## Todd S. Purdum Papers 1950-2013: Finding Aid

### Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call number:</th>
<th>MC270</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repository:</td>
<td>Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections. Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Public Policy Papers. 65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size:</td>
<td>2.5 Linear feet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 boxes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1017 KB (17 digital files)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language(s) of Material:</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>Todd S. Purdum (1959-) is a political journalist whose work has appeared in a number of publications, including Vanity Fair, The New York Times, and POLITICO. The collection is mostly composed of Purdum's research materials on various political and cultural figures created for his work with Vanity Fair. Other noteworthy materials in the collection relate to Purdum's senior thesis written for Princeton University's History Department on the Eisenhower-era State Department's Loyalty-Security Program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.</td>
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Biography/History

Todd S. Purdum (1959-) is a political journalist whose work has appeared in a number of publications, including Vanity Fair, The New York Times, and POLITICO. After graduating from Princeton University in 1982, Purdum worked at The New York Times from 1994 to 2005, covering both local and national politics and serving as the paper's Los Angeles bureau chief. Purdum is currently a contributing editor of Vanity Fair and a senior writer at POLITICO. His features for Vanity Fair on well-known political figures such as Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, and Sarah Palin, published in the late 2000s, garnered a large amount of national attention. Purdum is the author of the 2014 book An Idea Whose Time Has Come: Two Presidents, Two Parties, and the Battle for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Description

The Todd Purdum Papers are predominately composed of Purdum's research materials on various political and cultural figures, created for his work with Vanity Fair and for other projects and publications. Most of Purdum's research is in the form of interviews, existent in the collection as transcriptions or on audiocassette tapes.

With the exception of the Norman Sherman and the Bush administration files, all of the transcription files contain typed transcripts of interviews that Purdum conducted with the file's subject, mainly for Vanity Fair. A number of files include a small amount of clippings, notes, and e-mail correspondence related to the subject of the file. A significant portion of these transcripts relate to an oral history project on the George W. Bush administration. Others pertain to John F. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration, including the interviews with Sander Vanocur, Harry McPherson, Letitia Baldrige, and Harris Wofford. Rahm Emanuel and the speechwriter Jon Favreau's interviews offer insight into Barack Obama's administration. Purdum also conducted a number of interviews and/or corresponded with individuals active in the civil rights movement as research for his book on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. These individuals include Nicholas Katzenbach, James Hamilton, Kenneth Teasdale, Cornelius "Neal" Kennedy, Walter F. Mondale, Daniel Inouye, John G. Stewart, John Dingell, Norman Sherman, and George Stevens, Jr. The "Hollywood Interviews" folders (identified as such by Purdum) include interviews with the children of widely known actors, producers, directors, and others involved with the entertainment industry during the industry's "Golden Age," including Marlo Thomas, Candice Bergen, Robert Wagner, Tina Sinatra, and many others.

Of particular note are the materials pertaining to Purdum's unpublished piece on Michelle Obama, including Purdum's working manuscript of the article; his interviews with Obama's associates, such as Sam Kass, Angela Acree, and Valerie Jarrett; and five notebooks, two specifically on the First Lady's travels in South Africa.

The collection also contains around 50 audiocassette tapes, mostly of interviews conducted by Purdum for The New York Times, though a few tapes are of speeches or other types of recordings. The audiocassette tapes focus on major political figures and those associated with them, including Bill Clinton, John Kerry, Edward Koch, John McCain, Ralph Nader, Barack Obama, Colin Powell, Karl Rove, and others.

Other noteworthy materials in the collection relate to Purdum's senior thesis written for Princeton University's History Department on the Eisenhower-era State Department's Loyalty-Security Program.
The original typescript of the thesis is included, as are some of Purdum's research materials, almost all of which are photocopies of the detailed diaries of Robert Walter Scott McLeod, who headed the Department of State's Bureau for Security and Consular Affairs from 1953 to 1957. To a lesser extent, Purdum's thesis research materials include copies of official State Department documents collected by McLeod, including correspondence and reports regarding suspected homosexual individuals in the department.

**Arrangement**

Materials remain in their original order as received from the donor.

**Access and Use**

Access

The collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. For quotations that are fair use as defined under U. S. Copyright Law, no permission to cite or publish is required. For those few instances beyond fair use, researchers are responsible for determining who may hold the copyright and obtaining approval from them. Researchers do not need anything further from the Mudd Library to move forward with their use.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Access to audiocassette tapes in this collection follows the Mudd Manuscript Library policy for preservation and access to audiovisual materials.

Sixteen interview transcripts and one speech transcript are available to researchers as Microsoft Word documents.

**Acquisition and Appraisal**

Provenance and Acquisition

The collection was donated by Todd S. Purdum in two installments in 2014. The accession numbers associated with these donations are ML.2014.013 and ML.2014.015.

Appraisal

No materials have been separated from this collection.

**Processing and Other Information**
Preferred Citation
Todd S. Purdum Papers; 1950-2013, Public Policy Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information
This collection was processed by Rachel Van Unen in 2014. At this time, loose papers were placed into archival housing, digital content was accessioned, and all materials were described in a finding aid.

Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2014-07-09T11:28-0400

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

- Boehner, John, 1949-
- Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946-
- Clinton, Bill, 1946-
- Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
- Kerry, John, 1943-
- Koch, Ed, 1924-2013
- McLeod, Scott, 1914-1961
- Nader, Ralph
- Obama, Barack, 1961-
- Obama, Michelle, 1964-
- Powell, Colin L.
- Rove, Karl, 1950-
- United States. Dept. of State.
- Civil rights movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century.
- Mayors -- New York (State) -- New York.
- Motion pictures -- United States -- History -- 20th century.
- Presidents -- United States -- 20th century.
- Interviews.
- American politics and government
- Journalism
- Born digital.
Transcribed Interviews, 2007-2013

Size: 1017 KB (17 digital files)

Description: With the exception of the Norman Sherman and the Bush administration files, all of the transcription files contain typed transcripts of interviews that Purdum conducted with the file's subject, mainly for Vanity Fair. A number of files include a small amount of clippings, notes, and e-mail correspondence related to the subject of the file.

A significant portion of these transcripts relate to an oral history project on the George W. Bush administration. Others pertain to John F. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration, including the interviews with Sander Vanocur, Harry McPherson, Letitia Baldrige, and Harris Wofford. Rahm Emanuel and the speechwriter Jon Favreau's interviews offer insight into Barack Obama's administration.

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The "Hollywood Interviews" folders (identified as such by Purdum) include interviews with the children of widely known actors, producers, directors, and others involved with the entertainment industry during the industry's "Golden Age," including Marlo Thomas, Candice Bergen, Robert Wagner, Tina Sinatra, and many others.

This portion of the collection also includes the transcription of Glenn Beck's keynote speech before the Christians United for Israel's sixth annual Washington summit.

Katzenbach, Nick, 2012 April  
Hamilton, James, 2013 June 22  
Kennedy, Neal and Teasdale, Ken, 2013  
Mondale, Walter, 2012 June 22  
Inouye, Daniel, 2012 June 25  
Stewart, John, 2012 May 5  
Stevens, George, 2012 January 26  
Dingell, John, 2009, 2012  
Sherman, Norman, 2012  
Hollywood Interviews, 2008-2009  

Size: 2 folders
Cantor, Eric, 2008 December  
Adelman, Ken, 2008 October 27  
Wilkerson, Larry, 2008 October  
Boritt, Jake, 2008 November  
McClellan, Scott, 2008 November  
Bush Administration, 2008 November  
Bellinger, John, 2008 December 8  
Fleisher, Ari, 2008 December 10  
Graham, Bob, 2008 November 15  
Bartlett, Dan, 2008 November  
Dowd, Matthew, 2008 November  
Matalin, Mary, 2008 November  
Ginsburg, Ben, 2008 September 16  
Rodriguez, Noelia, 2008 October  
Paulson, Henry, 2007-2009  
Baldwin, Alec, 2012  
  Size: 2 folders  
Stern, Phil, 2010  
  Size: 82.5 KB  
Beck, Glenn, 2011  
  Size: 64.5 KB  
Glenn Beck Speech to Christians United for Israel (CUFI), 2011  
  Size: 60 KB  
Belafonte, Harry, 2010  
  Size: 24.7 KB  
Wofford, Harris, 2010  
  Size: 71 KB  
Favreau, Jon, 2010  
  Size: 78 KB  
Craig, Greg, 2012  
  Size: 61.5 KB  
Wyman, Rosalind, 2010
Minow, Newt, 2010
Size: 49.5 KB
Emanuel, Rahm, 2010
Size: 72 KB
Baldridge, Letitia, 2010
Size: 48 KB
Suzuki, Pat, 2010
Size: 49 KB
Boehner, John, 2010
Size: 77.5 KB
McPherson, Harry, 2010
Size: 43.5 KB
Donahue, Richard, 2010
Size: 22.7 KB
Vanocur, Sander, 2010
Size: 69.5 KB
Dana, Bill, 2010
Size: 61 KB

Description: These materials relate to Purdum's senior thesis written for Princeton University's History Department on the Eisenhower-era State Department's Loyalty-Security Program. The original typescript of the thesis is included, as are some of Purdum's research materials, almost all of which are photocopies of the detailed diaries of Robert Walter Scott McLeod, who headed the Department of State's Bureau for Security and Consular Affairs from 1953 to 1957. To a lesser extent, Purdum's thesis research materials include copies of official State Department documents collected by McLeod, including correspondence and reports regarding suspected homosexual individuals in the department.

Correspondence re: Thesis, 1982, 2012 Box: 1
Unbound Original Typescript of Thesis, 1982 April 14 Box: 1
Thesis Research, 1950-1957 Box: 1

Audiocassette Tapes, 1988-2008
Description: This portion of the collection contains 50 audiocassette tapes, mostly of interviews conducted by Purdum for The New York Times, though a few tapes are of speeches or other types of recordings. The audiocassette tapes focus on major political figures and those associated with them, including Bill Clinton, John Kerry, Edward Koch, John McCain, Ralph Nader, Barack Obama, Colin Powell, Karl Rove, and others.

