

# National Press Club Archives

## Finding Aid for the Eric Friedheim Papers, 1910 - 2002

Finding aid prepared by  
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### Summary Information

**Creator:** Eric Friedheim  
**Title:** Eric Friedheim Papers  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1910 - 2002  
**Extent:** 4 linear feet  
**Language:** All materials are in English  
**Repository:** National Press Club Archives  
**Accession Number:** 2005.217  
**Collection Number:** MSS 08

### Access and Use

**Acquisition Information:** Collection acquired from Mrs. Edith Friedheim, widow of Eric Friedheim in October 2005.  
**Access Restrictions:** No restrictions  
**Copyright:** National Press Club

### History

Eric Friedheim was born to Arthur and Madeleine Friedheim in London, England April 21, 1910. Shortly after Eric's birth the Friedheims moved to the United States and settled in New York City. Eric's father Arthur was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1921. From 1928 to 1930, Eric Friedheim attended American University. During his time at American University Friedheim joined the National Press Club.

Friedheim became a Washington correspondent for the International News Service from 1931-1942. During World War II he was a combat correspondent in the Army Air Corps and served in the Air Force Reserve until he was 60. In 1945 he published *Fighters Up: The Official History of American Fighter Pilots in the*

*Battle of Europe*. He was awarded the Air Medal for his participation in combat missions while on active duty.

In 1950, Friedheim went to work as the editor for *Globe*, the first weekly U.S. travel trade paper. After only working at *Globe* for a year, Friedheim purchased *Travel Agent* magazine and became its editor and publisher. He sold *Travel Agent* magazine in 1978 but remained editor and chief until 1999. During his time at *Travel Agent*, Friedheim wrote two more books, *Travel Agents: From Caravans and Clippers to Concorde* and *Agents of Change, the Story of vacation.com*.

Eric Friedheim became one of the first Americans to travel into countries such as the Soviet Union and China. Friedheim traveled to the Soviet Union in 1958 with the first tour operator allowed into the country. In 1973, Friedheim became the first American journalist admitted to the People's Republic of China.

During his lifetime, Eric Friedheim was a key player in the travel industry. In 1980 Eric Friedheim was inducted into the Travel Hall of Fame and in 2001 was inducted into the National Tourism Foundation's Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the American Society of Travel Agents Travel Industry Hall of Fame and the Travel Industry Association of America's Hall of Leaders and was awarded the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International lifetime achievement award.

In 1992 Eric Friedheim donated one million dollars to the National Press Club Library which became known as the Eric Friedheim Library and News Information Center at the National Press Club.

## **Arrangement**

This collection did not have an original order. All paper items including books are located in document cases, magazines have been placed in drop front boxes, and photographs are housed in drop front boxes in the AV storage room. Objects are stored in the artifact drawers. All materials are accessible to patrons.

## **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of mostly magazines which contain articles published by Eric Friedheim or magazines which he was a founder or contributing author. Other items in the collection include naturalization papers, family passports, military papers, articles, programs, directories, photographs, books written by Eric Friedheim, and American University yearbooks.

\*Note: Please see National Press Club Oral Histories for May 14, 1999 video interview with Eric Friedheim.

## Box List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1	Historical Family Documents
1	Official Documents
1	Article Drafts
1	Travel Museum
1	Miscellaneous Correspondence
1	White House Correspondents Dinner 1994
1	Travel and Tourism Advisory Board 1989
1	Editorials [1]
1	Editorials [2]
1	American University
1	National Press Foundation
1	[Miscellaneous Articles]
1	Lovestick [Play by Eric Friedheim & Buckingham Blair]
1	Vis-A-Card File

### **Box 2**

2	<i>Air Force</i> February 1945
2	<i>Air Force</i> April 1945
2	<i>Air Force</i> May 1945 (Two Copies)
2	<i>Air Force</i> June 1945
2	<i>Air Force</i> August 1945
2	<i>Air Force</i> September 1945
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> November 12, 1973
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> March 1, 1979
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> October 21, 1982
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> November 5, 1984
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> September 22, 1986
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> March 19, 1987
2	<i>The Travel Agent</i> April 11, 1988
2	<i>Travel Agent</i> June 19, 1995
2	<i>Travel Agent</i> December 11, 2000
2	<i>Travel Agent</i> July 1, 2002
2	<i>Travel Agent</i> July 8, 2002
2	<i>Travel Agent</i> April 26, 2004
2	<i>Travel Agent International</i> September 1995
2	<i>Viewpoint</i> Vol. 2, Number 2

### **Box 3**

3	<i>Coronet</i> April 1945
3	<i>Reader's Digest</i> March 1965
3	<i>Travel Digest</i> January 1982
3	Westport Country Playhouse Program
3	<i>Newsweek</i> July 17, 1939

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
3	<i>The Auto Laundry</i> June 1953
3	<i>Hotel Gazette</i> March 31, 1956
3	<i>Interline Reporter</i> Preview Issue, 1957
3	Closing Papers Re: Sale of 40% of American Traveler to Capital Cities
3	Who's Who in Foreign Correspondence 1956 – 1957
3	Overseas Press Club of America – Who's Who 1958 – 1959

#### **Box 4**

4	Aucola 1929(American University Yearbook)
4	Aucola 1930(American University Yearbook)
4	Portfolio with photos from the 1992 dedication of the Eric A. Friedheim Journalism Center School of Communication at The American University
4	Eric Friedheim's China Diary, 1973

#### **Box 5**

5	Friedheim, Eric and Samuel W. Taylor. <i>Fighters Up: The Story of American Fighter Pilots in the Battle of Europe</i> . Philadelphia: Macrea-Smith-Company, 1945.
5	Friedheim, Eric. <i>Travel Agents: From Caravans and Clippers to the Concorde</i> . New York: Travel Agent Magazine Books Universal Media, 1992.
5	Friedheim, Eric and Edith Hall. <i>Agents of Change: Vacation.com</i> . New York: Tourism Press Associates, 2000.

**Box 6      Photographs**

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- 2005.217.01 Eric Friedheim [U.S. House of Representatives?] ca. 1930s
- 2005.217.02 Eric Friedheim, Washington, DC ca. 1930s
- 2005.217.03 Eric Friedheim, portrait ca. 1928
- 2005.217.04 Eric Friedheim with map ca. 1990s
- 2005.217.05 Eric Friedheim with map ca. 1990s
- 2005.217.06 Eric Friedheim judging an airline stewardess beauty competition for Varig Airlines ca. 1960s
- 2005.217.07 Eric Friedheim at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem [no date]
- 2005.217.08 Eric Friedheim presenting Steve Torres with the Interliner of the Year Award 1955-1956
- 2005.217.09 Eric Friedheim speaking at the National Association of Travel Organizations in New York ca. 1960s
- 2005.217.10 Eric Friedheim with an unidentified woman and man ca. early 1980s
- 2005.217.11 Eric Friedheim with map ca. early 1960s
- 2005.217.12 Eric Friedheim with Representative John J. O'Connor of New York ca. 1930s or 1940s
- 2005.217.13 Eric Friedheim preparing for a press vs. congress baseball game
- 2005.217.14 Eric Friedheim in a baseball uniform aboard the S.S. President Cleveland ca. 1930s or 1940s

**Objects and Artifacts**

Publisher's Letter plaque from *Travel Agent* June 5, 1995 article "A Remarkable Man" written by Richard P. Friese

Metal from the World Tourism Organization "In appreciation to Mr. Eric Friedheim Publisher The Travel Agent Magazine Washington DC May 1985"