

RICHARD M. BISSELL JR. PAPERS
MARSHALL PLAN SERIES
1947 – 1994; Boxes 1- 2

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Richard M. Bissell began his involvement with the European Recovery Program (ERP) (known colloquially as the “Marshall Plan”) in 1947. He served as Executive Secretary of the “President’s Committee on Foreign Aid,” otherwise known as the “Harriman Committee” after committee head and Secretary of Commerce Averell Harriman personally asked Bissell to join the committee in July 1947. The committee was tasked in part with analyzing the economic status of Europe and suggesting the course of interventionist action (if any) the United States should take. The suggestions contained in the resulting report, *European Recovery and American Aid*, led to the creation of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA). The ECA existed to administer the ERP. Bissell served in a number of positions within the ECA including consultant (April 1948), Assistant Deputy Administrator (May 1948), Assistant Administrator for Programs (June 1949), and Deputy Administrator (October 1950 through December 1951). Following the transfer of the Marshall Plan from the ECA to the Mutual Security Agency (MSA) in late 1951, Bissell continued as Deputy Director & Acting Director (December 30, 1951 through January 18, 1952) and Consultant to the Director (September 29, 1952 through August, 22 1955).

This series contains Marshall Plan materials possibly compiled by Bissell’s office staff. His staff apparently removed certain documents and items in the overall collection from their original file locations and co-located them together in a subject file that is now this series. Most of what was moved from identifiable locations seems to have been correspondence. Several instances of numbered correspondence (originally filed in what is now the Personal Chronological Subseries of the Correspondence Series) appear in this series. Newspaper clippings, invitations, and published materials are also included in this series. All document types are interfiled in reverse chronological order.

The majority of the papers in this series were created well after the end of the Marshall Plan and consists of Bissell’s reminiscences as well as the remembrances of others. Notable examples are filed in the General Correspondence folders and include Bissell’s comments on manuscripts and his replies to requests for information concerning his thoughts on the Marshall Plan as well as his role in it. Frances Pudlo, Bissell’s secretary from 1974 through 1994, includes notes on specific documents as well as “see” and “see also” references to information located elsewhere. Researchers are encouraged to examine folder titles across other series for these references as folder titles have not been changed.

Information contemporary to the creation and administration of the Marshall Plan and dating from 1947 to 1948 is also included in this series and is contained in the “European Recovery Plan (ERP) (also known as the “Marshall Plan”) President’s Committee on Foreign Aid” and “Letters of Commendation – Report of the President’s Committee on Foreign Aid” folders. The information contained in these folders makes this series a particularly strong resource for researchers documenting the beginnings of the Marshall Plan. Newspaper clippings, committee position (job) descriptions, meeting memoranda, position papers (policy), press releases, and

correspondence are included in the above named folders. Notable correspondents include John L. Collyer, Averell Harriman, and Paul G. Hoffman among others.

This series does not contain all the information concerning the Marshall Plan found in this collection. Further information concerning the Marshall Plan may be found primarily in the Correspondence Series and in the Historic Papers, Oversize Objects and Clippings Series.

CONTAINER LIST

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