

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

HELLER, SAM R. Papers, ca. 1941-2002

Accessions A71-75, A81-21. A11-1

Processed by: TB, VJA

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The papers of Sam R. Heller were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by his wife, Dorothy Heller, in May 1971. Accretions to the collection were received from his business associate, Kenneth Olsen, in May 1981 and from the estate of his daughter, Barbara Jane Heller, in October 2010.

Linear feet: -1  
Approximate number of pages: 550

Barbara Heller, daughter of Sam R. Heller, signed an instrument of gift for the papers on February 23, 1992. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Sam R. Heller in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been donated to the public.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Sam R. Heller (1892-1969) was born in the Pearl community southeast of Abilene, Kansas. He attended high school at Chapman, Kansas, and served in the Navy in World War I. In 1927 he became an officer of the United Trust Company of Abilene, and was a business and civic leader in Abilene for the rest of his life. He was active in the Eisenhower Foundation which helped build the Eisenhower Museum, and served as its president from 1955 to 1969. Heller was also a friend of Dwight D. Eisenhower and helped make arrangements for Eisenhower's visits to Abilene.

The papers of Sam R. Heller pertain to his friendship with Dwight D. Eisenhower, his work with the Eisenhower Foundation, and to his and his family's interest in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. Documents relate to major events at the Eisenhower Museum, Presidential inaugurations, and Eisenhower College. Most of the correspondence with Eisenhower is personal and social in nature. Additional Heller correspondence regarding the Museum and Library was retained by the Eisenhower Foundation and is not included in this collection.

The material was received at the Eisenhower Library in three accessions. The first shipment was received from Dorothy Heller in May 1971 and consisted of electrostatic copies of Sam Heller's personal correspondence with Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, and a number of photographs relating to the dedication of the Eisenhower Museum. The original documents were returned to Mrs. Heller after being copied by the Eisenhower Library staff.

The second shipment was received from Kenneth Olsen, Mr. Heller's business associate at the United Trust Company, in May 1981. It contains information on the construction and dedication of the Eisenhower Museum, some miscellaneous social correspondence, and printed tourist literature which Mr. Heller collected. Of particular importance is an account of Mr. Heller's visit to the White House in December 1954.

The final shipment was received from the executors of Barbara Heller's estate in 2010. Almost all of the original Eisenhower correspondence returned to Dorothy Heller in 1971 was included in this shipment along with additional general correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings and memorabilia.

Documents in this collection are arranged alphabetically by subject. Within each folder the items are arranged chronologically. Eisenhower's name is abbreviated as DDE when mentioned in annotations regarding folder contents. Photographs were transferred to the audiovisual department and artifacts to the Museum staff.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<p>Correspondence, Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, 1951-1954 [encouragement for DDE to run for President, DDE's appreciation for the Museum dedication, invitation to stag dinner at the White House]</p> <p>Correspondence, Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, 1955-1957 [representing DDE at ceremonies for the reopening of Fort Larned]</p> <p>Correspondence, Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, 1958-1969 [telegram notification of DDE's death]</p> <p>Correspondence, General, 1952-1955 [script re: construction of Museum from broadcast of <i>Hallmark Hall of Fame</i>, Museum dedication, letter to daughter describing stag dinner, purchase of Thomas E. Stephens painting of DDE for the Museum]</p> <p>Correspondence, General, 1956-1976</p> <p>Eisenhower College</p> <p>Eisenhower Foundation and Eisenhower Museum, ca. 1945-1952 [early promotional material; April 2, 1952 groundbreaking ceremony; June 4, 1952 cornerstone laying]</p> <p>Eisenhower Foundation and Eisenhower Museum, ca. 1954-1956 [museum dedication, preliminary landscaping plan, unveiling of the museum murals]</p> <p>Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, 1969-ca. 1985 [25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, commemorative stamp ceremony, 1971 museum rededication, DDE statue]</p> <p>Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, 1990-2002 [Eisenhower Centennial Celebration, brochure, magazine article re: Dartmouth speech, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eisenhower Presidency]</p> <p>Inauguration [programs and other items from 1957 and 1981 inauguration events]</p> <p>Newspaper Clippings</p> <p>Memorabilia (1) [1941-1953; illustrated map: Historic Kansas; Kansas Travel Spotlight issue of <i>To The Stars</i>, May-June 1952; 1953 Kansas road map]</p> <p>Memorabilia (2) [1953; tourist information from Hershey, Pennsylvania, Cumberland Falls State Park, Kentucky, and Jacksonville, Illinois]</p>

Memorabilia (3) [1954-1990; Fort Riley, Kansas, groundbreaking at the Truman Presidential Library, 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 1969 inauguration, *Dwight D. Eisenhower: Abilene's Favorite Son* by Bill Jeffcoat]

Photographs and other Items Transferred

END OF CONTAINER LIST