
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

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Preferred Citation

Spencer C. Olin papers. MS-F024. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Spencer C. Olin, 2006.

Processing History

Processed by Audrey Pearson, 2007.

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 Extraordinarius 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 - June 1966	Acting vice chancellor for Student Affairs
1968	Published <i>California's Prodigal Sons: Hiram Johnson and the Progressives</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press).
1969-1978	Associate professor of history, UCI
1971-1972	Visiting lecturer in history, University of Stirling, Scotland
1972	Published <i>Racism in California: A Reader in the History of Oppression</i> (New York: Macmillan), co-edited with Roger Daniels
1977 - 1982	Chair of the Department of History
1979	Published <i>Why War? Ideology, Theory, and History</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press) with Keith Nelson
1981	Published <i>California Politics, 1846-1920: The Emerging Corporate State</i> (San Francisco, Calif.: Boyd & Fraser Pub. Co.)
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 <i>Postsuburban California: The Transformation of Orange County Since World War II</i> (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 <i>Major Problems in California History: Documents and Essays</i> (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 <i>California's Prodigal Sons</i> 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:

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- 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.

Series 1. University of California, Irvine files 1979-2006

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 : 4 **Clippings featuring Olin 1994-1998**

Box : Folder 1 : 5 **Contributions to UCI Strategic Plan: correspondence and articles 1997-2004**

Box : Folder **Dean of Humanities search**

Box : Folder 1 : 6 **Correspondence, interview transcript, and other materials 1992-1997**

Box : Folder 568-H-2 **Correspondence and search committee remarks 1992-1997**

Access Information

Access restricted until 2073.

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

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 : **UCI architecture research: articles, correspondence, and other materials 1979-2005**
14-15

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

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**

Series 2. Research files 1950-2004, bulk 1972-1997

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 **Anaheim: report, newsletter, and other materials 1950-1957, 1972-1985**
- 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 **Globalization of Orange County economy: articles, report, and other materials 1972-1973, 1984-1989**
- 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**

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**
- Box : Folder 2 : 1 **Articles, draft, and other materials 1970-1983, 1989-1993**

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- Box : Folder 2 : 2 **Chapter 4. Mexican California and the Transition to American Rule, 1821-1848: notes and articles 1849, 1888, 1939, 1964-1971, 1983-1992**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Articles prior to 1964 are photocopies of original materials from other sources.
- Box : Folder 2 : 3 **Chapter 5. Conflicts over Land in a New State, 1850-1870: articles and notes 1971, 1985-1986**
Box : Folder 2 : 4 **Chapter 5. The Gold Rush and American Conquest: notes, articles, and other materials 1990-1994, undated**
Box : Folder 2 : 5 **Chapter 6. Problems of Land and Water: articles and book reviews 1987-1995**
Box : Folder 2 : 6 **Chapter 7. The Railroads and Corporate Power, 1860-1900: notes, articles, and other materials 1981-1993, undated**
- Box : Folder 2 : 7 **Chapter 8. Labor and Social Conflict, 1850-1915: articles and book reviews 1981-1996**
Box : Folder 2 : 8-9 **Chapter 8. The Progressive Era: notes and articles 1911, 1969, 1987-1997**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Items older than 1969 are photocopies of original materials from other sources.
- Box : Folder 2 : 10 **Chapter 17. Conservatism Revived; Liberalism Transformed: Political Culture, 1960-1980: notes, clippings, and other materials 1975-1984, 1991**
- Box : Folder 2 : 11 **Minority rights in the 1950s and 1960s research: notes, articles, and other materials 1972, 1988-1994**
Box : Folder 2 : 12 **Naturism, extermination, and anti-orientalism research: notes, articles, and other materials 1877, 1920, 1967-1974, 1984-1990**
- 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 **Oneida Community**
Box : Folder 2 : **Correspondence 1975-1988**
14-15
- Box : Folder 2 : 16 **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 : 17 **General materials: prospectus, bibliography, and other materials 1977, undated**
Box : Folder 2 : 18 **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 : **Photographs and copy negatives from various sources undated**
22-24
- 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.
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Box : Folder 2 : 25-27	<p>Photograph album circa 1875- 1915</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Processing/Project Information</p> <p>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.</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 28 Box : Folder 2 : 29	<p>Preservation photocopies of photograph album</p> <p>Towner, James W., frontier law, and utopian socialism: notes, articles, and other materials 1877, 1911-1913, 1931, 1972</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Materials older than 1972 are photocopies of originals from other sources.</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 30	<p><i>Women and Family in the Oneida Community, 1837-1881</i>, photocopies of dissertation by Marlyn Hartzell Dalsimer 1975</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 31	<p>Orange: clipping and pamphlet 1982-1988</p> <p>Orange County</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 32	<p>Bankruptcy: clippings 1994-1995</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 33	<p>Board of Supervisors research: clippings, articles, and other materials 1967-1991</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 34	<p>City Councils composition research: notes undated</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 35	<p>Immigration: clippings, essays, and other materials 1983-1984, 2002</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 37	<p>Land and real estate: clippings and pamphlets 1984-1991</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 38-39	<p>Military-industrial complex: articles 1967-1990</p>
Box : Folder 2 : 36	<p>Orange County and Irvine research materials: clippings, report, and other materials 1987-1998</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 1	<p>Political development: clippings and article 1980-1990, 2004</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 2	<p>Political history: notes 1983</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 3	<p>Political leadership: notes and appendix of occupational composition of Orange County Board of Supervisors and selected city councils 1984, undated</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 4-5	<p>Slow-growth initiative: clippings 1984-1992</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 6	<p>Social history of Orange County: clippings, report, and other materials 1967-1989</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 7-8	<p>Statistical analysis of occupations of Orange County City Council members, 1940-1985: report 1987</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 9	<p>Transportation: clippings 1984-1989</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 10	<p>Placentia: clipping 1984</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 11	<p>Postindustrial California: notes and articles 1980-1994</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 12	<p><i>Postsuburban California</i>: reviews -- clippings and correspondence 1984-1995</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 13-14	<p>Racial minorities: clippings, language census report, and other materials 1982-2004</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 15	<p>Santa Ana: report and clippings 1984-1997</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 16	<p>Social and political history in the Progressive Era: articles 1962, 1986-1990</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 17	<p>Space and built environment research: articles and book reviews 1991-1998</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 18	<p>Theory and metropolitan/urban history research: articles and book reviews 1983-1996</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 19-20	<p>Urban history and global cities research: articles 1983-2001</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 21-24	<p>Urban politics and urban growth research: articles, notes and other materials 1972-1997</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 25	<p>Vietnamese: research studies, clippings, and other materials 1983-1984</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 26	<p>Westminster: notes and clipping 1985-1986</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 27	<p><i>Why War?</i> reviews: book reviews, correspondence, and other materials 1978-1982</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 28	<p>Women, family, and gender relations: articles and book reviews 1982-1991</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 29	<p>World War II and its aftermath, 1940-1965: articles and book reviews 1984-1991</p>
Box : Folder 3 : 30	<p>Yorba Linda: clipping 1984</p>

