

Where to Find Biographical Information

by Christine Bruzzese

Biographical Clippings Binders.

Arranged alphabetically, this is an extensive collection of articles, press releases and other writings on the lives and careers of New York City officials, state and federal officials affiliated with the city and other well-known New York figures. Material on Mayors, Governors of New York State and major figures such as Robert Moses is maintained in separate sets of binders.

Who's Who. Such sources as *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in New York (City and State)*, *Who's Who in the East* and *Who Was Who* provide biographical background on a wide range of figures including political officials, physicians, educators, journalists and more. Listings usually include some personal information, professional accomplishments, organizational memberships and other relevant details. Coverage varies by title.

New York Times sources. *New York Times Obituaries Index: 1858-1968* provides alphabetical listings by last name to obituaries published in the newspaper. Also given are date of publication and page number. *Personal Name Index to the New York Times Index: 1975 to 1999* is an eight-volume compilation. It lists, alphabetically, names of people who were the subject of articles in the newspaper. Instead of referring the reader directly to the newspaper issue(s), it gives reference to the year and page of the *New York Times Index* where the subject is listed.

Notable New Yorkers. Compiled by Moses King in 1899, this volume presents photographs of prominent New York City businessmen and political officials. All photos are captioned with brief information on the person. This work covers the years 1896 to 1899 and includes two indexes.

Other Sources of Biographical

Information. *New York Red Book*, held from 1892 to present, provides biographical background on key New York State officials. *Current Biography Yearbook*, held from 1972 to 2002, offers biographical essays on politicians, authors, scientists, educators and other prominent figures from the United States and other countries. *Dictionary of American Biography* consists of eleven main volumes and eight supplements with coverage up until 1990. This comprehensive work provides detailed biographical information on Americans in various fields. *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress: 1774 to 1989* presents short biographies of Senators and Representatives along with listings of the members of each Congress from the first to the one hundredth.

Biographies of Individuals. The City Hall Library offers an extensive collection of biographical books on the famous and obscure. Books on such individuals as Fiorello LaGuardia, Robert Moses, Emma Lazarus, Margaret Sanger, Horace Greeley and Geraldine Ferraro and others too numerous to mention may be located here.