

Joseph Edward Davies Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008
Revised 2015 July**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009067>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78017855>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff
Revised and expanded by Donna Ellis with the assistance of Maria Farmer

Collection Summary

Title: Joseph Edward Davies Papers

Span Dates: 1860-1958

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1912-1958)

ID No.: MSS17855

Creator: Davies, Joseph Edward, 1876-1958

Extent: 75,000 items ; 224 containers plus 5 oversize ; 97.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Diplomat, lawyer, and author. Correspondence, diaries, drafts of articles, books, and speeches, printed matter, and scrapbooks relating to Davies's career as an ambassador to Belgium and Russia, presidential advisor, and author.

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

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence.
Beaverbrook, Max Aitken, Baron, 1879-1964--Correspondence.
Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972--Correspondence.
Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972.
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965--Correspondence.
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965.
Cummings, Homer S. (Homer Stillé), 1870-1956--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Davies, Joseph Edward.
Early, Stephen T. (Stephen Tyree), 1889-1951--Correspondence.
Eden, Anthony, Earl of Avon, 1897-1977--Correspondence.
Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955--Correspondence.
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.
Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965--Correspondence.
Grew, Joseph C. (Joseph Clark), 1880-1965--Correspondence.
Gromyko, Andreï Andreevich, 1909-1989--Correspondence.
Halifax, Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, Earl of, 1881-1959--Correspondence.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Harriman, W. Averell (William Averell), 1891-1986--Correspondence.
Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986--Correspondence.
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972--Correspondence.
Hopkins, Harry L. (Harry Lloyd), 1890-1946--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952--Correspondence.
Krock, Arthur, 1886--Correspondence.
Lange, Oskar, 1904-1965--Correspondence.
Luce, Henry Robinson, 1898-1967--Correspondence.
Lunt, Alfred--Correspondence.
Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence.
McIntyre, Marvin Hunter, 1878-1943--Correspondence.
Molotov, Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich, 1890-1986--Correspondence.
Morgenthau, Henry, 1891-1967--Correspondence.
Murrow, Edward R.--Correspondence.
Novikov, N. V. (Nikolaï Vasilévich), 1903--Correspondence.
Pearson, Drew, 1897-1969--Correspondence.

Pittman, Key, 1872-1940--Correspondence.
Rayburn, Sam, 1882-1961--Correspondence.
Rickenbacker, Eddie, 1890-1973--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Rosenman, Samuel I. (Samuel Irving), 1896-1973--Correspondence.
Stalin, Joseph, 1878-1953.
Stettinius, Edward R., Jr. (Edward Reilly), 1900-1949--Correspondence.
Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965--Correspondence.
Trujillo Molina, Rafael Leónidas, 1891-1961--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972.
Tydings, Millard E. (Millard Evelyn), 1890-1961--Correspondence.
Vinson, Fred M., 1890-1953--Correspondence.
Vyshinsky, Andrey Yanuaryevich, 1883-1954--Correspondence.
Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence.
Warner, Harry Morris, 1881-1958--Correspondence.
Welles, Sumner, 1892-1961--Correspondence.
Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Windsor, Edward, Duke of, 1894-1972--Correspondence.

Organizations

Potsdam Conference (1945 : Potsdam, Germany)
Sea Cloud (Yacht)
United States. Federal Trade Commission.
United States. President's Advisory Commission on Military Training.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Draft--United States.
Elections--United States.
International economic relations.
Military education--United States.
Trade regulation--United States.
World War, 1939-1945--Congresses.
World War, 1939-1945.
Yachts.

Places

Belgium--Foreign relations--United States.
Belgium.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
Luxembourg--Foreign relations--United States.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Economic conditions--1945-
United States--Foreign economic relations.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--Belgium.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--Foreign relations--Luxembourg.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
United States--Politics and government--20th century.
United States--Social conditions--1945-

Occupations

Authors.

Diplomats.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Joseph Edward Davies, diplomat, lawyer, and author, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1961 by his daughters Eleanor Davies Tydings, Rahel Davies Broun, and Emlen Davies Grosjean, who converted the deposit to a gift during the years 1962-1969. Additional material was given in 1967 by Mrs. John Marshall; by the Hillwood Museum, Washington, D.C., 1993; by Joseph D. Tydings in 2007; and by the Broward County Main Library, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in 2008.

Processing History

Part I of the Davies Papers was processed in 1962 and expanded and reprocessed in 1998. Material received in 2007 and 2008 was processed as Part II.

Additional Guides

A note concerning the collection appeared in the Library's *Information Bulletin*, Vol. 21, No. 21 (May 21, 1962), pp. 239-240. Part I was also described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (June 1962), p. 139.

Transfers

Audio recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joseph Edward Davies 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: Roman numeral designating the Part followed by a colon and container number, Joseph Edward Davies Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date

Event

1876, Nov. 29

Born, Watertown, Wis.

