



Guide to

MS 342

## Nelson O. Spence Smuggling Collection

Span Dates, 1969-1996

3 feet, 11 inches (linear)

Processed October 2001

Photograph from the  
El Paso Herald Post Collection

Donated by Nelson O. Spence, 1993 & 1997

Citation: Nelson O. Spence Smuggling Collection, 1969-1996, MS 342, 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

## Biography

Nelson Spence was born on September 9, 1917, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. After 32 years of service, he retired from the U. S. Customs service in 1972. He began collecting newspaper clippings documenting smuggling and the drug trade in 1969, when he was given the task of shooting publicity photos for Operation Intercept. He compiled 40 notebooks full of clippings. This research led him to write *Tomorrow Cancelled*, a novel about drug smugglers in the El Paso/Juárez area. Mr. Spence also wrote a pamphlet on diabetes available in both English and Spanish. He died April 12, 2000.

## Series Description

There is one chronological sequence.

## Scope and Content Notes

Contains newspaper clippings on all aspects of drug smuggling. Articles are primarily from the *El Paso Times* and the *El Paso Herald-Post*, though there are a few items from other sources.

## Provenance Statement

Clippings glued to note paper were originally stored in ring binders. Special Collections staff removed the clippings from the binders and placed the pages in folders. Each folder is labeled with the number of the binder.

## Restrictions

No access restrictions

## Literary Rights Statement

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## Notes to Researcher

C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department has a copy of *Tomorrow Cancelled* in the rare book stacks, call number PS3569.P4456 T66 1986. The pamphlets on diabetes are in the Special Collections Vertical Files.

## Container List

Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
1	1	1	Research Material on Smuggling	1969-1973
1	2	2	News Items: Killings in Arizona	1974
1	3	2	Research Material on Smuggling	1974
1	4	3	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-May 1975
1	5	4	Research Material on Smuggling	Jun.-Dec. 1975
1	6	4	Research Material on Smuggling	Jun.-Dec. 1975
1	7	5	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1976
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
2	1	6	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1976
2	2	6	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1976
2	3	7	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1977
2	4	7	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1977
2	5	8	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1977
2	6	8	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1977
2	7	9	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun.15, 1978
2	8	9	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 15, 1978
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
3	1	10	Research Material on Smuggling	Jun.16-Dec. 1978
3	2	10	Research Material on Smuggling	Jun. 16-Dec. 1978
3	3	11	Research Material on Smuggling	1979
3	4	11	Research Material on Smuggling	1979

3	5	12	Research Material on Smuggling	1980
3	6	12	Research Material on Smuggling	1980
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
4	1	13	Research Material on Smuggling	1981
4	2	13	Research Material on Smuggling	1981
4	3	14	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1982
4	4	15	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1982
4	5	16	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1983
4	6	17	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1983
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
5	1	18	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-May 1984
5	2	19	Research Material on Smuggling	Jun.-Dec. 1984
5	3	19	Research Material on Smuggling	Jun.-Dec. 1984
5	4	20	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1985
5	5	20	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1985
5	6	21	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1985
5	7	22	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1986
5	8	22	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1986
5	9	23	Pamphlets on Drugs	Oct. 27, 1986
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
6	1	23	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Oct. 1986
6	2	23	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Oct. 1986
6	3	24	Research Material on Smuggling	Nov.-Dec. 1986

6	4	25	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1987
6	5	25	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1987
6	6	26	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1987
6	7	26	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Dec. 1987
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
7	1	27	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1997
7	2	27	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Jun. 1988
7	3	28	Research Material on Smuggling	Jul.-Nov. 1988
7	4	29	Research Material on Smuggling	Dec. 1988
7	5		Profiles of Successful Drug Prevention Programs	
7	6	30	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Apr. 1989
7	7	30	Research Material on Smuggling	Jan.-Apr. 1989
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
8	1	31	Research Material on Smuggling	May.-Aug. 1989
8	2	31	Research Material on Smuggling	May.-Aug. 1989
8	3	32	Research Material on Smuggling	Sep.-Oct 1989
8	4	33	Research Material on Smuggling	Nov.-Dec. 1989
8	5	34	Selected Articles on Drugs and Illegal Drug Smuggling	1990-1993
8	6	36	Selected Articles on Drugs and Illegal Drug Smuggling	Jan.-Aug. 1997
Box #	Folder #	Binder #	Description	Date
9	1	A	Smuggling – The Chagras El Paso, TX	
9	2	A	Smuggling – The Chagras El Paso, TX	

9	3	B	Smuggling – The Chagras El Paso, TX	
9	4	C	Smuggling – The Chagras El Paso, TX	
9	5	D	Smuggling – The Chagras El Paso, TX	
9	6	35	Selected Articles on Drugs and Illegal Drug Smuggling	1994-1996
<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Binder #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
10	1		Ed Foster	Jul. 1983-Dec. 1986
10	2	35	Selected Articles on Drugs and Illegal Drug Smuggling	1994-1996
<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Binder #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
11	1	37	Research Material on Smuggling	Sept.–Dec. 1997
11	2	37	Research Material on Smuggling	Nov. 1997 - Feb. 1998
11	3	37	Research Material on Smuggling	Feb. 1998 – May 1998
11	4	37	Research Material on Smuggling	Oct. 1997 – May 1998
11	5		Artifact – Smuggling Sign	