

## Finding Aid to the Richard Critchfield Papers

### Critchfield, Richard, 1931-1994

Richard Critchfield Papers, 1954-1994

3.6 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 206

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[Biography](#)

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### OVERVIEW

**Links:** Finding aid to the [Critchfield Family Papers](#)  
Finding aid to an earlier accession (Mss 156) of [Richard Critchfield Papers](#)  
Finding aid to the [Richard Critchfield Photograph Collection](#)

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

**Provenance:** Donated by Richard Critchfield, Peggy Moffet Critchfield, and Jim and Lois Critchfield 1987, 1992, 1993 and 1994 (Acc 2256 and 2440).

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### BIOGRAPHY

Richard Patrick Critchfield was born on March 23, 1931 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Ralph James and Anne Louise (Williams) Critchfield. The family lived at Fessenden, North Dakota at the time and until 1932 when they moved to Fargo, North Dakota. Richard Critchfield received his B.A. from the

University of Washington, Seattle. In 1957 he received his M.S. in journalism from Columbia University and did additional graduate work at the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck as well as Northwestern University.

In his career as a journalist and author, Richard Critchfield reported from all over the world, concentrating mainly on the Third World. He wrote for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *American University Fieldstaff Report* and the *Washington Post*. In 1965 he won the Overseas Press Award for his reporting in Vietnam. His books include *Lore and Legend of Nepal* (1971); *The Long Charade: Political Subversion in the Vietnam War* (1968); *The Golden Bowl Be Broken: Peasant Life in Four Cultures* (1973 and 1988); *Shahhat: An Egyptian* (1978); *Villages* (1981); *Those Days: An American Album* (1986); *An American Looks at Britain* (1990); *Tress, Why Do You Wait?* (1991); and *Villagers* (1994). In 1981 Mr. Critchfield received the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. He continued to work as a journalist and author up to his death from a stroke on December 10, 1994.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The materials in this collection cover all aspects of Richard Critchfield's career as a journalist and author. More of Richard Critchfield's are in an earlier donation to the Institute (Manuscript 156). The State Historical Society of Wisconsin also has approximately twenty-four linear feet of Critchfield's papers (mainly his foreign correspondence). There are articles and reports he wrote while covering the Third World. Many of the articles deal with village life and the changes caused by technological advances and social upheaval. The majority of the articles cover the countries of Africa, India and China with the focus on farming practices, the Green Revolution, and the land distribution of these countries. Most of the collection relates directly to Critchfield's books. There are an extensive number of book reviews, not all favorable, of his numerous books. Much of Critchfield's research for *Those Days*; *Trees, Why Do You Wait?*; and *Villagers* make up the majority of this collection. Finally there are copies of some of his books including the rare *Lore and Legend of Nepal*. The collection is divided into eight series: Biographical, Articles, papers and essays, Book reviews, Miscellaneous book plans, *Those Days: An American Album*, *Villagers*, *Trees, Why Do You Wait?*, and Publications.

The [Biographical Series](#) contains Richard Critchfield's numerous obituaries and remembrances along with clippings from Who's Who and other biographical sources. His family put together a booklet titled *Remembrance: Richard Patrick Critchfield* which contains excerpts from his books, letters, obituaries, and other writings. It provides a good overview of Critchfield's career. The series also contains his passports, record of studies at the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck, and his press identifications for different countries around the world.

The [Articles, Papers and Essays Series](#) contains numerous articles, essays and papers Critchfield wrote while covering the Third World. The bulk of the articles cover Vietnam, India, Africa, and farming/land distribution practices. While working on a grant from the Alicia Patterson Fund, Critchfield wrote a series of essays on how people in the Third World dealt with social and technological changes. Critchfield even devoted some attention to the legend of the Yeti. In his articles Critchfield explored the Yeti's legend and

the numerous attempts to explain its existence. The majority of his articles reflect the changes the Third World faced and how the people coped with the changes. Critchfield often wrote that the current land distribution, much of the land remained in the hands of the elite, was a revolution waiting to happen. He did not confine himself to only the Third World and published articles on life in the Washington D.C. area, how people coped with job losses and the changes in society in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as well as life in Britain. Many of the articles reflect the subject matter of his books.

