

Abel Doysié Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Expanded by David Mathisen



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

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Collection Summary

Title: Abel Doysié Papers

Span Dates: 1910-1967

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1962)

ID No.: MSS51797

Creator: Doysié, Abel, 1886-1973

Extent: 4,850 items; 15 containers; 7.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and French

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

Abstract: Primarily letters received from scholars and others at universities, libraries, and institutions for whom Doysié did historical and genealogical research in various French archives after 1936.

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

Adams, James Truslow, 1878-1949.

Beers, Henry Putney, 1907-

Bell, Whitfield J. (Whitfield Jenks)

Bemis, Samuel Flagg, 1891-1973.

Boyd, Julian P. (Julian Parks), 1903-1980.

Clements, William L. (William Lawrence), 1861-1934.

Doysié, Abel, 1886-1973.

Ford, Worthington Chauncey, 1858-1941.

Jameson, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1859-1937.

Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966.

Sellers, Charles Coleman, 1903-

Stoddard, Lothrop, 1883-1950.

Wilbur, James Benjamin, 1856-1929.

Woodson, Carter Godwin, 1875-1950.

Organizations

Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

Illinois Historical Survey.

Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)

University of Michigan.

University of Pennsylvania.

Subjects

Archives--France.

Genealogy.

Historiography.

Museums--New York (State)--New York.

Occupations

Genealogists.

Historians.

Translators.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Abel Doysié, genealogical researcher, historian, and translator, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1967. In 1971 Doysié presented his research notes as a gift via Mrs. Paul H. Bonnel of Paris, France.

Processing History

The papers of Abel Doysié were arranged and described in 1968. The collection was expanded and revised in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Abel Doysié is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Abel Doysié 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, Abel Doysié Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1886	Born
circa 1904	Studied law at the University of Paris and Arabic at the École Supérieure des Langues Orientales Vivantes
1906	Accompanied a relative to the United States, where he remained for more than one year
1907	Gave French lessons to Waldo Gifford Leland of the Carnegie Institution of Washington
1908	Engaged by Waldo Gifford Leland as his assistant on the French Mission of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Historical Research
1908-1910	Served in French Army
1910	Returned to work for Carnegie Institution of Washington
1913	Engaged by the Library of Congress to supervise the transcription of French documents
1914	Recalled by French Army

1919	Released from the French Army Resumed work for the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the Library of Congress
1922	Terminated work with the Carnegie Institution of Washington
1928	Retained on salaried basis by the Library of Congress, European Mission, as principal research assistant
1936	Employment by the Library of Congress terminated with temporary discontinuance of the French copying program
1936-1967	Engaged in private research in French libraries and archives
1938	Delivered a series of lectures in New York, N.Y., on the American War of Independence
1955	Engaged by Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, to undertake a survey of materials relating to America acquired by the Bibliothèque Nationale since the late 1920s
1973	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Abel Doysié (1886-1973) span the years 1910-1967, with the bulk of the material dating between 1920 and 1962. The papers deal almost exclusively with his professional life as a researcher and translator and are arranged into the following series: [General Correspondence](#) and [Addition](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) contains the bulk of the papers and consists largely of Doysié's correspondence and research notes with scholars, universities, libraries, and institutions here and abroad for whom Doysié did historical and genealogical research after his work for the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the Library of Congress ended in 1936. There is also a small amount of printed material such as articles, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets dealing with the activities and organizations of his various correspondents enclosed with incoming letters. Included also is a small group of miscellaneous family material which includes a photograph of Doysié, a song of his composition, and several early letters from relatives.

Abel Doysié began his long association with American scholarship in 1908 when he was hired by Waldo Gifford Leland, the Carnegie Institution of Washington's representative in Paris as his research assistant. He continued to work for the Carnegie Institution, listing and describing documents for the preparation of a guide to French materials relating to American history in Parisian libraries and archives until his services were terminated in 1922. Volume I of the *Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris* was published in 1932 and Volume II in 1943. In 1913 the Library of Congress inaugurated its foreign copying program, using Leland's and Doysié's notes as guides in its systematic transcriptions of French documents pertaining to America. Leland was authorized to engage Doysié to supervise the transcription and later photocopying of these documents. There is not a great deal of correspondence with either the Carnegie Institution of Washington or the Library of Congress in the papers, but there are many letters from Leland for the years from 1910 to 1961 which reflect Doysié's life and work during that period.

Correspondents include James Truslow Adams, Henry Putney Beers, Whitfield J. Bell, Samuel Flagg Bemis, Julian P. Boyd, William L. Clements, Worthington Chauncey Ford, J. Franklin Jameson, Charles Coleman Sellers, Lothrop Stoddard, James Benjamin Wilbur, and Carter Godwin Woodson. Institutions represented in the correspondence include the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library in Wilmington, Delaware, the Illinois Historical Survey of the University of Illinois, the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the universities of Pennsylvania and Michigan.