1898

A.B. degree, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

1901

LL.B degree, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

1902	Married Emlen Knight
1902-1906	State's attorney, Wisconsin
1912	Chairman, western headquarters, Democratic Party campaign
1913-1915	United States commissioner of corporations
1915-1916	Chairman, Federal Trade Commission
1918	Economic adviser to President Woodrow Wilson, Versailles Peace Conference, Versailles, France
1935	Married Marjorie Post
1936	Vice chairman, Democratic National Committee
1936-1938	Ambassador to the Soviet Union
1938-1939	Ambassador to Belgium and minister to Luxembourg
1939-1941	Special assistant to Cordell Hull in charge of war emergency problems and policies
1941	Chairman, Franklin D. Roosevelt's inaugural committee Published <i>Mission to Moscow</i> . New York: Simon and Schuster
1942-1946	Chairman, War Relief and Control Board
1943	Special envoy with rank of ambassador to confer with Joseph Stalin
1945	Chairman, Franklin D. Roosevelt's inaugural committee Special envoy with rank of ambassador to confer with Sir Winston Churchill Special adviser with rank of ambassador, Potsdam Conference, Potsdam, Germany
1946-1947	Vice chairman, President's Committee to Study Universal Military Training
1958, May 9	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

Part I

Part I of the papers of Joseph Edward Davies (1876-1958) spans the years 1860-1957, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1936-1955. It covers American-Soviet relations and foreign affairs in general from 1936 to 1957 and is arranged in nine series: [Family and Personal File](#), [Chronological File](#), [Memoranda](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Newspaper Diary](#), [Miscellany](#), [Addition](#), and [Oversize](#).

Davies was ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1936 to 1938, and the papers are especially rich on this period and on his subsequent role as an envoy or representative for Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman during World War II. Of particular importance are Davies's diaries and journals and the manuscripts of two unpublished books, "In the Days of Their Power and Glory" and "Missions for Peace." Although the papers do not contain the manuscript of *Mission to Moscow*, his controversial 1941 book about his years in the USSR, many documents and papers used in preparing it are included.

Material for a sequel to that book, which covers a 1943 trip to Moscow during World War II by Davies, is also in the collection.

Prominent correspondents include Bernard M. Baruch, Baron Max Aitken Beaverbrook, James F. Byrnes, Sir Winston Churchill, Homer S. Cummings, Josephus Daniels, Stephen T. Early, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, Earl of Halifax, Felix Frankfurter, Joseph C. Grew, Andrei Andreevich Gromyko, Loy W. Henderson, Harry L. Hopkins, Cordell Hull, Arthur Krock, Oskar Lange, George C. Marshall, Marvin Hunter McIntyre, Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Molotov, Henry Morgenthau, N. V. Novicov, Key Pittman, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Samuel I. Rosenman, Edward R. Stettinius, Harry S. Truman, Millard E. Tydings, Andrey Yanuaryevich Vyshinsky, Fred M. Vinson, Harry Morris Warner, and Sumner Welles.

Part II

Part II of the Joseph Edward Davies Papers spans the years 1893-1958, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1912 and 1958. It is arranged in seven series: [Family and Personal File](#), [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Press File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Family and Personal File](#) contains Davies's appointment books, biographical and genealogical information, correspondence between family members, estate management records, financial records, and medical records. Household papers document personal possessions and real estate. Of note are papers relating to the *Sea Cloud*, the private yacht of Davies and his wife, Marjorie Post, which they donated for military service during World War II. The Davies's social life is documented by club memberships, dinner lists, invitations to garden parties, and travel material.

The [Correspondence](#) series contains letters to and from Davies's friends and colleagues, particularly in the political arena. Subjects include Woodrow Wilson's 1912 presidential campaign, Davies's work on the Federal Trade Commission, his diplomatic career, and role as presidential advisor. Correspondents include Sir Winston Churchill, Stephen T. Early, Anthony Eden, Edward, Duke of Windsor, Albert Einstein, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Felix Frankfurter, Andrei Andreevich Gromyko, Warren G. Harding, W. Averell Harriman, J. Edgar Hoover, Harry L. Hopkins, Cordell Hull, Harold L. Ickes, Henry Robinson Luce, Alfred Lunt, Edward R. Murrow, Drew Pearson, Sam Rayburn, Eddie Rickenbacker, Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Adlai E. Stevenson, Rafael Leónidas Trujillo Molina, Harry S. Truman, Henry A. Wallace, Sumner Welles, Wendell L. Willkie, and Woodrow Wilson.

The [Subject File](#) covers topics such as Belgium, economic and foreign relations, presidential and senatorial election campaigns, post-World War II conditions, and universal military training. The [Speeches and Writings File](#) contains correspondence, drafts, and related material pertaining to Davies's articles, books, speeches, and other writings. It includes material regarding *Mission to Moscow*, a film based on Davies's book. The [Press File](#) includes bulletins, newsletters, newspaper clippings, press releases, and radio broadcasts.

The [Miscellany](#) series consists of notes, photographs, and printed matter. It also includes several scrapbooks relating to Davies's family and career.