The [\*Those Days: A Family Album Series\*](#) contains many of the notes and materials Critchfield collected during the writing process. Most of the material is notes about Fessenden, North Dakota and notes on Iowa. Critchfield also has typed interview excerpts on which he made handwritten notes on where to insert them into various parts of *Those Days*. The life of the country doctors contains detailed accounts of how other country doctors conducted their practice and Critchfield draws parallels between their practices and that of his father. Editorial notes and necessary corrections are also included. A more complete compilation of material on *Those Days* can be found in the earlier donation to the Institute (Mss 156).

The [\*Book Review Series\*](#) contains reviews on *Those Days*; *The Golden Bowl Be Broken*; *Shahhat: An Egyptian*; *Villages*; *Trees, Why Do You Wait?*; *The Long Charade*; *An American Looks at Britain*; and *Villagers*. Many of Critchfield's books received good reviews, but the British took offense and gave harsh reviews of *An American Looks at Britain*. There are also letters from readers of Critchfield's books congratulating him and saying how much they enjoyed his book.

The [\*Villagers Series\*](#) contains drafts of the chapters, the article "Science and the Villager: The Last Sleeper Wakes," and the grant proposals for funding during the research and writing process. Not all the chapters are included and there are some partial drafts. A good portion of the manuscript is contained in the collection including various drafts of the introduction, conclusion, and the sequences on India and Poland.

The [\*Trees, Why Do You Wait?\*](#) Series contains the unedited manuscript from 1987 along with interview transcripts. The manuscript reflects the problems farmers, migrant workers, and law enforcement officials faced in the 1980s. Many of the farmers had a difficult time making ends meet during the dry years, migrant workers found work more and more difficult to find, and sheriffs had the unpleasant tasks of serving foreclosure and eviction notices. The interview transcripts make up the bulk of this series.

The [\*Publication Series\*](#) contains copies of Critchfield's books and other publications. The books are *The Indian Reporter's Guide*; *Lore and Legend of Nepal*; two editions of *The Golden Bowl Be Broken*; and *Shahhat: An Egyptian*. Also included is "A Reporting Handbook", written by Critchfield while teaching journalism in India, and *A Commonplace Book: Readings from the Works of MacArthur Fellows*.

## SEPARATION RECORD

- One videotape titled, *C-Span Christopher Hitchens and Richard Critchfield-Viewer Call-in Program June 18, 1990 (Video 1)*
- 224 photographs and two photo albums have been organized as Photo Collection 2055

**BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1/1	Finding aid
	<b>Biographical Series</b>
1/2	Biographical information
1/3	University of Vienna documents and University of Innsbruck report of study
1/4	Passports and identification
1/5	List of Richard Critchfield's major writings up to 1980
1/6	"A Remembrance: Richard Patrick Critchfield"
	<b>Articles, Papers and Essay Series</b>
1/7	Book reviews
1/8	Articles on Mexico
1/9	Articles on Bangladesh
1/10	Articles on Thailand
1/11	Articles on villages
1/12	Articles on Third World energy use
1/13	Articles on the Philippines
1/14	Articles on South Korea
1/15	Articles on Washington, D. C.
1/16	Articles on Taiwan
1/17	Articles on Mauritius
1/18	"How We Live," Series for the <i>Washington Post</i>
1/19	Articles on Africa
1/20	Articles on the Green Revolution in Africa
1/21	Articles on Indonesia
2/1	"Washington Sketches"
2/2	"Mauritius: A Sense of Apocalypse," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/3	"Riders Together," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/4	"India Revisited," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/5	"The Thorn," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/6	"Sketches of the Green Revolution: Part One," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/7	"Green Revolution, Part Two: The Seeds of Change," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/8	"Sketches of the Green Revolution, Part Three: Jats and Harijans," The Alicia Patterson Fund
2/9	"Sketches of the Green Revolution, Part Four: The Harvest," The Alicia Patterson Fund

