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James V. Mangano Collection  
Accession No. 90-009



<b>Dates</b>	Inclusive: 1897-1977 Bulk: 1958-1973
<b>Extent</b>	3 cubic feet/ four boxes plus one flat portfolio
<b>Creator</b>	James V. Mangano 1905-1988
<b>Access/Use</b>	This collection is open for research and can be accessed at the Brooklyn College Archives & Special Collections, 2900 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn New York, 11210
<b>Languages</b>	English, Italian
<b>Finding Aid</b>	In house
<b>Acquisition/Appraisal</b>	This collection was acquired from the St. Francis College Jamie Kelly Local History Institute in 1989
<b>Description Control</b>	Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: Content Standard.  Processed by Emma Karin Eriksson, June 2013
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Item, folder title, box number, James V. Mangano Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library

## Biographical Note

Born on November 21, 1905 to Gaetano and Julia Mangano, James V. Mangano was brought into the world of Democratic politics from a young age. His father, Gaetano, came to Brooklyn from Italy and ran a Funeral Home, G. Mangano and Son, on Union Street. While raising his son Gaetano was heavily involved in the Kings County Democratic organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly district. James saw firsthand how being involved in the processes of the government could bring about change and success. James attended the New York Prep and St. John's College where he became a member of the Phi Sigma Chi fraternity. James married Rose Mancaruso, their marriage announcement in the October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1928 Sunday edition of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, they later had a son, Guy Mangano, who followed in his father's political footsteps and went on to win election to the State Supreme Court with the help of his father. James V. Mangano passed away on October 28, 1988 in Long Island College Hospital after a battle with cancer, he was 83 years old.

James's first step onto the path of politics started in 1935 when he became a member of the New York State Assembly representing the King's County 8<sup>th</sup> district. There he stayed for two years where he learned the ins and outs of the political process and the difficulties of democracy. In 1938, at the age of 34, Mangano earned election as the Kings County Sheriff. A position he held until 1942 when the position of County Sheriffs were dissolved to be replaced by a single city wide Sheriff. A 1940 article in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle cites a motion Mangano put up to have unemployed World War veterans take positions as special payroll guards for Brooklyn Industries, "to free city policemen who are now daily withdrawn from regular police duties to do that work." The sheriff cited the "rapid and continuing growth of the borough" as a reason for returning police to regular duties". Not only was Mangano for the rehabilitation of veterans he was very aware of the borough's changing demographic and the increase in teenager on teenager crime. In 1940 the Daily Eagle ran an article about a talk Mangano gave addressing the Fathers Guild of Brooklyn Preparatory, "Mr. Mangano pointed out that by removing unemployed youths from the streets and training them in skilled trades, the Government would cut down crime among younger persons, who are the greatest offenders. We could save the taxpayers millions of dollars from the crime bill if we did something for unemployed youth between the ages of 16 and 25. Instead of spending millions on criminals, why not divert this money into a training program that will build up our first line of defense—a national army of-skilled workers?"

In 1940 while working as the Sheriff Mangano was fortunate enough to be selected as a delegate from New York to the Democratic National Convention, an honor he would repeat in 1956, 1960 and 1964. After his position as County Sheriff dissolved Mangano decided to continue on his political path serving as administrative assistants to various State Supreme Court Justices (1942-1954). In 1954 he became the Administrative Director of the Kings County State Supreme Court allowing him to further cement the friendships and breathe influence over those higher ranking officials who needed a person of the people, something Mangano most certainly was. Despite reapportionment and changing neighborhoods, Mangano kept himself in power into the early seventies, dispensing political patronage, hand picking public officials, and solving neighborhood needs through his ties in the government. A die-hard of the democratic process Mangano was quoted in a 1973 issue of New York News Magazine: "I'd like to continue serving the people. When the people decide they don't want me, it's ok, because the people have the last word.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The James V. Mangano Collection holds five boxes of records and ephemera of Mr. Mangano's career as a Democratic District leader, and Administrative Supervisor at the Kings County State Supreme building. The collection contains correspondence, both professional and personal, memorandums and reports, along with press reports and memorabilia. It is organized into three series. The first series is Correspondence which is broken down into two sub-series, General and Monroe Dinner. The second series is the New York state Supreme Court Administration. The third series is called Special Topics. Brooklyn College Archives and Special Collections also holds two collections which are related to Mr. Mangano. These are the Brooklyn Democratic Party Papers and the Papers of John Rooney.

## **Series Statements**

Series 1. Correspondence

Sub-series 1. General

Sub-series 2. Monroe Dinner

Series 2. New York State Supreme Court Administration

Series 3. Special Topics

## **Series 1: Correspondence c. 1959-1972.**

**Folders arranged by topic or incoming addressee, within folders arranged by date**

Box #1

### **Sub-series I. General**

Highlights the political influence and wielding of power James V. Mangano enjoyed as a high ranking Democratic District leader. There is correspondence from Congressmen Hugh Carey; on immigration issues and the South Brooklyn Development project. Mangano writes about the fighting that has been going on between teenage street gangs in Gowanus, especially between Blacks and Italians over "territory". Mangano writes about meetings between gang members in an attempt to diffuse the tension. He goes on to talk about a weekend trip taken by the gang members and supervisors. He discusses the objectives and successes of the trip and how important the South Brooklyn Youth Leadership Project is.

Included is also correspondence between Bertram Podell and John Rooney on matters involving constituent employment inquiries. As district leader, Mangano possessed power to dispense government jobs. As the name suggests Managno was born of Italian blood, his father an immigrant his mother's lineage is unknown. During his years in the political scene many more Italian-American's were becoming involved in politics and being elected to office. Italians value heritage and family most something which is seen in a letter written by Mary Ferrolli to Mr. Mangano, the letter is in Italian but an English translation is provided.

