



**Coles, Robert R., 1907-1985.
Collection, 1932-1988.
Mario Monti, Collector.**

Special Collections Department/Long Island Studies Institute

Contact Information:
Special Collections Department
Axinn Library, Room 032
123 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549
Phone: (516) 463-6411, or 463-6404
Fax: (516) 463-6442
E-mail: LISI@hofstra.edu

<http://www.hofstra.edu/Libraries/SpecialCollections>

Compiled by:	[M. Foster, M. O'Connor]
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**Coles, Robert R., (1907-1985). Collection, 1932-1988. Mario Monti, Collector.
0.5 cubic ft.**

Robert R. (Robert Reed) Coles (1907-1985) resided in Glen Cove, N.Y., and was a descendant of its original settlers. He was the son of Franklin A. Coles (1861-1943) and Caroline Reed Coles (1874-1929), who was the first librarian in Glen Cove. Coles married Edna Kempself (1917-1992), and they had four children: Constance, Merribelle, Franklin, and Robert Jr.

Coles, a Quaker, was a member of the Matinecock Meeting, whose meetinghouse is located in Locust Valley, N.Y. He was also a captain in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked at the Museum of Natural History for twenty-five years, eventually becoming the chairman of the Hayden Planetarium. He was the president of the Interplanetary Development Corporation, an organization through which he sold plots of land on the moon for a dollar per acre. Coles was later employed by the Glen Cove public schools where he established and ran the district's planetarium and also taught in-service courses for teachers. He was secretary of the Nassau Archeological Society and also served as the Glen Cove city historian. He was a trustee of the Glen Cove Public Library, and the Robert R. Coles Long Island History Room at the library is named in his honor. Coles wrote and co-authored a number of books, including *The Long Island Indian* and *The Geology of Long Island*.

Coles, died of a heart attack at seventy-seven, while visiting relatives in Vermont.

The collection includes biographical information, mainly news clippings; correspondence, much of which is comprised of letters and cards from the Coles to their friends the Montis; publications and typescripts, the majority of which are short books, essays and magazine articles written by Coles about either astronomy or Long Island history; sketches; and sound recordings.

Noteworthy in the collection is Coles' short book *The Long Island Indian*, which is perhaps his best known work. Also of note is a typescript compilation of essays by Coles, *Some Notes on the History of Glen Cove*. Over the years, Coles gave numerous lectures on the topics discussed in these essays.

SUBJECTS

Names:

Coles, Robert Reed, 1907-1988.

Monti, Mario.

Subjects:

Astronomy.

History.

Planetariums.

Places:

Hayden Planetarium (N.Y.)

Long Island (N.Y.) -- History.

Glen Cove (N.Y.) -- History.

Form and Genre Terms:

Correspondence.

Publications.

Sound Recordings.

Sketches.

Typescripts.

Coles, Robert R., (1907-1985). Collection, 1932-1988. Mario Monti, collector.

Box and Folder Listing

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
1-1	Biographical information	1973-1988
1-2	Bibliography, "A Listing of Writings, Speeches & Recordings of Robert R. Coles," compiled by Mario Monti	1974
	Correspondence	
1-3	Christmas cards to the Montis from the Coles	1972-1977
1-4	Letters to the Montis from the Coles	1971-1988
1-5	Correspondence between Mario Monti and publishers concerning publishing a book of works written by Robert R. Coles	1974
	Glen Cove Public Schools	
	Education Courses	
1-6	In-Service Education Course: Exploring Long Island - Outline and Study Questions	1971
1-7	In-Service Education Course: Exploring Long Island - Outline and "Some" Notes	1973
1-8	Photographs (2) and accompanying negatives, Robert R. Coles giving a lecture in a classroom	1972
	School Planetarium	
1-9	Astronomy topics and projects Bulletins and almanacs	1972-1974
1-10	<i>Planetarium Bulletin</i>	1969-1970
1-11	<i>The Bulletin – Almanac</i>	1970-1971
1-12	<i>The Junior Astronomers' Almanac</i>	Jan.-Autumn 1970
	Essays	
1-13	"Eclipse of the Sun. Saturday, March 7, 1970."	1970
1-14	"The Scope of Astronomy," typescript (includes inscription from Coles to Monti that reads: "To Mario from the Shaggy Dog. Director of Glen Cove's Universe.")	1972
1-15	In-service course info.	1970, 1972
1-16	Star Safaris information and info re: class visits	1970, 1972
1-17	Interplanetary Development Corporation, quitclaim deeds (4) to one acre of land on the moon	1955
1-18	Jokes and sketches	1973-1974
1-19	Lectures, topic lists and general information	1972-1976, c.1970s
1-20	Notes on Long Island history	1971-1973
1-21	Photographs/color slides – Robert R. Coles at the Woolsey Cemetery in Glen Cove	c.1970s

	Publications and typescripts	
1-22	“Hippocampus the Elusive.” Reprinted from <i>Natural History, The Journal of The American Museum of Natural History</i> , Vol. XXXII No.2	1932
1-23	“The Story of Bookplate.” <i>The Nassau County Historical Journal</i> ; Winter, 1944, Vol. VII, No. 2	1944
1-24	<i>The Trees of Long Island</i> . By George H. Peters. Long Island Inside cover includes inscription and sketch by Coles: “To Mario from The Shaggy Dog.” Horticultural Society. Publication No. 1, Summer 1952	1952
1-25	<i>The Long Island Indian</i>	1954
1-26	<i>Raynham Hall</i> . By Dorothy Horton McGee. Town of Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay, N.Y.	
1-27	Bulletin of the Nassau Archeological Society, Volume 1, Number 1, Summer 1955	1955
	<i>Some Notes on the History of Glen Cove –</i>	1970
1-28	“Projects and Questions Concerning Glen Cove”	
1-29	“Source Material on the History of Glen Cove”	
1-30	“50 Years Ago”	
1-31	“Why They Settled at Musquito Cove”	
1-32	“The Landing”	
1-33	“Glen Cove Place-Names”	
1-34	“The Glen Street-School Street Area”	
1-35	“Some Interesting Glen Covers”	
1-36	“How Glen Cove Became a City”	
1-37	“Eighty Years of History”	
1-38	“Glen Cove and the Wars”	
1-39	“Transportation”	
1-40	“Religious Groups”	
1-41	“Captain John Underhill: Man of Action”	1972
1-42	Scientific chart, “A Guide to the Stars,” by Robert Coles. Chairman, the Hayden Planetarium. Amoco promotional item. (2 copies)	1951
	Sound Recordings	
	“The Geography of Long Island” by Robert Coles Separated to Recordings Collection Box 1, RA002	c.1960s
	“The World of Space” by Robert Coles Separated to Recordings Collection Box 2, RA003	c.1960s
1-43	<i>The Swing Era</i> , Time Life Records 33 1/3 demonstration record (2 copies). Given to Mario Monti by Robert R. Coles. Includes promotional letter and a small sketch by Coles.	c.1971