- 2/10 "A Doctrine for Revolution," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/11 "A Few Reflections," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/12 "Hello, Mister! Where are you going?," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/13 "Hello, Mister! Where are you going? Part Two," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/14 "How Lonely Sits the City," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/15 "How Lonely Sits the City, Part Two," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/16 "It's a Revolution All Right," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/17 "The Marginal Men," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/18 "A New Country: Conclusion of a Two Year Study," The Alicia Patterson Fund
- 2/19 "The Best of Times, The Worst of Times," *The Economist*, 21-27 February 1992
- 2/20 "The Plight of the Cities: Djakarta-The First to Close," *Journal of World Business*, July-August 1971
- 2/21 "Thatcher's Battle of Britain," *World Monitor*, May 1990
- 2/22 "Grain Man," *World Monitor*, October 1990
- 2/23 "Sowing Success, Reaping Guns," *World Monitor*, July 1992
- 2/24 "Capitalism Down on the Farm," *World Monitor*, August 1992
- 2/25 "Is It Still Out There," *World Monitor*, January 1992
- 2/26 "Changing Rural Life," *Cairo Today*, October 1984
- 2/27 "Barek in Paris"
- 2/28 "Bringing the Third World Voice to the Fourth Estate," *Washington Journalism Review*, October 1985
- 2/29 "The Greening of Ghugrali," *Asia*, May-June 1980
- 2/30 Various cartoons and articles in the *Hislop Journalist*, February 1961
- 3/1 Various cartoons and articles in the *Hislop Journalist*, No. 2, 1962
- 3/2 "The Peasants and the West," *American University Fieldstaff Reports* No. 13 and 14, 1979
- 3/3 "The Changing Peasant, Parts One and Two," *American University Fieldstaff Reports*, 1979
- 3/4 "Science, Villagers and Us," *USFI Reports*, 1985
- 3/5 "Carnival and Guapira's Children: The Moral Challenge," *American University Fieldstaff Reports*
- 3/6 "Shahhat: An Egyptian," *The Scribe*, July 1, 1984
- 3/7 "Survivors at the Fringe," *The Bridge*, Fall 1976
- 3/8 Articles on Vietnam
- 3/9 Articles on Nepal
- 3/10 Articles on China
- 3/11 Articles on India
- 3/12 Articles on the Yeti
- 3/13 Articles on Britain
- 3/14 Articles on Poland
- 3/15 Articles on farming and land distribution
- 3/16 Speeches and papers

**Book Review Series**

- 3/17                   Reviews of the *Long Charade*
- 3/18                   Reviews and material on *Villages*
- 4/1                    Reviews of *An American Looks at Britain*
- 4/2                    Reviews and material on *Those Days*
- 4/3                    Letters from the readers of *Those Days*
- 4/4                    Reviews of the *Golden Bowl Be Broken*
- 4/5                    Reviews of *Shahhat: An Egyptian*
- 4/6                    Reviews and material on *Villagers*
- 4/7                    Miscellaneous letters about *Villagers*
- 4/8                    Reviews of *Trees, Why Do You Wait?*
- 4/9                    Invitations to various book parties

**Miscellaneous Book Plan Series**

- 4/10                   Partial outline for *The Long Charade*
- 4/11                   Outline and chapter notes for *Murder in Saigon: A Novel*

***Those Days: A Family Album Series***

- 4/12                   *Winter Days, Summer Nights*-outline for *Those Days*
- 4/13                   Point of view: Prairie (*Those Days*) and work outline
- 4/14                   Work plans and outlines for *Those Days*
- 4/15                   *Those Days* contents
- 4/16                   Notes and outlines of work to be done in Iowa
- 4/17                   Chronology for Anne's two Iowa narrations
- 4/18                   Anne Williams
- 4/19                   Notes on mother
- 4/20                   Iowa notes, pages 114-22 and 31-33
- 4/21                   Miscellaneous notes on Iowa
- 4/22                   Notes on Le Claire, Iowa and the Williams
- 5/1                    Fessenden notes (original typescript), pages 1-62
- 5/2                    Fessenden notes (original typescript), pages 63-143
- 5/3                    Fessenden notes (original typescript), pages 144-91 and additional notes
- 5/4                    *Spokesfield's History of Wells County* and inserts for Fessenden notes
- 5/5                    Hunter notes (original typescript) pages 1-50
- 5/6                    Notes not assimilated
- 5/7                    Notes on the 1918-19 Flu Epidemic
- 5/8                    Country doctor notes
- 5/9                    County fair notes
- 5/10                   Country life
- 5/11                   Miscellaneous research notes
- 5/12                   Letters of research material requests and volunteered information
- 5/13                   Songs and biblical excerpts for *Those Days*

