



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Fred S. Rosenau Papers, 1944-1945

NMAH.AC.0478

Gopika Bhatia

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Fred S. Rosenau Papers
Date:	1944-1945
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0478
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Armed Forces
Creator:	Rosenau, Fred Simon (Creator)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	Some materials in Burmese and Thai.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Armed Forces History Division of the NMAH in January 1986, by Lucy W. Rosenau, daughter of Fred Rosenau. It was transferred to the Archives Center in January 1993.

Provenance

Collection transferred from the Division of Armed Forces History (now Division of Political and Military History) to the Archives Center, January 28, 1993.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

The Warshaw Collection of Business Americana (AC060) contains some three hundred posters from World War I and II.

Princeton University Poster Collection (AC0433) has over 10,600 World War I and II posters.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, July 19, 1993

Preferred Citation

Fred S. Rosenau Papers, 1944-1945, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Fred Simon Rosenau was a student at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, when he joined the Overseas Branch of the Office of War Information (O.W.I.) in May 1944. After completing training at an unidentified military base camp, Rosenau traveled to Calcutta, India, where he served as Assistant Representative under the directorship of Mr. Teg Grondahl. The Calcutta office was part of the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater and as such its psychological warfare activities were directed towards Burma and Thailand. Initially Rosenau was responsible for leaflet production, including supervising their printing and delivery to air crews, as well as serving as an assistant to Grondahl. By the spring of 1945, however, Rosenau's role had been expanded and he was given new charges in the intelligence field, becoming more directly involved in the development and editing of "strategic" literature.

While in Calcutta, Rosenau lived in a series of different boarding houses. When he was not working (by the summer of 1945, his work load had been substantially reduced), he devoted his spare time to writing letters home, sightseeing around the city and neighboring areas of Bengal, and attending local cultural events. However, the heat and lack of proper sanitary conditions continued to frustrate Rosenau as he attempted to adjust to an Asian lifestyle.

Once the Japanese had surrendered in September 1945 and World War II had officially ended, Rosenau was offered a position by the Director of Psychological Warfare in India--William Carter--to join a new O.W.I news operation in Bangkok, Thailand. Its intent, as explained to Rosenau, was to fulfill the "need for American news" in Asia. Rosenau declined the offer since he was dissatisfied with the proposed salary and wanted to complete his college education. He left for the United States on the S.S. Muir in late September. Later, he attended the University of Chicago and received his bachelor of arts degree in 1947. His subsequent career is unknown. Rosenau died in 1985.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains both the personal papers of Fred Rosenau and examples of air-dropped psychological warfare literature created by the O.W.I. Amongst his personal papers, which constitute the first series, there are information guidebooks and language aids for India and Burma, a large number of Indian newspaper articles, and photographs taken by Rosenau in Calcutta. However, letters to his family in New York City compose the bulk of the personal series. Along with detailing the experience of a young American living in India and his reactions to a distinctly different culture, the letters document the organization of his O.W.I. office and the duties of its workers. In one particular letter, dated January 7, 1945, (which was hand-delivered to his family and thus avoided censorship) Rosenau was able to write freely about his work, colleagues, and responsibilities in Calcutta. In addition, there are letters from the O.W.I. headquarters in New Delhi to Rosenau, including one in which the proposed post-war job was offered.

The second series contains general information about the O.W.I. and its aims. It mainly consists of documents and photographs relating to Rosenau's office. The series includes many examples of propaganda leaflets directed towards the Burmese and Thai peoples (with attached translations) which were produced by the Calcutta team. The representative works include news bulletins on the war's progress, warnings about future Allied bombings, and a variety of anti-Japanese and morale-boosting literature. It also includes examples of leaflets dropped over Japan, which were directed at soldiers rather than civilians in an attempt to undermine their faith in the military leaders.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series.

Series 1: Personal Experience of Fred S. Rosenau

Series 2: Psychological Warfare

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- "Yank"
- Burmese language -- 1940-1950
- Chinese language -- 1940-1950
- Japanese language -- 1940-1950
- Leaflets dropped from aircraft -- 1940-1950
- Propaganda, American -- 1940-1950
- Propaganda, Anti-Japanese -- 1940-1950
- Psychological warfare -- 1940-1950
- Thai language -- 1940-1950
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Burma
- World War, 1939-1945 -- China
- World War, 1939-1945 -- India
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Pamphlets
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Propaganda

Types of Materials:

- Booklets -- 1940-1950
- Clippings -- 1940-1950
- Correspondence -- 1940-1950
- Leaflets -- 1940-1950
- Maps -- 1940-1950
- Matchcovers -- 1940-1950
- Menus -- 1940-1950
- Newsletters -- 1940-1950
- Newspapers -- 1940-1950
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1940-1950

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Armed Forces
- United States. Office of War Information

Places:

- Burma -- 1940-1950
- Calcutta (India) -- 1940-1950
- China -- 1940-1950
- India -- 1940-1950
- India -- Description and Travel -- 1901-1946
- Thailand -- 1940-1950

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Experience of Fred S. Rosenau

Box 1, Folder 1	Language Guidebooks
Box 1, Folder 2	General Information/Guides to Burma
Box 1, Folder 3	Military Account/History of Burma, India, and China
Box 1, Folder 4	Military Magazines
Box 1, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings of Burma
Box 1, Folder 6	General Information/Guides to Calcutta
Box 1, Folder 7	Photos of Calcutta
Box 1, Folder 8	Newspaper Clippings of Calcutta
Box 1, Folder 9	Maps of Calcutta
Box 1, Folder 10	Entertainment in Calcutta
Box 1, Folder 11	Personal Photos (and negatives)
Box 1, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Artwork
Box 1, Folder 13	Greeting Cards
Box 1, Folder 14	Magazines
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence with family, August 1944-March 1945
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence with family, March 1945-June 1945
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence with family, June 1945- October 1945
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence with Jerry, April 01, 1945
Box 2, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings about Calcutta (included in correspondence)
Box 2, Folder 6	Newspaper Clippings about Japanese (included in correspondence)

Box 2, Folder 7

Shipboard Material, September 1945

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Series 2: Psychological Warfare

Box 2, Folder 8	O.W.I. General Information
Box 2, Folder 9	Rosenau's Calcutta office
Box 2, Folder 10	O.W.I. Correspondence with Rosenau
Box 2, Folder 11	Newspaper Clippings about the O.W.I. and Military action
Box 2, Folder 12	Photos of the O.W.I. Calcutta Office
Box 2, Folder 13	Photos of the O.W.I. Leaflet Drops
Box 2, Folder 14	General Psychological Warfare, Leaflet Production
Box 2, Folder 15	Propaganda Leaflets, Chinese
Box 2, Folder 16	Propaganda Leaflets, Malasian
Box 2, Folder 17	Propaganda Leaflets, Burmese
Box 2, Folder 18	Propaganda Leaflets, Burmese, News Bulletins/ War's Progress
Box 3, Folder 1	Propaganda Leaflets, Burmese, Kachin, Shan
Box 3, Folder 2	Propaganda Leaflets, Thai
Box 3, Folder 3	Propaganda Leaflets, Thai, News Bulletins/ War's Progress
Box 3, Folder 4	Propaganda Leaflets--Japanese
Box 3, Folder 5	Propaganda Leaflets--miscellaneous

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