Elihu Root Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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

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LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79038307

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Elihu Root Papers
Span Dates: 1863-1937
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1899-1937)
ID No.: MSS38307
Creator: Root, Elihu, 1845-1937
Extent: 66,000 items ; 256 containers plus 9 oversize ; 87 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: United States secretary of state, secretary of war, United States senator from New York, and statesman. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, notes, reports, subject files, financial papers, calendar and appointment books, invitations, and printed materials relating to Root's career as a lawyer and statesman.

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

Allen, Henry T. (Henry Tureman), 1859-1930--Correspondence.
Anderson, Chandler P. (Chandler Parsons), 1866-1936--Correspondence.
Armstrong, Hamilton Fish, 1893-1973--Correspondence.
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Boardman, Mabel Thorp, 1860-1946--Correspondence.
Bonaparte, Charles J. (Charles Joseph), 1851-1921--Correspondence.
Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947--Correspondence.
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.
Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1832-1917--Correspondence.
Colby, Bainbridge, 1869-1950--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Davis, George W. (George Whitefield), 1839-1918--Correspondence.
Dick, Charles, 1858- --Correspondence.
Dodge, Grenville Mellen, 1831-1916--Correspondence.
Drummond, Eric, Sir, 1876- --Correspondence.
Edge, Walter E. (Walter Evans), 1873-1956--Correspondence.
Finch, George Augustus, 1884-1957--Correspondence.
Foote, Nathaniel, 1849- --Correspondence.
Garrison, Lindley M. (Lindley Miller), 1864-1932--Correspondence.
Glass, Carter, 1858-1946--Correspondence.
Greely, A. W. (Adolphus Washington), 1844-1935--Correspondence.
Grey of Fallodon, Edward Grey, Viscount, 1862-1933--Correspondence.
Griscom, Lloyd Carpenter, 1872-1959--Correspondence.
Hagedorn, Hermann, 1882-1964--Correspondence.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Hays, Will H. (Will Harrison, 1879-1954--Correspondence.
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr., 1841-1935--Correspondence.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.

Hudson, Manley O. (Manley Ottmer), 1886-1960--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Jessup, Philip C. (Philip Caryl), 1897-1986--Correspondence.
Jusserand, J. J. (Jean Jules), 1855-1932--Correspondence.
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937--Correspondence.
Keppel, Frederick P. (Frederick Paul), 1875-1943--Correspondence.
Knox, Philander C. (Philander Chase), 1853-1921--Correspondence.
Lane, Franklin K.--Correspondence.
Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Loeb, William, 1866-1937--Correspondence.
Long, John Davis, 1838-1915--Correspondence.
Low, Seth, 1850-1916--Correspondence.
McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.
McKim, Charles Follen, 1847-1909--Correspondence.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.
Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947--Correspondence.
Phillimore, Walter G. F. Phillimore (Walter George Frank Phillimore), Baron, 1845-1929--Correspondence.
Platt, Orville Hitchcock, 1827-1905--Correspondence.
Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910--Correspondence.
Proctor, Redfield, 1831-1908--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937.
Root, Elihu, 1881-1967--Correspondence.
Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928--Correspondence.
Sanger, Wm. Cary (William Cary), 1853-1921--Correspondence.
Scott, James Brown, 1866-1943--Correspondence.
Shaw, Leslie M. (Leslie Mortier), 1848-1932--Correspondence.
Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.
Stetson, Francis Lynde--Correspondence.
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence.
Straus, Oscar S. (Oscar Solomon), 1850-1926--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Wadsworth, James Wolcott, 1846-1926--Correspondence.
White, Henry, 1850-1927--Correspondence.
Wickersham, George W. (George Woodward), 1858-1936--Correspondence.
Wilson, Henry Lane, 1857-1932--Correspondence.
Wilson, Huntington, 1875- --Correspondence.
Wilson, James, 1835-1920--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Winthrop, Bronson, 1863-1944--Correspondence.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations
Alaskan Boundary Tribunal.
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
Carnegie Institution of Washington.
Conference on the Limitation of Armament (1921-1922 : Washington, D.C.)
Hamilton College (Clinton, N.Y.)
International Commission of Jurists (1921)
League of Nations.
League of Nations. Committee of Experts to Revise the World Court Statute.
New York (State). Constitutional Convention (1915)
North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration (1910 : Hague, Netherlands)

