intervention (Eva Gold and Ralph McGehee)-Tape I [original cassette; restricted]	71
Central America: Democracy/Intervention (Eva Gold and Ralph McGehee)-Tape II [original cassette; restricted]	72
Continuing War in Cambodia (Nayan Chanda, Elsie Spivak, and C. Song) [original cassette; restricted]	73
Contras/Every Continent (Eqbal Ahad, Nayan Chanda, Martha Honey, Ralph McGehee, and Stephanie Urdang) [original cassette; restricted]	74
Destabilization in Southern Africa (Stoney Cooks and Cherri Waters)-Tape I [original cassette; restricted]	75
Destabilization in Southern Africa (Stoney Cooks and Cherri Waters)-Tape II [original cassette; restricted]	76
Dictators and Revolutions (Roy Bonner and Sara Miles) [original cassette; restricted]	77
Diplomatic Alternatives (W. Goodfellow); Local Level (Agran, Messinger) [original cassette; restricted]	78
Economic Warfare and Human Rights (Susan George) [original cassette; restricted]	79

Evening for Peace-Part I (Chacabuco, William Sloane Coffin, C. Weiss) [original cassette; restricted]	80
Evening for Peace-Part II (Michael Manley) [original cassette; restricted]	81
Forging Peace in Central America (N. Herrera and Robert Stark) [original cassette; restricted]	82
Keep Your Eyes on the Prize (Roger Wilkins) [original cassette; restricted]	83
Low Intensity Conflict (Michael Klare); From Life Unto Debt (Susan George) [original cassette; restricted]	84
Making Policy at Local Level (Larry Agran and Michael Shulman) [original cassette; restricted]	85
Middle East: Confrontation or Cooperation (D. Kass and Rasheed Khalidi)-Tape I [original cassette; restricted]	86
Middle East: Confrontation or Cooperation (D. Kass and Rasheed Khalidi)-Tape II [original cassette; restricted]	87
Nuclear Weapons: Democracy and Independence (Lyuba Zarsky) [original cassette; restricted]	88
Peace Through Congress? (David Cortright and Carolyn Cottom) [original cassette; restricted]	89
Private Wars/Public Policy (Martha Honey, Dennis Bernstein, C. Blitt, and Robert Knight) [original cassette; restricted]	90
Religion's Role in Foreign Policy (Frances Kennedy and Will Kennedy) [original cassette; restricted]	91
The Selling of War (Amy Goodman and James Ridgeway) [original cassette; restricted]	92
Strategies for Local Organizing (Andrea Ayvazian) [original cassette; restricted]	93
Strategies for a Just Peace (Noam Chomsky, Cesar Jerez, and Major Owens) [original cassette; restricted]	94
Vietnam: What We've Learned-Part I (Gabriel Kolko) [original cassette; restricted]	95
Vietnam: What We've Learned-Part II (Michael Klare, Nelvin Long, and Marilyn Young)-Tape I [original cassette; restricted]	96
Vietnam: What We've Learned-Part III (Michael Klare, Nelvin Long, and Marilyn Young)-Tape II [original cassette; restricted]	97

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## Accession 2003-M-070

The accession includes a master, duplicating master, and use copy videotape recording of a talk given by Coffin at the Yale University Library on February 24, 2003. The title of the talk, "War is a Coward's Escape from the Problems of Peace" was derived from a quote by Thomas Mann. The talk was given in support of a library exhibit on the antiwar movement that featured Coffin's papers. Coffin gives his perspective on the upcoming war in Iraq and reflects on his experiences in the antiwar movement in the 1960s. The Original and Duplicating masters are restricted; researchers must use the use copy in box 1U.

Description	Box
"War is a Coward's Escape from the Problems of Peace" [talk at Sterling Memorial Library ], 2003 Feb 24	
Original [VHS videocassette; restricted]	1
Duplicating master [VHS videocassette; restricted]	1D
Use copy	1U

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COMMENTS: <mailto:mssa.assist@yale.edu>

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