

# National Press Club Archives

## Finding Aid for the Frederic J. Haskin Collection (1911-1969)

Finding aid prepared by  
Christina J. Zamon and Jocelyn Manby

### Summary Information

**Creator:** Frederic J. Haskin  
**Title:** Frederic J. Haskin Papers  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1911-1969  
**Extent:** ¼ linear foot  
**Language:** All materials are in English  
**Repository:** National Press Club Archives  
**Accession Number:** N/A  
**Collection Number:** MSS 10

### Access and Use

**Acquisition Information:** The Frederic J. Haskin Papers were donated to the archives by Mr. Haskin's daughter-in-law, Louise Haskin, in 1981.  
**Access Restrictions:** None  
**Copyright:** National Press Club

### History

Frederic J. Haskin was born 1873 in Shelbina, Missouri. Frederic was a poor country boy without much schooling, but he went on to be the man everyone went to with questions.

He began working at age ten with a weekly publication, called the *Torchlight*, as their housekeeper. With a lot of self-training and motivation, Haskin later became publisher of the *Torchlight*. He went

on to be a correspondent with several papers, including the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* and the *Kansas City Star*.

He enjoyed traveling around the world. Some of his destinations include South America, the Yukon, and Japan. Haskin's travels would introduce him to his future wife, Dolly Nagel. They had two sons, Nagel and Frederic, Jr.

Frederic Haskin was most known for his information column that appeared in *The Star* and more than 100 other newspapers. For only the cost of the stamps, readers could send Haskin a question, based on fact and record, and his team of researchers would provide a response. According to an article published five years after Frederic Haskin's death, his business received 25 million questions in 33 years of existence.

Frederic operated the information bureau for 28 years until his death in 1944. His son Nagel continued the information service until it closed for financial reasons in 1967.

In addition to his information service, Mr. Haskin wrote the following books, [The American Government](#), [The Immigrant: an Asset and a Liability](#), [The Panama Canal](#), [Uncle Sam at Work](#), and [The American Government Today](#).

Frederic J. Haskin was the National Press Club's third president in 1912 and one of its charter members. There is no material in this collection detailing his administration as president.

Frederic J. Haskin died on April 24, 1944 at his home. He had fought an illness for a few months following a business trip to the west coast.

## **Arrangement**

The materials have been arranged in alphabetical order by title or subject.

## Collection Scope and Content Note

The Frederic J. Haskin Collection consists of one box of pamphlets, books, newspaper clippings, and personal papers, which document a self-made man's journey from hardship to becoming a successful business owner.

The articles consist primarily of pamphlets and books written by either Frederic J. Haskin's or his information bureau. The subjects are diverse but are centered on matters of fact and record.

Haskin explains briefly the vision of the Haskin Bureau (also known as the Haskin Service). He wanted to provide people with dependable answers to readers every where without charge to them. His business was supported fully by daily newspapers until its closing 23 years after Frederic's death.

## Box List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1	Annual Events
1	Books
1	Clippings
1	Correspondence
1	Flags
1	Flyer
1	Presidents and their Wives
1	Stationary
1	Uncle Sam's Almanac Handy-Book
1	Uncle Sam's Almanac 1948
1	Uncle Sam's Almanac 1949
1	Uncle Sam's Almanac 1953
1	Uncle Sam's Almanac 1954
1	Uncle Sam's Almanac 1956
Book Shelf	<u>The American Government</u>
Book Shelf	<u>The American Government Today</u>
Book Shelf	<u>The Immigrant</u>
Book Shelf	<u>The Panama Canal</u>
Book Shelf	<u>Shrdlu</u>