Permanent Court of Arbitration.
Permanent Court of International Justice.
Republican National Convention.
United States. Department of State.
United States. Special Diplomatic Mission to Russia.
United States. War Department.

Subjects
Arbitration (International law)
Church property.
Constitutional conventions--New York (State)
Disarmament.
Endowments--Washington (D.C.)
Fisheries--North Atlantic Ocean.
Fishery law and legislation.
International courts.
International relations.
Merchant marine--United States.
Political conventions.
Sea-power.
Universities and colleges--New York (State)--Clinton.

Places
Alaska--Boundaries--Canada.
Canada--Boundaries--Alaska.
New York (State)--Politics and government.
Russia--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Russia.
United States--Foreign relations.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--New York (State)
Statesmen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Elihu Root, United States secretary of state, secretary of war, United States senator from New York, and statesman, were given to the Library of Congress by Elihu Root, Elihu Root, Jr., Philip C. Jessup, and Mrs. Chandler P. Anderson between 1919-1960. One item was given by M. Irene Hurd in 1972, and two scrapbooks were transferred from the Department of State in 2001.

Processing History

The papers of Elihu Root were processed in 1963 and expanded with small additions between 1972 and 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Elihu Root in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elihu Root 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, Elihu Root Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1845, Feb. 15	Born, Clinton, N.Y.
1864	A.B., Hamilton College, Hamilton, N.Y.
1867	LL.B., New York University, New York, N.Y.
1867	A.M., Hamilton College, Hamilton, N.Y.
1867-1937	Practiced law, New York, N.Y.
1878	Married Clara Wales
1883-1885	United States district attorney, Southern District of New York
1886-1887	Chairman, Republican County Committee, New York, N.Y.
1894	Delegate-at-large, New York Constitutional Convention (chairman, Judiciary Committee)
1899-1904	Secretary of war
1903	Member, Alaskan Boundary Commission
1904	Temporary chairman, Republican National Convention
1905-1909	Secretary of state
1906-1937	President, American Society of International Law
1908-1922	Chairman, New York Republican State Conventions
1909-1915	United States senator from New York
1910	Counsel for United States, North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration, Hague, Netherlands
1910	Became member of Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration
1910-1925	President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
1912	Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

1912	Temporary and permanent chairman, Republican National Convention
1912-1937	Chairman, Board of Trustees, Hamilton College, Hamilton, N.Y.
1913	President, Hague Tribunal of Arbitration between Great Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal concerning church property
1913-1937	Chairman, Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institute of Washington
1915	President, New York Constitutional Convention
1915	President, American Bar Association
1917	Ambassador extraordinary at head of a special diplomatic mission to Russia
1921	Member, Commission of International Jurists, which on invitation of the Council of the League of Nations reported a plan for new Permanent Court of International Justice
1921	Commissioner plenipotentiary for the United States, International Conference on Limitation of Armament and on Far Eastern and Pacific Questions, Washington, D.C.
1925	President, New York College of Presidential Electors
1928-1929	Member, League of Nations committee of experts to revise the World Court Statute
1937, Feb. 7	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elihu Root (1845-1937) consist of correspondence, letterbooks, reports, memoranda, notes, speeches, subject files, maps, invitations, financial papers, calendar and appointment books, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and portfolios containing maps and photographs. The collection spans the years 1863-1937, with the bulk dated between 1899 and 1937. The papers are arranged in six series: General Correspondence, Special Correspondence, Letterbooks, Subject File, Other Related Material, and Oversize.

