

# Finding Aid for the Alvin W. Skardon Papers, 1922-1983



Collection Number: RG 62/02

## Archives & Special Collections

William F. Maag, Jr. Library  
Youngstown State University  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Alvin W. Skardon papers, 1922-1983

**Record No.:** RG 62/02

**Accession No.:** UA 2005.41

**Creator:** Alvin W. Skardon

**Extent:** .9 cubic feet (2 boxes)

**Abstract:** Alvin W. Skardon taught for one year at Baldwin-Wallace College in Cleveland, Ohio. He came to Youngstown State University in 1957. He was a professor of urban history and the author of two books including *Steel Valley University: The Origin of Youngstown State*.

## Administrative Information

**Provenance:** Alvin W. Skardon

**Preferred Citation:** Alvin W. Skardon Papers, 1922-1983, RG 62/2, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio

**Restrictions:** None

**Processing Information:** Processed by Sharon Monigold, January 2007

**Finding Aid:** Written by Sharon Monigold

**Revised Edition:** Written by Lisa Marie Garofali, January 2010

## Biographical Sketch

Professor Alvin W. Skardon was born in 1913. He served in the Army in World War II and was captured at the Battle of the Bulge, and was liberated by the Russians May 1945. Professor Skardon received his A. B degree with honors from the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina in 1931, his Master's Degree from the University of Chicago in 1948 and his Doctorate from the same university in 1960. He was on the staff of Dean of Students at the University of Chicago from 1949-1955 as Adviser to Foreign Students and Faculty. He taught one year at Baldwin-Wallace College in Cleveland, Ohio. He began teaching at Youngstown State in 1957. He served as a professor of urban history until his retirement. He published two books on urban history which include *Steel Valley University: The Origin of Youngstown State* and *Church Leader in the Cities : William Augustus Muhlenberg*. He has also written several articles and has delivered numerous lectures on that subject. He was a member of the Organization of American Historians, Urban History Group, American Society of Church History, Southern Historical Association, American Historical Association and was past President of the Guild of Scholars. He was a member of Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul.

## Scope and Content Note

This collection was created and compiled by Alvin W. Skardon. The materials are primarily related to the research of his book on Youngstown State. The materials were transferred to Maag Library by Alvin Skardon upon the completion of his book *Steel Valley University*. Debra Beronja gained custody over the documents in 1993 and transferred them to the archives in 2004.

The materials in this collection are best described as research materials on the history of Youngstown and Youngstown State University in particular. Included in this collection are various papers written by Skardon's students over the years dealing with the history of Youngstown.

## Colophon

The collection was processed in 2007 by Archival Intern Sharon Monigold, who was under the supervision of former head of YSU Archives and Special Collections Mr. S. Victor Fleischer. The revision of the Finding Aid and writing of this colophon was by Lisa Marie Garofali, a History graduate student with over two years experience working full time in the YSU Archives as of January 2010. Added to this Finding Aid during revision is the description of the series listed above the corresponding folders to that series, editing and additional information added in the biographical sketch, the author of the Finding Aid and author of the revision has been added in the Administrative section. Digitization of the collection occurred January 2010.

## Series Description

Series I:	Research
Series II:	Student Papers
Series III:	Correspondence
Series IV:	Photographs
Series V:	Galley Proof of <i>Steel Valley University</i>

## Related Materials

See: *Steel Valley University* by Alvin W. Skardon  
*Church leader in the Cities: William Augustus Muhlenberg* by Alvin W. Skardon

## Index Terms

Alvin W. Skardon  
Youngstown College  
Youngstown State University  
Rayen School  
Urban history  
Harvard University

## **BOX 1**

### **SERIES I: Research**

This series contains notes and research performed by Dr. Skardon. It appears that a majority of this information and research was used for his book *Steel Valley University*. The Preliminary Research from the *Vindicator* are copies of hand written notes on various individuals with dates from 1929-1976. Also included is his Doctoral thesis from the University of Chicago June 1970 entitled *The Pulled-Away College A Study of the Separation of Colleges from the Young Men's Christian Association*. He also contains primary source material on the history of William Rayen School of Engineering Property and the court interaction between representatives of The

Rayen School Board of Trustees, Youngstown University, and heirs of William Rayen. A listing of those who received the degree of Juris Doctor from Youngstown College/University from 1922-1960 is given. Dr. Skaron also lists the chronology of steps involved in the transition of Youngstown University to Youngstown State University and the merger of Youngstown University into Youngstown Educational Foundation. Included is the approval by the Y.M.C.A. Board of Trustees on various resolutions regarding the Youngstown College of Law. An Attendance Certificate for Youngstown College dated for the academic year 1927-1928 for student Irven Scott is included in this series. Information on the Steel Industry is given with the booklet entitled *Steel, the Nearsighted Bellwether* by David Cushman Coyle, copyrighted 1961 by the Public Affairs Institute is included. The last folder in the series includes Dust Jacket material for the work *Steel Valley University*, including the original prints. Also included with the dust jacket material is a newspaper clipping on Skardon and his work *Church leader in the Cities: William Augustus Muhlenberg*.

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Preliminary Research Vindicator, 1929-1976
2	University of Chicago Thesis, 1970
3	Rayen School, 1964
4	Youngstown State Juris Doctor list, 1922-1960
5	Chronology Youngstown State to Youngstown State University, 1966-1972
6	Resolution, n.d.
7	Enrollment Certificate Youngstown College, 1927-1928
8	Booklet-Steel, 1961
9	Dust Jacket Materials - <i>Steel Valley University</i> , n.d.

### **SERIES II: Youngstown State University Urban History**

Items in this series include materials related to Dr. Skardon's teaching of Urban History at Youngstown State University. A majority of items in this series are Urban History papers written by Skardon's students from the 1960s to 1970s. All the papers are written on various aspects of Youngstown including : Steel and Industry, *The Vindicator*, the founding of the city, immigration (Puerto Ricans), Railroads, Streetcars, Religion and Politics, Youngstown Law School, history of New Middletown, history of Youngstown College Music Department, history of Rayen School and Mill Creek Park. The other item in this series is a set of test instructions from 1983 for History 801 *Select Problems in American History*.

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
10	Urban history papers, 1960-1968
11	Urban history papers, 1972-1977
12	Urban history papers, n.d.
13	Test instructions

### **SERIES III: Correspondence**

This series includes a single correspondence to Ben Yozwiak from Hugh W. Manchester dated July 20, 1982 in which Hugh W. Manchester comments on Skardon's draft of *Steel Valley University – the Origins of Youngstown State*.

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
14	Memo to Ben Yozwiak

#### **SERIES IV: Photos**

This series included black and white snapshots at Harvard 1949-1950. Most of the photographs are stamped with dates, however no other information is given.

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
15	Photographs, 1949-1950, snapshots at Harvard

#### **BOX 2**

#### **SERIES V: Galley Proof**

This series is a Galley Proof of Skardon's book *Steel Valley University : The Origins of Youngstown State*. Included is the original layout of text and photographs.

#### **Contents**

Galley Proof of *Steel Valley University : The Origins of Youngstown State*