

# **Ross A. Collins Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2011**

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011093>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78016428>

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Revised by Joseph K. Brooks

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Ross A. Collins Papers

**Span Dates:** 1906-1967

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1920-1963)

**ID No.:** MSS16428

**Creator:** Collins, Ross A. (Ross Alexander), 1880-1968

**Extent:** 11,240 items ; 25 containers plus 20 oversize ; 18.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Congressman, public official, and lawyer from Mississippi. Correspondence, drafts of writings, speeches, reports, notes, clippings, scrapbooks, printed material, and other papers relating to Collins's service in Congress, especially to his introduction of the bill authorizing the Library of Congress acquisition of the Otto Vollbehr Collection of Incunabula. Also documents Collins's work pertaining to the mechanization of the U.S. Army, the career of Mississippi politician Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, and the claims of an individual for enrollment as a Choctaw Indian.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Bilbo, Theodore Gilmore, 1877-1947.

Collins, Ross A. (Ross Alexander), 1880-1968.

Vollbehr, Otto H. F. (Otto Heinrich Friederich), 1869-

### Organizations

Otto Vollbehr Collection (Library of Congress)

United States. Army.

### Subjects

B-17 bomber.

Bombers.

Choctaw Indians--Tribal citizenship.

Incunabula.

Mechanization, Military.

### Places

Mississippi--Politics and government.

United States--Politics and government--1933-1953.

### Occupations

Lawyers.

Public officials--Mississippi.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Mississippi.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Ross A. Collins, congressman, public official, and lawyer from Mississippi, were given to the Library of Congress by Collins between 1962 and 1964 and by Jane Corwin between 1971 and 1977.

### Processing History

The collection was arranged in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ross A. Collins is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ross A. Collins are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ross A. Collins Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1880, April 25	Born, Collinsville, Miss.
1900	A.B., University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
1901	LL.B., University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss., and admitted to the Mississippi bar
1912-1920	Attorney general of Mississippi
1919	Ran unsuccessfully for governor of Mississippi
1921-1935	United States representative, fifth district of Mississippi
1930	LL.D., Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky.
1934	Ran unsuccessfully for United States Senate against Theodore Gilmore Bilbo
1937-1943	United States Representative, fifth district of Mississippi
1941	Ran unsuccessfully for United States Senate
1943	Resumed law practice
1968, July 14	Died, Meridian, Miss.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mississippi lawyer and politician Ross A. Collins (1880-1968) span the years 1906-1967, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1920 and 1963. Collins served as attorney general for Mississippi and through the 1920s to the 1940s as a representative in Congress for the fifth district of that state. While serving as chairman of the House Subcommittee for War Department Appropriations he advocated for and helped fund the mechanization of the army and the B-17 heavy bomber. In 1934 he ran unsuccessfully for the Senate against Theodore Gilmore Bilbo.

The collection is organized into five series: [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Miscellany](#), [Theodore Gilmore Bilbo](#), and [Scrapbooks \(Oversize\)](#). The [General Correspondence](#) is mainly with constituents and admirers and covers topics such as Mississippi government and politics, mechanization of the army, military aviation, and citizenship in the Choctaw Indian tribe.

Most of these topics are elaborated on in the [Subject File](#). The C. J. H. MacKenzie-Kennedy file contains material relating to the development of the B-17 heavy bomber. The John Lick and *Arnold v. Collins* cases involved Choctaw Indian citizenship disputes. While serving in the United States House of Representatives, Collins was instrumental in funding the Library of Congress acquiring the Otto Vollbehre Collection of Incunabula that included a Gutenberg Bible.

The [Miscellany](#) includes Collins's speeches and articles by and about him. The [Theodore Gilmore Bilbo](#) series relates to the Mississippi politician's career from his earliest days in public life, terms as governor, and service in the House of Representatives and Senate.

The [Scrapbooks \(Oversize\)](#) series relates to specific topics such as the mechanization of the army and the Otto Vollbehre collection and includes volumes of clippings from the *Congressional Record* and other publications.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1929-1956](#)
- [Subject File, 1906-1961](#)
- [Miscellany, 1908-1967](#)
- [Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, 1908-1946](#)
- [Scrapbooks \(Oversize\), 1929-1953](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<p><b><u>General Correspondence, 1929-1956</u></b></p> <p>Letters sent and received and carbon copies of both dealing with Mississippi, Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, mechanization of the army, and the claims of an individual for enrollment as a Choctaw Indian.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-13	<p><b><u>Subject File, 1906-1961</u></b></p> <p>Legal and constituent case files, correspondence, topical files, news clippings, notes, reports, speeches, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 13-21	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1908-1967</u></b></p> <p>Articles, clippings, printed matter, correspondence, and speeches.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 22-25	<p><b><u>Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, 1908-1946</u></b></p> <p>Articles, draft writings, and background material relating to the career of Mississippi politician Theodore Gilmore Bilbo.</p> <p>Arranged by topic</p>
BOX OV 1-OV 20	<p><b><u>Scrapbooks (Oversize), 1929-1953</u></b></p> <p>Scrapbooks arranged into <i>Congressional Record</i>, chronological, and topical groupings.</p>

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>General Correspondence, 1929-1956</b> Letters sent and received and carbon copies of both dealing with Mississippi, Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, mechanization of the army, and the claims of an individual for enrollment as a Choctaw Indian. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1929-1956 (8 folders)
<b>BOX 2-13</b>	<b>Subject File, 1906-1961</b> Legal and constituent case files, correspondence, topical files, news clippings, notes, reports, speeches, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
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## Scrapbooks (Oversize), 1929-1953

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