Topics of importance include the League of Nations, Cuba, tariff legislation, Nicaraguan affairs preceding the Bryan-Chamorro Treaty, the Carnegie Institute and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, National Academy of Science, the World Court, Portuguese arbitration (1913-1930), Corporation Tax Amendment (1909), Niagara Falls, North Atlantic Coast Fisheries, Canadian reciprocity, migratory game birds, immigration, Panama Canal, the Red Cross, Mexico, National Security League, Ship Purchase Bill, Interstate Commerce Commission, the Alaskan boundary dispute, World War I and neutrality, and the Hudson River. There is considerable correspondence and related material concerning pensions, applications to military academies and post offices, and appointments of judgeships.

The correspondence and letterbooks dominate the papers and concern Root's service as secretary of war; member of the Alaskan Boundary Commission, 1903; secretary of state; senator from New York; counsel for the United States in the North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration at the Hague, 1910; president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1910-1925; chairman of the Republican National Convention, 1912; chairman of the Board of Trustees, Hamilton College, 1912-1937; president of the Hague Tribunal of Arbitration between Great Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal concerning church property, 1913; chairman of the Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1913-1937; president of the New York Constitutional Convention, 1915; ambassador extraordinary at the head of a special diplomatic mission to Russia during the Russian Revolution, 1917; member of the Commission of International Jurists, which on invitation of the Council of the League on Nations, reported a new plan for a new Permanent Court of International Justice, 1921;

commissioner plenipotentiary for the United States at the International Conference on Limitation of Armament and on Far Eastern and Pacific Questions that met at Washington, D.C., 1921; and as a member of the League of Nations committee of experts to revise the World Court Statute, 1928-1929. There is little material relating to his legal career or his family and personal life. There is, however, considerable correspondence between Elihu Root and his son, Elihu Root (1881-1967).

The Special Correspondence and Letterbooks feature Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood. Of particular significance in the Correspondence series are a letter to Will H. Hays, March 29, 1919, in which Root gives his views on the proposed Covenant of the League of Nations; correspondence between Root and Chandler P. Anderson, with reference to the North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration at the Hague, 1909-1912; and a draft of the Platt Amendment in the 1901 file under Cuba. A file of memoranda and reports in the Other Related Material series contains a letter and memorandum relating to the Battle of Wounded Knee.

Other prominent correspondents include Henry T. Allen, Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Newton Diehl Baker, Mabel Thorp Boardman, Charles J. Bonaparte, William Edgar Borah, William Jennings Bryan, Viscount James Bryce, Nicholas Murray Butler, Andrew Carnegie, Joseph Hodges Choate, Bainbridge Colby, Calvin Coolidge, George B. Cortelyou, Josephus Daniels, George W. Davis, Charles Dick, Grenville Mellen Dodge, Sir Eric Drummond, Walter E. Edge, George Augustus Finch, Nathaniel Foote, Lindley M. Garrison, Carter Glass, A. W. Greely, Lloyd Carpenter Griscom, Viscount Grey of Fallodon, Hermann Hagedorn, Warren G. Harding, John Hay, Will H. Hays, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edward Mandell House, Manley Ottmer Hudson, Charles Evans Hughes, Cordell Hull, Philip C. Jessup, J. J. Jusserand, Frank B. Kellogg, Frederick P. Keppel, Philander C. Knox, Franklin K. Lane, Robert Lansing, William Loeb (1866-1937), John Davis Long, Seth Low, W. G. McAdoo, Charles Follen McKim, William McKinley, John Bassett Moore, Baron Walter G. F. Phillimore, Thomas Collier Platt, Orville Hitchcock Platt, Redfield Proctor, Thomas Fortune Ryan, Wm. Carey Sanger, James Brown Scott, Leslie M. Shaw, John Sherman, Francis Lynde Stetson, Henry L. Stimson, Oscar S. Straus, James Wolcott Wadsworth, Henry White, George W. Wickersham, Henry Lane Wilson, Huntington Wilson, James Wilson, Woodrow Wilson, and Bronson Winthrop.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- General Correspondence, 1870-1937
- Special Correspondence, 1896-1928
- Letterbooks, 1899-1909
- Subject File, 1895-1936
- Other Related Material, 1863-1937
- Oversize, 1903-1917