Chatauqua, circa 1988
Description: Mayor Edward I. Koch of New York in a freewheeling humorous lecture.

Koch re: Ben Ward, circa 1988
Description: The mayor on some controversy involving his police commissioner.

Virginia Kelley, 1992
Description: Bill Clinton's mother

Gerry F. Defeat, 1992 November
Description: Geraldine A. Ferraro in interview on her Senate primary defeat

DND (Mayor David N. Dinkins), circa 1990

Al Gore, 1995 February
Size: 2 folders
Description: Vice President Al Gore, interviewed in his White House office, various topics for NYT profile

Rosemary Clooney, 1998
Description: On Ira Gershwin and life on Roxbury Drive in Beverly Hills in Hollywood's "Golden Age."

Michael Feinstein, 1998
Description: On Ira Gershwin and life on Roxbury Drive in Beverly Hills in Hollywood's "Golden Age."

Esther Williams, 1999 August 26
Description: At her home on Readcrest Drive in Beverly Hills

Mike Nichols, circa 1999
Description: Interviewed re: film of Primary Colors in Bel Air Hotel

Merv Griffin, 2001
Description: Interviewed in his office, Beverly Hilton Hotel

Colin Powell, circa 2002
Description: Receipt of Hans Morgenthau Award
Colin Powell, 2003 June 26  
Description: Interviewed on Iraq for A Time of Our Choosing, book by TSP  
Box: 2

Howard Dean, 2002 December  
Description: Interviewed Waldorf-Astoria, NYC  
Box: 2

Jack Valenti, circa 2004 April  
Description: In his office in Washington  
Box: 2

John Kerry, Portsmouth, NH, circa 2003 October  
Box: 2

John Kerry, circa 2004  
Box: 2

Wilkans, undated  
Box: 2

Teresa Heinz Kerry, circa 2004  
Box: 2

Ralph Nader, 2004 March  
Box: 2

Sally Field, circa 2004 June  
Description: In Washington, DC  
Box: 2

Laura Bush, 2005 January 14  
Description: Small group interview, Map Room of White House  
Box: 2

Jane Fonda, 2005 April 1  
Size: 2 folders  
Description: At home in Atlanta  
Box: 2

Jerry Lewis, 2005 October 24  
Description: At Waldorf-Astoria  
Box: 2

George Elsey, 2005 November  
Description: George Elsey ’39 at home in Washington  
Box: 2

Bill Clinton on Dick Morris, undated  
Box: 2

Bill and Hilary Clinton, 2006 May  
Box: 2

Lynne Cheney, 2006 February 28  
Description: Vice president's residence, Washington  
Box: 2

Dick Scarlett/Jackie Montgomery, 2006 February  
Description: Dick Scarlett, Jackson Wyo. Banker, and Jackie Montgomery, realtor (Cheney friends)  
Box: 2

John McCain, 2006 September 18  
Box: 2

John Sununu, 2006 November 10  
Description: Senator, R-NH  
Box: 2
Valerie Jarrett, 2007 February 15
Description: In her Chicago office
Box: 2

Lisa Madigan, 2007 February 15
Description: IL atty gen.
Box: 2

Emil Jones, 2007 February 16
Description: IL state senate
Box: 2

OB. Hawaii- Lum/Kunosuki, 2007 February
Description: Eric Lum and (?) Kunosuki, Obama Punahou School classmate/ teacher
Box: 2

Alice Dewey, 2007 February
Description: Ann Dunham thesis adviser, Honolulu
Box: 2

Maya and Konrad Ng, 2007 February
Description: Obama half sister, Honolulu
Box: 2

Barack Obama, 2007 March 21
Description: Senator Barack Obama, Har Senate Office Building
Box: 2

Karl Rove, 2006 August 23
Description: Toledo, OH
Box: 2

Ken Mehlman, 2006 August 29
Box: 2

Karl Rove, 2006 September 2
Description: Washington, DC residence, Weaver Terrace
Box: 2

[Illegible], undated
Box: 2

Karl Rove Friday Group, 2000
Description: "Friday Group" Los Angeles reporters' roundtable, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel
Box: 2

Bill Clinton N. Carolina, 2008
Description: Campaign appearance in Zebulon, NC
Box: 2

Bill Clinton, 2008 February 3
Description: Campaign appearance in MD
Box: 2

Obama, Michelle, 2011
Description: These materials pertain to Purdum's unpublished piece on Michelle Obama, including Purdum's working manuscript of the article; his interviews with Obama's associates, such as Sam Kass, Angela Acree, and Valerie Jarrett; and five notebooks, two specifically on the First Lady's travels in South Africa.
Interviews, 2011  
Manuscript, 2011  
Drafts, 2011  
Notebooks, 2011  

Box: 3