

McLean County Museum of History
Girard Steichen Collection

Processed Spring 2021

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1988-1990.
RESTRICTIONS:	Please maintain the physical order of the photos and documents as that may contribute to their interpretation.
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Transferred from Normal Public Library in January 2021. Unfortunately, the name of the original donor(s) was unknown.

Brief History

Born in Spring Valley, IL, in 1951, Girard C. Steichen earned a BA in philosophy at University of Wisconsin in 1974 and an MA in German and English at Illinois State University in 1976.

He worked as a reporter at newspapers in Streator, Belleville and St. Louis from 1980-1987. After a year or two as world news editor for the Associated Press, he became their correspondent in Bonn, Germany, covering Eastern and Western Germany plus the balance of Eastern Europe. During this time he reported on the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In 1990 and 1991, he served as Eastern European correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor in Berlin.

He also frequently contributed to Newsweek, Time, the London Times, etc.

A instrument rated pilot, he worked for the Flight Safety Foundation and then the National Transportation Safety Board from 1992 to 2011.

Steichen died of pneumonia in late 2011.

Source of info: Pantagraph obituary, 25 October 2011, page 10.

Scope

This collection includes telexes of Associated Press news articles which Steichen wrote in 1988-1989 from Germany and Eastern Europe. Many cover the rapidly shifting political and governmental changes and the exodus of East Germans to the West. Other telexes deal with the Gdansk strikes and the rise of Solidarity movement in August 1989 in Poland. A few cover governmental and political changes in in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

The collection also includes over 250 color photo prints related to the time of the Berlin Wall's fall in 1989-1990 as well as demonstrations in Czechoslovakia. None of the photos are labeled and the photographer is unknown. The Normal Public Library was not certain that these were donated along with the Steichen telexes.

Inventory

Telexes

These telexes are Steichen's news articles for Associated Press written in 1988-1989 from Germany and Eastern Europe. Dates are missing on some, but most show a date in a numeric day/month format without a year. The order in which they were originally placed in the binder has been preserved. In general, the newest articles appear at the beginning.

Folder 1: Telexes 1

Folder 2: Telexes 2

Folder 3: Telexes 3

Folder 4: Telexes 4

Berlin Wall Photographs

Over 250 color photos arrived in a binder labeled "The Berlin Wall" and are from 1989-90. A few of the photos are from (northern?) Czechoslovakia. None of the photos are labeled or dated and the identity of the photographer is not certain.

Folder 5: Photos