William Edward Dodd Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Allan Teichroew, Wilhelmena Curry, and Karen Linn Femia

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Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: William Edward Dodd Papers
Span Dates: 1895-1955
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1940)
ID No.: MSS18697
Creator: Dodd, William Edward, 1869-1940
Extent: 22,000 items ; 64 containers plus 1 oversize ; 25.4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English and German with French
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Historian and diplomat. Correspondence, diaries, speeches, writings, autobiographical notes, printed matter, photographs, and other papers relating to Dodd's work as an author, professor of history at the University of Chicago, and ambassador to Germany.

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
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Becker, Carl L. (Carl Lotus), 1873-1945--Correspondence.
Beveridge, Albert Jeremiah, 1862-1927--Correspondence.
Bowers, Claude Gernade, 1879-1958--Correspondence.
Brett, George P. (George Platt), 1858-1936--Correspondence.
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Dodd family--Correspondence.
Dodd, Martha Johns, d. 1938--Correspondence.
Dodd, Martha, 1908-1990--Correspondence.
Dodd, William Edward, 1869-1940.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Moore, R. Walton (Robert Walton), 1859-1941--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roper, Daniel C. (Daniel Calhoun), 1867-1943--Correspondence.
Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967. Carl Sandburg poetry drafts.
Schacht, Hjalmar Horace Greeley, 1877-1970--Correspondence.
Turner, Frederick Jackson, 1861-1932--Correspondence.

Organizations
University of Chicago.

Subjects
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Germany.
World politics--20th century.

Places
Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government.
Europe--Description and travel.
Germany--Foreign relations--United States.
Illinois--Politics and government.
United States--Foreign relations--Germany.
United States--History.
United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Occupations
Diplomats.
Historians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Edward Dodd, historian and diplomat, were received by the Library as a deposit in 1945 and 1953 from Dodd's son, William E. Dodd, Jr., and daughter, Martha Dodd Stern. Stern added further papers as gifts in 1964, 1969, and 1972, and as a deposit in 1981. In 1965 the 1945 deposit was converted to a gift. Additional material came through gift and purchase, 1952-1979. In 1989, the remainder of the collection was converted to a gift.

Processing History

The papers of William Edward Dodd were arranged and described in 1963-1964. The collection was expanded and revised in 1979 and 1982. The finding aid was revised again in 2011.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Edward Dodd 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, William Edward Dodd Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1869, Oct. 21	Born, Clayton, N.C.
1897	B.S. and M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.
1899	Ph.D., University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
1901	Married Martha Johns
1900-1908	Professor of history, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Va.
1908-1933	Professor of history, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1933-1937	Ambassador to Germany
1934	President, American Historical Association
1938-1940	Returned and resided in the United States

1940, Feb. 9	Died, Round Hill, Va.
1941	Publication of *Ambassador Dodd's Diary, 1933-1937* . New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Edward Dodd (1869-1940) span the years 1895 to 1955, with the bulk of the material dating from 1900 to 1940. The papers are in English and German with French and are organized in six series: General Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Miscellany, Family Correspondence, Addition, and Oversize. Included are two pocket diaries from 1928 and 1931, articles, speeches, book material, autobiographical notes relating to Dodd's life before 1930, a correspondence file, much of it within the family, from 1895 until 1953 long after his death, and letters written by Dodd during a trip to Europe, 1928-1929. The earlier papers relate to Dodd's work as an historian, author, and citizen-scholar interested in local, state, national, and international politics. The greater part of the papers concern Dodd's career as professor of history at the University of Chicago and as ambassador to Germany.

Prominent correspondents include Newton Diehl Baker, Carl L. Becker, Albert Jeremiah Beveridge, Claude Gernade Bowers, George P. Brett, Nicholas Murray Butler, Josephus Daniels, Edward Mandell House, Cordell Hull, R. Walton Moore, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Daniel C. Roper, Hjalmar Horace Greeley Schacht, and Frederick Jackson Turner, as well as many other scholars and diplomatic colleagues. Family correspondents include Dodd's wife, Martha Johns Dodd, and their daughter, Martha Dodd (Stern). Also included are poetry drafts by Carl Sandburg sent to Martha Dodd (Stern).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- General Correspondence, 1900-1953
- Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938
- Miscellany, 1928-1941
- Family Correspondence, 1895-1953
- Addition, 1929-1955
- Oversize, 1935

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-57	**General Correspondence, 1900-1953** Correspondence. Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically therein.
BOX 59-60	**Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938** Writings by Dodd, including autobiographical notes, academic articles and reviews, speeches, editorials, and book material. Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically by title therein, with untitled items at the end.
BOX 60-61	**Miscellany, 1928-1941** Diaries, photographs, printed matter, and other material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 62-63	**Family Correspondence, 1895-1953** Correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 64	**Addition, 1901-1955** Correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by type of material with miscellany at the end.
BOX OV 1	**Oversize, 1935** Diploma. Described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-57	**General Correspondence, 1900-1953**
	Correspondence.
	Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically therein.
BOX 1	1900-1903
BOX 2	1902-1904
BOX 3	1904-1905
BOX 4	1905-1907
BOX 5	1907
BOX 6	1907-1908
BOX 7	1909-1910
BOX 8	1910-1912
BOX 9	1912-1913
BOX 10	1913-1914
BOX 11	1914-1915
BOX 12	1916-1917
BOX 13	1918-1919
BOX 14	1919
BOX 14	A-S
BOX 15	T-Z
BOX 15	1920
BOX 15	A-Z
BOX 16	N-Z
BOX 16	1921
BOX 17	1921, Sept.-1922, Apr.
BOX 17	1922
BOX 17	A-G
BOX 18	H-Z
BOX 18	1923
BOX 19	1923, Oct.-1925, Mar.
BOX 19	1924
BOX 19	A-Q
BOX 20	R-Z
BOX 20	1924, Oct.-1925, Mar.
BOX 20	1925
BOX 20	May-July
BOX 20	A-H
BOX 21	K-Z
BOX 21	Aug.-Sept.
BOX 21	Oct.-Dec.
BOX 21	A-L
BOX 22	M-Z