It was in the field of American colonial history that Doysié's research was concentrated. Indeed, he developed such familiarity with French source materials that in 1938 he was invited to give a series of lectures in New York on the American War of Independence. He later arranged the historical section of the French exhibit at the New York World's Fair (1939-1940), and upon his return to Paris prepared a George Washington exhibit at the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The [Addition](#) is comprised largely of research notes with a small amount of correspondence.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [General Correspondence, 1910-1967](#)
- [Addition, 1913-1951](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-10	<u>General Correspondence, 1910-1967</u> Correspondence and research notes. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, institution, or topic.
BOX 11-15	<u>Addition, 1913-1951</u> Correspondence, articles, and notes. Arranged by topic or type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-10	General Correspondence, 1910-1967 Correspondence and research notes. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, institution, or topic.
BOX 1	A-D, including
BOX 1	Beers, Henry Putney, Nov. 1951-Dec. 1957
BOX 1	Bemis, Samuel Flagg, Apr. 1927-Feb. 1933
BOX 1	Carnegie Institution of Washington, Apr. 1928-Dec. 1949
BOX 1	Clements, William L., July 1921-Dec. 1922
BOX 1	Dallett, James F., 1956-1967
BOX 2	D-E, including
BOX 2	Eddy, George Simpson, Mar. 1923-July 1927
BOX 2	Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Wilmington, Del., Jan. 1962-May 1964
BOX 2	Everts, Lillian, May 1951-Oct. 1956
BOX 3	F-H, including
BOX 3	Ford, Worthington Chauncey, Nov. 1925-Apr. 1935
BOX 3	Franklin, Benjamin, Papers: Whitfield J. Bell, Oct. 1955-Apr. 1960
BOX 3	Hawaii, Historical Commission of, Oct. 1924-Feb. 1926
BOX 4	H-I, including
BOX 4	Hoyt, Henry W., June 1949-Sept. 1951
BOX 4	Illinois Historical Survey: Theodore C. Pease, Sept. 1931-Aug. 1948
BOX 5	J-K, including
BOX 5	Jameson, J. Franklin, Jan. 1912-Mar. 1936
BOX 5	Jefferson, Thomas, Papers: Julian P. Boyd, Jan. 1957-May 1958
BOX 5	Koch, Theodore Wesley, Nov. 1920-Feb. 1947
BOX 6	L, including
BOX 6	Lawrence, Alexander A., Dec. 1948-May 1952
BOX 6	Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1910-1961
BOX 7	L, including
BOX 7	Library of Congress, 1913-1927, 1946
BOX 7	Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Nov. 1917-Dec. 1955
BOX 7	Library of Congress, Order Division, May 1914-Apr. 1958
BOX 7	Longwood Library, Kennett Square, Pa., Feb. 1957-June 1961
BOX 7	Lord, Robert H., Feb. 1936-May 1937
BOX 7	Lowe, Frank D., Apr. 1924-Mar. 1939
BOX 8	M-P, including
BOX 8	Marcus, Jacob R., July-Nov. 1962
BOX 8	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, N.Y., Mar. 1930-Dec. 1935
BOX 8	Michigan, University of, Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 1922-Apr. 1925
BOX 8	Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 1929-Mar. 1930
BOX 8	Minot, Grafton, Dec. 1928-Jan. 1937

General Correspondence, 1910-1967

Container

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BOX 8	Nasatir, Abraham P., Mar. 1925-Feb. 1934
BOX 9	P-S, including
BOX 9	Pennsylvania, University of, Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 1960-May 1963
BOX 9	Roland, Dunbar, Dec. 1926-July 1928
BOX 9	Sellers, Charles Coleman, Aug. 1960-Oct. 1965
BOX 10	S-W, including
BOX 10	Stoddard, Lothrop, Feb. 1922-Jan. 1933
BOX 10	Swain, J. Edgar, May 1963-July 1965
BOX 10	Westergaard, Waldemar, Sept. 1952-Dec. 1958
BOX 10	Wilbur, James Benjamin, May-Sept. 1922
BOX 10	Wilbur, Margerite E., 1929-1934
BOX 10	Woodson, Carter Godwin, July-Oct. 1933
BOX 10	Unidentified letters
BOX 10	Research notes
BOX 11-15	Addition, 1913-1951
	Correspondence, articles, and notes.
	Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 11	Correspondence, 1913-1951, undated
BOX 11	Leland, Waldo Gifford, "La Colonization Française dans l'Amérique du Nord," undated
BOX 11	Miscellany, 1929-1933
BOX 11	File cards on manuscripts in various French archives, undated
BOX 11	Notes regarding French manuscripts on America, undated
BOX 11	File cards
BOX 11	Affaires Étrangères
BOX 11	Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France
BOX 12	Colonies, undated
	(5 folders)
BOX 13	(3 folders)
BOX 13	Guerre, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 14	(1 folder)
BOX 14	Hydrographique, undated
BOX 14	Marine, undated
	(3 folders)
BOX 14	La Nouvelle France, undated
BOX 15	Mixed repositories with some unidentified, undated
	(4 folders)