

Fonds - Personal Papers of William Donaldson Clark

[Fonds] [Personal Papers of William Donaldson Clark](#)

[Series] [Memoranda, notes, and press articles](#)

Identity area

Reference code	WB IBRD/IDA CLARK
Title	Personal Papers of William Donaldson Clark
Dates	1966 - 1985 (predominant 1966 -1980) (Creation)
Level of description	Fonds
Extent and medium	0.47 linear feet of textual records

Context area

Name of creator [Clark, William](#)

Biographical history

William Donaldson Clark was born in Featherstone, England, in 1916. He obtained a first-class honors degree in modern history from Oxford University and was the Commonwealth fellow and lecturer in humanities at the University of Chicago from 1938 to 1940.

From 1941 to 1944, he was attached to the British Information Services, U.K. Ministry of Information, in Chicago. Beginning in 1945, he served for a year as the press attache for the British Embassy in Washington, DC and from 1946 to 1949, he was the London editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Clark became the diplomatic correspondent of The Observer in 1950. From 1955 to 1956, he was the public relations adviser to the Prime Minister of Great Britain, resigning in the wake of the Suez Canal crisis. In 1957 and 1958, he was the New Delhi correspondent for both The Observer and The Economist and between 1958 and 1960, he edited a column called The Week for The Observer. In 1960, he was appointed the first Director of the Overseas Development Institute in London.

On 1 April 1968, recommended by outgoing World Bank President George Woods and approved by incoming President Robert McNamara, Clark became Director of Information and Public Affairs for the World Bank Group (Bank Group). In 1973, he became the Director of External Relations and then, in 1974, the Vice President for External Relations. Clark worked closely with McNamara over the course of 12 years. Areas of his primary focus included the Pearson Commission, liaison with the United Nations, and the Bank Group's Economic Development Institute (EDI). In 1980, he resigned from the Bank Group and returned to London to become the President of the International Institute for Environment and Development. He died in 1985.

Repository [World Bank Group Archives](#)

Archival history William Clark's practice was to write notes and memoranda in spiral notebooks and give them to his secretary to type. When he left the Bank Group, he took the notebooks with him. While compiling his memoirs with the help of his friend and colleague Julian Grenfell, Clark gave some of his notebooks and files to Grenfell. When Clark died in 1985, Grenfell retained the materials. In 1989, the Bank Group contracted with the Brookings Institution to produce a history of the first fifty years of the World Bank Group. During that project, the history team obtained six of Clark's notebooks and five of Clark's files from Grenfell. The materials accumulated by the Brookings History Project were given to the Bank's Office of the Historian, who in turn gave them to the World Bank Group Archives.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer Transferred from the Office of the Historian.

Content and structure area

Scope and content This fonds created and/or maintained by William Clark during his employment at the World Bank Group, contains memoranda, notes, and press articles. The contents of this collection relate to Clark's and President Robert S. McNamara's appointment to the Bank Group, McNamara's President's Council, the Brandt Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and other topics prominent during this period. Records also include Clark's notes on his involvement with the Suez Crisis while serving as the public relations adviser to the Prime Minister of Great Britain Sir Anthony Eden.

Accruals Accruals are not expected.

Conditions of access and use area

Conditions governing access Records are subject to the World Bank Policy on Access to Information.

Conditions governing reproduction Copyright and literary property rights held by Nicolas, Lord Hemingford.

Language of material

- English

Allied materials area

Related units of description

- Records of the Office of the President - Robert S. McNamara ([WB IBRD/IDA EXC-10](#)).
- See Records of the Office of External Relations for records created during Clark's tenure as director and vice president of the unit responsible for the external relations function. Specifically, Speech reference collection ([WB IBRD/IDA EXT-01](#)), External communication and production ([WB IBRD/IDA EXT-11](#)), Documentation of institutional meetings, press conferences, and other events ([WB IBRD/IDA EXT-12](#)), and External Relations Vice Presidents and Directors records ([WB IBRD/IDA EXT-13](#)).
- Records of the Pearson Commission ([WB IBRD/IDA WB IBRD/IDA 116](#))
- See the following oral histories: [William Clark](#) and [Julian Grenfell](#).

Publication note William Clark, From Three Worlds. London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1986

Description control area

Rules and/or conventions used Internal World Bank Group Archives rules based on ISAD(G).

Dates of creation revision deletion 13 October 2022