Series 3. Teaching materials 1944-1985, bulk 1974-1985

Physical Description: 0.2 linear feet

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series comprises teaching materials Olin used for two undergraduate upper-division courses called "California in Modern America" and "Utopian Experiments in American History." Included are lecture notes, supplementary articles, class syllabi, and exam questions.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by course and topic

- Box : Folder **"California in Modern America"**
Box : Folder 4 : 1 **Eden in Jeopardy: Literary and Social Countercultures: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1979-1991**
- Box : Folder **"Utopian Experiments in American History"**
Box : Folder 4 : 2 **California's Utopian colonies: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1979-1983**
Box : Folder 4 : 3 **European Utopian socialists: lecture notes and articles 1974-1985**
Box : Folder 4 : 4 **Fourierism in America: lecture notes undated**
Box : Folder 4 : 5 **Free love and sexual anarchism: lecture notes and article circa 1980-1982**
Box : Folder 4 : 6 **Introductory material: syllabi, course notes, and other materials 1981-1982**
Box : Folder 4 : 7 **The Mormons: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1974-1985**
Box : Folder 4 : 8 **The Oneida Community: lecture notes and articles 1980-1981**
Box : Folder 4 : 9 **Photographs of Olin at Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony historic site undated**

Scope and Content Note

Includes three 3.5 x 4.5 inch color photographs of Olin at the dedication of the historic site.

- Box : Folder 4 : 10 **Science and utopia in the Marxist tradition: lecture notes and articles 1970-1980**
Box : Folder 4 : 11 **The Shakers: lecture notes, articles, and other materials 1944, 1979, undated**

Series 4. **Writings 1966-1997**

Physical Description: 0.2 linear feet

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series comprises offprints and photocopies of articles and book reviews written by Olin.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by title

- Box : Folder 4 : 12 **Book reviews by Olin: clippings and correspondence 1973-1996**
- Box : Folder 4 : 13 **"European Immigrant and Oriental Alien: Acceptance and Rejection by the California Legislature of 1913," offprint 1966**
- Box : Folder 4 : 14 **"Free Markets and Corporate America," offprint 1991**
- Box : Folder 4 : 15 **"Globalization and the Politics of Locality: Orange County, California, in the Cold War Era 'The Great Adventure,'" offprint 1991**
- Box : Folder 4 : 16 **"Los Angeles as a 'World City,'" article photocopy 1997**
- Box : Folder 4 : 17 **"The Oneida Community and the Instability of Charismatic Authority," article photocopy 1980**
- Box : Folder 4 : 18 **"Toward a Synthesis of the Political and Social History of the American West," offprint 1986**
- Box : Folder 4 : 19 **"Utopianism," article photocopy 1984**