

**Collection #**  
**M 0512**  
**F 0638**

**ARCH N. BOBBITT  
PAPERS, 1923-1972**

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Processed by  
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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 manuscript boxes, 1 photograph folder, 1 microfilm reel
COLLECTION DATES:	1923-1972
PROVENANCE:	Lester A. Bingham, Charlestown, WV, 11 August 1983, June 1984
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1983.0808, 1984.0619
NOTES:	

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Arch Newton Bobbitt (1895-1978) was born in Eckerty, Crawford County, Indiana, the son of Irvin and Ida Mae (Newton) Bobbitt. He graduated from Birdseye High School and Central Normal College, and taught school for four years. Nominated for county clerk in 1918, he resigned to join the Navy, and saw service on USS El Oriente.

Bobbitt was Crawford County auditor from 1921 to 1925, and state gasoline tax collector from 1929. In the latter position he uncovered a system of gasoline bootlegging and saved the state considerable revenue. He served one term as state auditor (1929-1931).

In 1921 Bobbitt married Frances Bringle Adams. In 1927 he earned an LL. B. degree from Benjamin Harrison Law School. He practiced law from 1930 to 1941 in the firm of Hoffman, Bobbitt and Pike.

Bobbitt became Republican state chairman in 1937. Chairman of the Indiana delegation at the national convention in 1940, he managed Wendell Willkie's presidential campaign in Indiana. Voted out of his party position in 1941, he was city attorney for the city of Indianapolis in 1943-1944, and corporation counsel for the city from 1944 to 1948. During these same years (1942-1951) he was senior partner in the firm of Bobbitt, Martz and Beattey.

From 1951 to 1963 Bobbitt was a member of the Indiana Supreme Court, serving part of the time as Chief Justice. After being defeated for reelection by Walter Myers, Jr., in 1962, he was a partner in the firm of Ruckelshaus and Bobbitt. Bobbitt was a member of several professional and fraternal organizations and of the Meridian Street Methodist Church.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection, filling three manuscript boxes, contains correspondence, speeches and other papers, and clippings, from the years 1923-1972. It is arranged by category, and chronologically within category.

In Box 1, Folders 1-6 contain some of Bobbitt's correspondence, 1923-1952. In Folders 7-10 are papers from three conferences in which he was involved, and in Folders 11-12 papers concerning the courts in the 1950s and 1960s. Folders 13-23 contain the texts of speeches by Bobbitt from 1929 to 1958.

In Box 2, Folders 1-8 contain speeches by Bobbitt from 1959 to 1964, and Folders 9-11 speeches by others from the same period. In Folders 12-15 and 21-23 are papers relating to Bobbitt's political activities, especially the 1940 presidential campaign and his unsuccessful campaign for reelection in 1962. Folders 16-17 contain items about the War and Community Fund campaign of 1944-1945, and Folder 18 contains petitions about real estate development in Speedway in 1948.

Box 3 contains some later political material, e.g. the Republican state platform for 1964. In Folders 7-14 are clippings; these show an especial interest in Wendell Willkie and John F. Kennedy, and a preference for columns by conservative pundit Ralph de Toledano.

The collection concludes with a scrapbook of Bobbitt's unsuccessful campaign for reelection to the Supreme Court in 1962 (F 0638), and ten photographs and one negative (stored in Visual Collections), all but two being 1958 portraits of Bobbitt and the remaining two being of the dedication of a World War I memorial in Llano Grande, Texas.

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### BOX 1: Correspondence; Speeches, 1929-1958

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence-- 1923, 1925	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence -- 1926	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence -- 1927-1928	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence -- 1929-1936	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence -- 1940-1952	Box 1, Folder 5
Stationery	Box 1, Folder 6
Conference of Chief Justices, 1955	Box 1, Folder 7
Debate on Bricker Amendment, 1956 (A. N. Bobbitt, moderator)	Box 1, Folder 8
Moot Court competition, 1962	Box 1, Folder 9
Programs, 1960s	Box 1, Folder 10
Court matters, 1950s	Box 1, Folder 11
Court matters, 1960s	Box 1, Folder 12
Speech-- Lincoln Day 1929	Box 1, Folder 13
Speech -- campaign for state auditor, ca 1930	Box 1, Folder 14
Statements as state Republican chairman 1939	Box 1, Folder 15
Speech-- Hammond 1-1-1952	Box 1, Folder 16
Speech -- on George Washington 1-29-1952	Box 1, Folder 17
Speech -- admission to bar 1953, 1955, 1958	Box 1, Folder 18
Speech -- WFBM-TV 1-29-1954	Box 1, Folder 19
Speech -- Lincoln Day 2-16-1956	Box 1, Folder 20

Speech -- 1956	Box 1, Folder 21
Speech -- Commencement, Butler University 1957	Box 1, Folder 22
Speech -- 1957-1958	Box 1, Folder 23

**BOX 2: Speeches, 1959-1964; Papers**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Speech-- Crawford County Courthouse 10-31-1959	Box 2, Folder 1
Speech -- "Looking at errors" 8-25-1960	Box 2, Folder 2
Speech -- Memorial to Mexican Border veterans, 1961-1962	Box 2, Folder 3
Speech -- Mount Vernon 11-27-1961	Box 2, Folder 4
Speech -- American Legion Post 4-17-1962	Box 2, Folder 5
Speech -- 1962	Box 2, Folder 6
Speech -- "Politics and the Courts" 2-28-1963	Box 2, Folder 7
Speech -- 1964, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 8
Speeches by others-- 1944-1951	Box 2, Folder 9
Speeches by others -- 1952-1954	Box 2, Folder 10
Speeches by others -- 1962, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 11
Trends in Indiana 1932-1940 I	Box 2, Folder 12
Trends in Indiana 1932-1940 II	Box 2, Folder 13
Trends in Indiana 1932-1940 III	Box 2, Folder 14
Republican convention 1940--petitions against Willkie	Box 2, Folder 15
War and Community Fund 1944-1945 I	Box 2, Folder 16
War and Community Fund 1944-1945 II	Box 2, Folder 17

Petitions-- Speedway, Ind. 1948	Box 2, Folder 18
Crime reports 1962	Box 2, Folder 19
Re: income tax	Box 2, Folder 20
Indiana general election results 1962	Box 2, Folder 21
Re: Senator Capehart 1962	Box 2, Folder 22
1962 campaign	Box 2, Folder 23

### **BOX 3: Papers; Clippings**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Americans for Democratic Action 1964	Box 3, Folder 1
Republican state platform 1966	Box 3, Folder 2
Political and legal	Box 3, Folder 3
Re: John Marshall	Box 3, Folder 4
Quotations 1933, 1959-1964	Box 3, Folder 5
Miscellaneous	Box 3, Folder 6
Clippings-- Wendell Willkie	Box 3, Folder 7
Clippings -- Wendell Willkie	Box 3, Folder 8
Clippings -- court related	Box 3, Folder 9
Clippings -- Pres. Kennedy	Box 3, Folder 10
Clippings -- political 1950s	Box 3, Folder 11
Clippings -- political 1960s	Box 3, Folder 12
Clippings -- 1966-1972	Box 3, Folder 13
Clippings - n.d.	Box 3, Folder 14

Photographs and negative

Scrapbook 1962 campaign

Visual Collection:  
Photographs, Folder 1

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