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-160	**General Correspondence, 1870-1937** Letters sent and received. Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of person or organization.
BOX 161-170	**Special Correspondence, 1896-1928** Correspondence between Root and Henry Cabot Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood. Arranged alphabetically by name of person and therein by year.
BOX 171-190	**Letterbooks, 1899-1909** Letterpress and letter copybooks received, telegrams sent and received, and orders, comprising copies of semiofficial and personal correspondence sent. Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence concerning the disposition of the estate of Henry H. Cook. All volumes except Volume 3 of the telegrams and the volume relating to the Cook estate are indexed.
BOX 191-195	**Subject File, 1895-1936** Memoranda, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 196-221	**Other Related Material, 1863-1937** Calendar and appointment books, biographical sketches, financial papers, general miscellany, invitations, memoranda and reports, newspaper clippings, notes, personal miscellany, material concerned with pensions and post offices, printed matter, and speeches. Organized by type of material.
BOX OV 1-OV 9	**Oversize, 1903-1917** Portfolios of maps and photographs pertaining to the Alaskan Boundary Dispute and Tribunal, 1903, Root's 1917 mission to Russia, and a scrapbook of newspapers relating to trips to South America, 1906 and Mexico, 1907.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
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	Letters sent and received.
	Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of person or organization.
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BOX 3	D-H
BOX 4	J-Q
BOX 5	R-T
BOX 6	U-Z
BOX 7	1900
	A-C
BOX 8	C-D
BOX 9	E-H
BOX 10	H-L
BOX 11	M-O
BOX 12	P-R
BOX 13	S
BOX 14	T-Z
BOX 15	1901
	A-C
BOX 16	C-D
BOX 17	D-H
BOX 18	H-L
BOX 19	M
BOX 20	N-R
BOX 21	R-S
BOX 22	S-T
BOX 23	V-Y
BOX 24	1902
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BOX 25	C
BOX 26	D-G
BOX 27	H-L
BOX 28	L-N
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BOX 30	S
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Container	*Contents*
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BOX 171-190	**Letterbooks, 1899-1909**
	Letterpress and letter copybooks received, telegrams sent and received, and orders, comprising copies of semiofficial and personal correspondence sent.
	Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence concerning the disposition of the estate of Henry H. Cook. All volumes except Volume 3 of the telegrams and the volume relating to the Cook estate are indexed.
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BOX 174	Vols. 10-12, Dec.-1901, July
BOX 175	Vols. 13-15, 1901, July-1902, June
BOX 176	Vols 16-18, 1902, June-1903, Aug.
BOX 177	Vols. 19-20, 1903, Aug.-1904, Feb.
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	Telegrams
	Vols. 1-2, 1899, Aug.-1903
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	Corporation Tax Amendment, 1909
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	Migratory game birds, 1912-1913
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	Calendar and appointment books, biographical sketches, financial papers, general miscellany, invitations, memoranda and reports, newspaper clippings, notes, personal miscellany, material concerned with pensions and post offices, printed matter, and speeches.

Container	*Contents*
	Organized by type of material.
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BOX 202	1900-1901
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BOX 204	1902-1903
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BOX 206	1914-1915, 1936-1937, undated
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	Personal miscellany, 1901-1934
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	Atlas accompanying the case of the United States
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BOX OV 3	Maps and charts accompanying the case and counter case of the United States (two copies)

Container	*Contents*
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BOX OV 8	Mexico trip, newspaper articles, 1907