Note on the Collection

Throughout his papers Davies used the following abbreviations:

- D & L or DL - Diary and Letters
- M to M or MM - *Mission to Moscow* (1941)
- M to M No. 1 or MM No. 1 - *Mission to Moscow* (1941)
- M to M No. 2 or MM No. 2 - "Mission to Moscow" (1948)
- M for P or MP - "Missions for Peace"
- In the Days or Days - "In the Days of Their Power and Glory" (1955)

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two parts composed of sixteen series:

Part I:

- Family and Personal File, 1860-1941
- Chronological File, 1936-1957
- Memoranda, 1938-1951
- Subject File, 1916-1949
- Speeches and Writings File, 1899-1955
- Newspaper Diary, 1941-1949
- Miscellany, 1900-1956
- Addition, 1940-1941
- Oversize, 1899-1955

Part II:

- Family and Personal File, 1902-1958
- Correspondence, 1911-1958
- Subject File, 1912-1956
- Speeches and Writings File, 1913-1958
- Press File, 1913-1957
- Miscellany, 1893-1957
- Oversize, 1912-1956

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX I:1-2	<u>Part I: Family and Personal File, 1860-1941</u> Diary, notebook, correspondence, campaign material, financial matter, legal records, and Masonic papers. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX I:3-26	<u>Part I: Chronological File, 1936-1957</u> Diaries, journals, correspondence, and related material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX I:27-29	<u>Part I: Memoranda, 1938-1951</u> Official and unofficial memoranda. Arranged chronologically.
BOX I:30-92	<u>Part I: Subject File, 1916-1949</u> Memoranda, newspaper clippings, reports, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX I:93-113	<u>Part I: Speeches and Writings File, 1899-1955</u> Drafts of articles, books, and speeches with related research material, correspondence, printed matter, photographs, contracts, and miscellany. Articles and speeches are arranged chronologically. Books are arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX I:114-146	<u>Part I: Newspaper Diary, 1941-1949</u> Newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX I:147-152	<u>Part I: Miscellany, 1900-1956</u> Articles, biographical notes, dinner lists, inventories, memoranda, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and photostatic copies. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.
BOX I:152	<u>Part I: Addition, 1940-1941</u> Correspondence, legal documents, blue prints, and printed matter relating to Fisherman's Island, Florida. Arranged chronologically.
BOX I:OV 1	<u>Part I: Oversize, 1899-1955</u> Campaign poster, photographs, and maps. Arranged according to the containers from which the items were removed.
BOX II:1-19	<u>Part II: Family and Personal File, 1902-1958</u> Appointment books, biographical and genealogical information, correspondence, estate records, financial records, household papers, medical records, social engagements, and university alumni material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

- BOX II:20-50** **Part II: Correspondence, 1911-1958**
Incoming and copies of outgoing letters.
Arranged chronologically.
- BOX II:51-52** **Part II: Subject File, 1912-1956**
Chiefly printed matter on topics relevant to Davies's career, such as Belgium, election campaigns, and universal military training.
Arranged alphabetically by topic.
- BOX II:53-63** **Part II: Speeches and Writings File, 1913-1958**
Correspondence, notes, research material, and galleys relating to Davies's articles, books, and speeches.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
- BOX II:63-68** **Part II: Press File, 1913-1957**
Bulletins, newsletters, newspaper clippings, newspaper diary, press releases, and radio broadcasts.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
- BOX II:68-72** **Part II: Miscellany, 1893-1957**
Notes, photographs, printed matter, and scrapbooks.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
- BOX II:OV 1-OV 3** **Part II: Oversize, 1912-1956**
Book galley, campaign posters, and scrapbook.
Arranged according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX I:1-2	Part I: Family and Personal File, 1860-1941 Diary, notebook, correspondence, campaign material, financial matter, legal records, and Masonic papers. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX I:1	Diary, undated Notebook, ca. 1885-1915 Correspondence, 1873-1897, 1918, undated Campaign material, 1918-1919 <i>See also Oversize</i> Financial matters 1860-1898, 1910-1911
BOX I:2	1920-1921, 1938-1941 Legal records, 1860-1896 Masonic papers, 1877-1883
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Part I: Chronological File, 1936-1957

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Part I: Subject File, 1916-1949

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Part I: Subject File, 1916-1949

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Part I: Subject File, 1916-1949

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	Articles and speeches are arranged chronologically. Books are arranged alphabetically by title.
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	Contracts and related material, 1955-1959
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Part I: Speeches and Writings File, 1899-1955

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Part I: Speeches and Writings File, 1899-1955

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Part II: Correspondence, 1911-1958

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Part II: Correspondence, 1911-1958

Container

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Arranged alphabetically by topic.

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(2 folders)

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“In the Days of Their Power and Glory”

Background information, 1938, 1953-1955

Drafts

1952-1956

BOX II:54

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(2 folders)

Miscellany, 1952-1954

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(2 folders)

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Jan.-Apr.

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Part II: Speeches and Writings File, 1913-1958

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Part II: Press File, 1913-1957

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