

Guide to

**MS 287**

**Jonathan R. Cunningham  
papers**

Span dates: 1958 – 1978  
50 inches (linear)



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Donated by Anne Cunningham in 1981.

Citation: Jonathan R. Cunningham papers, MS 287, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

**C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
The University of Texas at El Paso Library**

## **Biography**

Jonathan R. Cunningham served as Director of Planning for the City of El Paso, Texas, from 1958 until his retirement in 1978. He received an undergraduate degree from New Mexico State University and a Master of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico. He later studied Public Administration and City Planning at the University of Chicago. He taught political science and coached track and field at Las Cruces High School. In 1940 he joined the United States Air Force and retired later from the Air Force Reserve as a colonel. Before coming to El Paso, he worked as Director of Planning for Spokane County in Washington from 1952-1956, and taught political science at Whitman College. While in the northwest he also worked as a consultant for local cities. As the Director of Planning for El Paso, Cunningham was instrumental in the Chamizal Settlement which set the boundary between the United States and Mexico. He also taught classes in municipal planning at The University of Texas at El Paso, the International City Managers Association, and the Texas Municipal League. He was married to Anne Cunningham.

## **Series Description or Arrangement**

The Jonathan R. Cunningham papers are arranged in six series: Series I. Personal papers, Series II. Professional papers, Series III. City of El Paso, Series IV. Juarez city planning, Series V. U.S.-Mexico border, and Series VI. Other cities.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Jonathan R. Cunningham papers, composed primarily of research and municipal planning documents for the city of El Paso, Texas, were collected by Cunningham during his years as Director of Planning for El Paso (1958 - 1978). The collection consists of correspondence, copies of speeches, and reports concerning areas such as city planning and zoning, the Chamizal, relocation of the Rio Grande, the El Paso International Airport, urban land use, community development, United States/Mexico border improvement and development, the environment, the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Park, Pueblo de la Ysleta del Sur, historic preservation, local history, population and housing trends, transportation and traffic projections, and international

relations. Some coverage of areas outside of El Paso such as Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; Spokane County, and Walla Walla, Washington is included.

## Provenance Statement

The papers were donated by Jonathan R. Cunningham's wife, Anne Cunningham, in 1981. The original accession number was 1020.

## Restrictions

None

## Note to Researchers

Related collections:

MS 204, El Paso Department of Planning collection  
MS 367, City of El Paso records

## Container List

<b>PERSONAL PAPERS</b>		
<b>BIOGRAPHICAL/PERSONAL</b>		
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1	2	Job Description-Director of Planning, City of El Paso
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<b>PROFESSIONAL</b>		
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1	12	The Laws of the Indies: America's First Planning Legislation
1	13	Municipal Annexation: One of the Tools for Use in Resolving the Metropolitan Problem
1	14	Organization and Concept for Urban Land Use Planning, New Mexico State University (1967)
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1	18	Political Behavior in New Mexico, Dec. 19, 1940
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1	21	Statement of Objectives to the Gulf-Southwest Chapter of the American Institute of Planners
1	22	Water Supply in El Paso
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1	24	Planning Administration 1959-60
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1	26	Municipal Planning Administration, 1971
1	27	The City of El Paso Executive Development Program 1972
1	28	American Institute of Planners: Short Course for Planning Commissioners 1973, 1976
2	29	Concepts and Problems in Municipal Government and Urban Development, 1974
2	30	Program for Sixth Annual Short Course for Planning Commissioners and Elected Officials, 1977 Part I
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2	32	Principles and Practice of Urban Planning, n.d.
2	33	Miscellaneous Class Outlines & Questions, n.d.
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2	36	Annual Report, El Paso City Plan Commission, Department of Planning and Research 1972
2	37	The 49th Annual Report 1974: El Paso City Plan Commission, Department of Planning and Research
2	38	50th Annual Report 1975 El Paso City Plan Commission, Department of Planning Research & Development
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3	49	Chronology of the Chamizal Border Highway Project
3	50	Community Economic Analysis: Chamizal Planning Program, El Paso, Texas
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