5/14 Handwritten notes on the Critchfield family  
5/15 Family notes for *Those Days*  
5/16 Minstrel show material  
6/1 Jim-country doctor's life and 1923 blizzard  
6/2 Hadwen lines  
6/3 Edith Nielson Bjelde interview transcript  
6/4 Interview and note excerpts  
6/5 Excerpt on General Joseph Reed  
6/6 Excerpts from *Those Days*  
6/7 Editorial notes for *Those Days*  
6/8 Necessary corrections for *Those Days*

***Villagers Series***

6/9 "Science and the Villager: The Last Sleeper Wakes," *Foreign Affairs*, Fall 1982.  
6/10 Various grant proposals for *The Sleeper Wakes* (renamed *Villagers*)  
6/11 Introduction and concluding essay for *Villagers*  
6/12 Introductory essay, chapters 3-6, and preliminary draft of concluding essay  
6/13 Partial draft and notes for Korea sequence  
7/1 Notes on Popowlany village in Poland  
7/2 Second draft of Popowlany village and Tykorin, Poland  
7/3 Preliminary draft of India sequence  
7/4 Second draft of India sequence

***Trees, Why Do You Wait? Series***

7/5 Contents, chapters one and two  
7/6 Chapters three and four  
7/7 Chapter five  
8/1 Cedar Rapids overview  
8/2 Brief history of Viola, Iowa  
8/3 Stanley Goodwin-interview transcript  
8/4 Don Hadwinger-interview transcript  
8/5 Orville Bentley-interview transcript  
8/6 Paul and Marguerite Pratt-interview transcript  
8/7 John Morrin and Martin Maypenny-interview transcript  
8/8 Emil Holzkam-interview transcript  
8/9 Harold Rasmussen-interview transcript  
8/10 Joe Peltier-interview transcript  
8/11 Esperanza Tamayo-interview transcript  
8/12 Robert Bell-interview transcript  
8/13 Rev. Arlyn Anfinrud-interview transcript  
8/14 Richard Maine-interview transcript  
8/15 Norman Weekerly-interview transcript

8/16 Father John Herron- interview transcript  
8/17 Lisa and Lanny Faleide-interview transcript  
8/18 Norman Kessler-interview transcript  
8/19 Charles Elderidge-interview transcript  
8/20 Sheriff Curtis Pellet-interview transcript  
8/21 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Zumpf-interview transcript  
8/22 Emma and William Lorz-interview transcript  
8/23 Gerald Hagemeister-interview transcript  
8/24 John Bollingberg-interview transcript  
8/25 Ray Klindworth-interview transcript  
8/26 Levon Kirkeide-interview transcript  
8/27 Albert Seibold-interview transcript  
8/28 Mitch and Lloyd Clark-interview transcript  
8/29 Willis Paul-interview transcript  
8/30 Mary Eldredge-interview transcript  
8/31 Chuck Eldredge-interview transcript  
8/32 Bob Miller, John Peterson and Dan Miller interview transcript  
8/33 Martha Nash, Ruth Anderson and Ada Tredwell-interview transcript  
8/34 Rev. Michael Bahde-interview transcript  
8/35 Craig and Michelle Loertscher-interview transcript  
8/36 Joe Hayden-interview transcript  
8/37 Helen Collins and Jim May-interview transcript  
8/38 Robert and Maxine Williams-interview transcript  
8/39 Jim and Lois Wild-interview transcript  
8/40 Helen Bigger Carlson-interview transcript  
8/41 Dorothy Miller-interview transcript  
8/42 Beryl and Paul Secrist-interview transcript  
8/43 Donald and Hilda Armstrong-interview transcript  
8/44 Helen Collins-interview transcript  
8/45 Steve Preuss-interview transcript  
8/46 Ruth Collins-interview transcript  
8/47 Hadwen Collins-interview transcript  
8/48 "Slim"-interview transcript  
8/49 Johnny Collins-interview transcript  
8/50 Lowell Norland-interview transcript  
8/51 Paul and Chris Perez-interview transcript  
8/52 Don and Dixie Wolfe-interview transcript

*Publication Series*

9/1 *A Commonplace Book: Readings from the Works of MacArthur Fellows*  
9/2 *The Indian Reporter's Guide*  
9/3 *A Reporting Handbook*  
9/4 *Lore and Legend of Nepal*



9/5                    *The Golden Bowl Be Broken* (1<sup>st</sup> edition)  
9/6                    *The Golden Bowl Be Broken* (revised edition)  
9/7                    *Shahhat: An Egyptian*