

C Fitzpatrick, Daniel R. (1891-1969), Papers, 1913-1966  
3832 1 linear foot, 16 reels of 16mm film, 16 DVDs

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://www.shsresearch.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

## INTRODUCTION

The Fitzpatrick Papers contain the personal and business correspondence of D.R. Fitzpatrick, editorial cartoonist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The collection also contains magazines and newspaper articles concerning “Fitz’s” cartoons of local, regional, and national politics, including government propaganda for both World Wars. Sixteen one-half hour television documentaries on political affairs, entitled *Forty-five Years with Fitzpatrick* are included in the collection.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Fitzpatrick on 26 August 1963 (SHS Accession No. 229). Fitzpatrick made additions to the papers on 11 March 1964 and 13 January 1967.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in Superior, Wisconsin, in 1891, Daniel Robert Fitzpatrick studied anatomy and life drawing for two years at the Art Institute of Chicago before getting his first cartooning job at the *Chicago Daily-News* in 1911. Two years later he moved to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where he remained until his retirement in 1958. Universally acknowledged as the dean of editorial cartoonists, “Fitz” strongly supported the rights of the underdog while attacking the conservative “establishment.” With cartoons on equal rights for women and blacks, a clean environment, and concern for the militarization of America’s post-World War foreign policies, he gained the admiration and respect of scholars, journalists, and statesmen the world over.

Twice he won the Pulitzer Prize in cartooning--in 1926 for a cartoon lampooning America’s preoccupation with prohibitive laws, and again in 1954 for a cartoon forewarning America’s involvement in Indochina. Aware of his contribution to the recording of twentieth-century history, Fitzpatrick donated nearly 1500 original drawings to the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia.

He died on 18 May 1969.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Originally edited by Fitzpatrick himself, this collection contains only praise of the cartoonist and his work, with no detractions or criticism. Arranged by subject, the collection centers on correspondence between the years 1918 to 1948, consisting mainly of requests and “thank you” letters for original cartoons. Recipients of “Fitz” originals included Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, William Jennings Bryan, Carl Sandburg, and Senators Robert LaFollette Jr. and Stuart Symington.

Extensive correspondence dealing with both World Wars details propaganda and morale campaigns employed by U.S. government forces to muster support for Allied causes and instill national pride. Many of these letters concern special cartoon exhibits that traveled between military bases for instructional purposes.

Letters and invoices exist for several Fitzpatrick gallery and museum shows, including a 1937 Soviet show sponsored by the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, a 1939 University of Missouri-Stephens College show, and a summer 1947 exhibit at St. Louis' Carreel-Knight Gallery.

One folder contains notes and *Post-Dispatch* photographs of the "Rat Alley" court case, in which the *Post-Dispatch*, Fitzpatrick, and Ralph Coghlan, editor of the *Post-Dispatch* editorial page, were fined and sentenced to jail for contempt of court. Considered a major freedom-of-the-press case, the charges resulted from two editorials and one cartoon published by the *Post-Dispatch* criticizing the courts in a local racketeering trial in 1940.

A 1959 National Educational Television documentary series on Fitzpatrick and the world he drew consists of sixteen one-half hour shows. In-studio discussions with the cartoonist and various political experts, illustrated by newsreel footage and over 800 Fitzpatrick cartoons, provide insight into the men and events that shaped the twentieth century. Included are discussions of Hitler's rise to power, crime, political elections, the New Deal, the American labor movement, and America's ascendancy to world leadership.

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  - f. 6          1946, *Encyclopedia Britannica*
  - f. 7          1926, Pulitzer Prize
  - f. 8          1928, Harmon Award
  - f. 9          1938-1941, "Rat Alley"
  - f. 9a         1940, "Rat Alley", photographs of court trial
- f. 10-13    World War I, 1916-1919
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  - f. 18         1945 June 18-October
- f. 19-24    Book--*Cartoons by Fitzpatrick*
  - f. 19         1945 November-1948. Inquiries into possible book deals, reviews
  - f. 20-24      1947-1948. Thank you notes from book recipients
- f. 25-38    Requests for cartoons
  - f. 25-28      1914-1934
  - f. 29         1935 March. On the death of Oliver Wendell Holmes

- f. 30 1935 April-1936 December
- f. 31 1937-1940. Soviet art show
- f. 32-38 1938-1948
- f. 39-48 Personal correspondence
  - f. 39 1913-1918
  - f. 40 1922-1926
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  - f. 42 1937 February 11. Letters from fifth grade class at St. Louis Community School
  - f. 43-47 1937-1948
  - f. 48 1965-1966. Illustrated letters to and from a friend in Brazil
- f. 49-54 Miscellaneous
  - f. 49 1939-1946. Exhibitions at University of Missouri; Stephens College, Columbia; and Allied Artists Association galleries, New York
  - f. 50 1947. Exhibition at St. Louis' Carreel-Knight Gallery.
  - f. 51 Magazines, 1914-1946
  - f. 52 Newspaper clippings, 1916-1948
  - f. 53 1948. National Conference of Editorial Writers
  - f. 54 Fitzpatrick's own item-by-item inventory of this collection, including list of show titles and guests for *Forty-five Years with Fitzpatrick*
- Reels 1-16 *Forty-five Years With Fitzpatrick* [USE DVD copies]
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  - r. 2 Prohibition and the Gangster Heritage
    - Guest: Joseph D. Lohman, Treasurer, State of Illinois; noted criminologist; former Sheriff of Cook County
  - r. 3 Age of Hysteria
    - Guest: Thomas H. Eliot, political scientist; member, National committee of the American Civil Liberties Union
  - r. 4 The American Labor Movement
    - Guest: David L. Cole, labor-management arbitrator and mediator; former Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
  - r. 5 Boom and Bust
    - Guest: Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Professor of History, Harvard University; author, *Age of Roosevelt*
  - r. 6 The New Deal
    - Guest: Raymond P. Brandt, Chief, Washington Bureau, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*; Washington correspondent during the administrations of Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower
  - r. 7 The Mad Years of Hitler
    - Guest: Gustav Mesmer, German intellectual and aircraft designer; director of Sever Institute, Graduate School of Engineering, Washington University, St. Louis
  - r. 8 America Comes of Age, Part I (World War I through World War II)
    - Guest: Robert R. Bowie, Harvard Center for International Affairs; former Director of the Policy Planning Staff, U.S. State Department during Eisenhower administration, 1953-1957

- r. 9      America Comes of Age, Part II (The Cold War)  
          Guest: Robert R. Bowie
- r. 10     Rat Alley  
          Guest: Joseph D. Lohman
- r. 11     The American City  
          Guest: Raymond R. Tucker, Mayor, City of St. Louis
- r. 12     The Korean War  
          Guest: Brig. Gen. Thomas R. Phillips, U.S.A. (Ret.), Military Analyst, Washington bureau, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
- r. 13     Ethics In Government  
          Guest: Paul H. Douglas, U.S. Senator, Illinois
- r. 14     The Defense of the Underdog  
          Guest: Robert K. Carr, Professor of Political Science, Dartmouth; former executive secretary, Civil Rights commission
- r. 15     The Road to the Presidency  
          Guest: Thomas H. Eliot, Political Science Department, Washington University; former member of Congress
- r. 16     The Cartoonist at Work  
          Guest: Bill Mauldin, Editorial Cartoonist, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

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