Some of the letters of condolence regarding Gaetano Mangano, James' father, are written in Italian some with translations into English. Several letters of condolence are from various Churches praising both father and son for their work helping those in their district and being upstanding Catholics within the democratic system. Many people made donations in Gaetano's name to organizations and churches which had special programs for youths, especially homeless youths as Gaetano lost his father at a young age and had to mostly bring himself up. These letters and obituaries also cite that Gaetano

Mangano was the creator of the Mazzini Democratic Club; while this fact is unclear it is true he was a member as was James who used the club as an office when running for various offices himself. Throughout correspondence James is referred to as Jim in unofficial or interdepartmental memos which show the friendship and relaxed attitude he had with his coworkers.

## **Sub-series II. Monroe Dinner**

Guest lists and invitation lists are found here along with correspondence related to the dinners. The Monroe Dinners were leisurely occasions for those of public office and those of private business to meet and socialize. The invitations and reply letters are friendly and informal; a rough draft announcement for the dinner of June 24<sup>th</sup> 1958 is full of jokes and light hearted ribbing.

## **Series 2: New York State Supreme Court Administration c. 1916/1917, 1954-1972.**

### **Folders arranged by topic, within folders by date**

Box #2

Records relating mainly to Mr. Mangano's years as a general clerk and Administrative Director of the Kings County Supreme Court are found here. Included are correspondence between Mr. Mangano and various members of the bench, meeting notes and reports [1956-1973], minutes recording installation of new justices, proceedings from various court cases, including documents from the court case Mr. Mangano found himself a part of when he was accused of living in the 12<sup>th</sup> District, not the 8<sup>th</sup>, while acting as the 8<sup>th</sup> District's representative, and letters of congratulations on a paper published by Mr. Mangano regarding the European Court system. The travel log he used for his trip can also be found here.

## **Series 3: Special Topics c. 1957-1974.**

### **Folders arranged by topic, within folders by date**

Boxes # 3-5

These boxes contain a variety of miscellaneous material mainly pertaining to Mangano's years as a State Supreme Court Administrator. Also included is a speech by Clarence Darrow, a Roster and Payroll for Kings County Supreme Court from 1897-1907 both from before Mangano was even a thought in this world, Law Day observation ceremony booklets, and materials related to the preservation of the old building, the dedication of the new building and the corner stone laying dedication of the Kings County State Supreme Court Building. In box number five is a 1977 issue of New York Magazine with a cover story on Mr. Mangano's style of politics.

## **Box 1**

### **Series 1. Correspondence**

#### **Sub-series: General**

Folder No:

1	Employment Referrals	1960-1969
2	European Courts Trip- Acknowledgements	1959
3	Condolence Letters: Father's Death	1961
4	Medical Diagnostics	1966, 1972
5	Organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Congress of Italian Americans,</li><li>• Puerto Rican Village INC,</li><li>• St. Mary Star of the Sea R.C. Church</li></ul>	
6	Anthony Caraciollo	1971-1972
7	Hugh Carey	1963, 1965-1966
8	Mary Ferraoli	1971
9	State Senator William J. Giordanna	1971
10	Rep. Bertram Podell	1972
11	Robert Quinn	1971
12	Rep. John J. Rooney	1971-1972
13	Miscellaneous	1962-1969

**Sub-series: Monroe Dinner**

Folder No.

14	Guest/Invitation lists	1955-1964
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copies of Invitations</li></ul>	
15	Invitation Responses	1959
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private businesses</li></ul>	
16	Invitation Responses	1959
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Officials</li></ul>	
17	Invitation Responses	June 1960
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private businesses</li></ul>	
18	Invitation Responses	June 1960
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Officials</li></ul>	
19	Invitation Responses	August 1960
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private businesses</li></ul>	
20	Invitation Responses	August 1960
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Officials</li></ul>	
22	Invitation Responses	1956, 1957, 1963

## Box 2

### Series 2. New York State Supreme Court Administration

1	Justice Department	1962
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G. Beldock</li></ul>	
2	Justice Department	no dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• L. Friedman</li></ul>	
3	Justice Department	1972
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John A. Montelone</li></ul>	
4	Court Administration	1954- 1962
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correspondence</li></ul>	
5	Court Administration	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports</li></ul>	1957/1962
6	Court Administration	1916/1917
7	Court Trials	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• James V. Mangano Vs. New York State</li></ul>	
8	Court Trials	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Various</li></ul>	1956-1972
9	General Meetings and Reports	1956-1973
10	Official Court Reports	1954-1958

### **Box 3**

#### **Series 3. Special Topics**

Folder No.

1	Corner Stone Laying	1957
2	New Supreme Court Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedication and Correspondence</li></ul>	1959
3	New Supreme Court Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memorabilia</li></ul>	
4	Supreme Court Building Preservation	1960-1961
5	Law Day observation	1959-1965, 1973-1974

### **Box 4**

#### **Series 3. Special Topics**

Folder No.

1	European Courts Visit Travel Log	
2	European Courts Visit and Related Correspondence	1959
3	Court Booklets <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RULES Supreme Court Kings County 1940</li><li>• A New Adventure and Concept in Civic Education- Democracy in Action 1961</li><li>• Biography of an Idea and Panoramic View 1963</li><li>• The Court Tour and Seminar Program 1964</li></ul>	
4	Clarence Darrow Speech- "Crime and Criminals"	1902
5	Roster and Payroll Log of Supreme Court	1897-1907
6	Mangano Night- Seating Arrangement	1972
7	Mangano in the News	1958-1963

### **Box 5 (Portfolio)**

#### **Series 3. Special Topics**

Portfolio	<u>New York News Magazine</u>	1977
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