Container	*Contents*
BOX 22	A-Z
BOX 22	1925, American Historical Association program
BOX 22	1925
BOX 23	1926
BOX 24	1926
BOX 25	1927
BOX 25	Jan.-Apr.
BOX 25	A-H
BOX 26	K-Z
BOX 26	Apr.-July
BOX 27	July-Oct.
BOX 27	Oct.-Dec.
BOX 27	A-G
BOX 28	S-Z
BOX 28	1928, Jan.-May
BOX 29	1928
BOX 29	Jan.-Apr.
BOX 29	May-July
BOX 29	A-F
BOX 30	C-Z
BOX 30	July-Aug.
BOX 30	A-L
BOX 31	M-Z
BOX 31	1928-1929
BOX 31	Late 1928-early 1929, trip to Europe
BOX 31	A-M
BOX 32	N-Z
BOX 32	1929-1930
BOX 33	1929-1930
BOX 34	1929-1930
BOX 35	1930
BOX 36	1930
BOX 36	1931
BOX 36	Mar. 16-May 1
BOX 36	A-O
BOX 37	A-C
BOX 38	D-Z
BOX 38	1931, Dec.-1932, May
BOX 38	A-O
BOX 39	P-Z
BOX 39	1932
BOX 40	1933
BOX 40	A-F
BOX 41	G-L
BOX 42	M-R
BOX 43	S-Z

Container	*Contents*
BOX 43	1934
BOX 43	A-C
BOX 44	E-M
BOX 45	M-Z
BOX 46	1935
BOX 46	A-K
BOX 47	L-S
BOX 48	T-Z
BOX 48	1936
BOX 48	A-G
BOX 49	H-R
BOX 50	S-Z
BOX 50	1937
BOX 50	A-C
BOX 51	D-G
BOX 52	H-Z
BOX 53	1938
BOX 53	Jan.-Feb.
BOX 54	Jan.-Apr.
BOX 55	Mar.-July
BOX 56	July-Oct.
BOX 57	Sept.-Dec.
BOX 57	1939
BOX 57	Jan.-Apr.
BOX 57	A-D
BOX 58	E-Z
BOX 58	May-Nov.
BOX 58	1939-1953, undated
BOX 59-60	**Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938**
	Writings by Dodd, including autobiographical notes, academic articles and reviews, speeches, editorials, and book material.
	Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically by title therein, with untitled items at the end.
BOX 59	Undated, autobiographical notes
BOX 59	1911, "The Fight for the Northwest, 1860," papers read before the American Historical Association, Dec. 30, 1910: *American Historical Review*, XVI, no. 4, July 1911
BOX 59	1925
BOX 59	"Little Men of Great Influence: Lecture III, Robert Walker; Lecture IV, Theodore Roosevelt"
BOX 59	"When Washington Tried Isolation," *Arts and Sciences*
BOX 59	1928, "Cross Currents in American Politics," outline of Cincinnati, Ohio, speech, Jan. 27
BOX 59	1929, book review of *The Tragic Era*, by Claude Bowers
BOX 59	1932, "George Washington," Study for Vanderbilt Lectures, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 22-23
BOX 59	1933

Container	*Contents*
BOX 59	"Back to the Land?" editorial
BOX 59	"The Federal Constitution and Its Application, 1789 to 1933"
BOX 59	"The Federal Constitution and the Economic Effects of Its Administration"
BOX 59	"The First Stratified Society in the United States," Munich, Germany, Dec. 5
BOX 59	"Frank Stringfellow," sketch
BOX 59	"German Contribution to American Life," radio address, Oct. 6
BOX 59	"Greatest Blunder in Modern History"
BOX 59	"Martin Luther," Berlin, Germany, Nov.19
BOX 59	"What Is the Matter with the Country?"
BOX 59	"The Worse Economic Dilemma of Modern History," editorial
BOX 59	"Preface" to book by Helmut Magers, Oct.
BOX 59	Untitled dinner address, June 23
BOX 59	1934
BOX 59	"A Troubled World," Bremen, Germany, Sept. 9
BOX 59	"Subjects of Study," Berlin, Germany, June 26
BOX 59	"Woodrow Wilson," *Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*
BOX 59	Book review of *Woodrow Wilson*, by Edith Gittings
BOX 59	Untitled article for Griffin of the *Chicago Tribune*, May 16
BOX 59	1935
BOX 59	"Abraham Lincoln and His Problem, 1861," Berlin, Germany, June 14
BOX 59	"The International Dilemma"
BOX 59	"The Problem of Recovery"
BOX 59	"The Urgent Problems," Berlin, Germany, Nov. 28
BOX 59	Untitled speeches, June 4 and July 24
BOX 59	1936
BOX 59	"The Problem of Modern Civilization"
BOX 59	"On Wilson's 80th Birthday," *New York Times*, Dec. 27
BOX 59	"The Struggle for Democracy," Chicago, Ill., July 7
BOX 59	"Thomas Jefferson," Berlin, Germany, Apr. 16
BOX 59	Statements to radio and press
BOX 59	Aug. 16, re: Olympic Games
BOX 59	Nov. 4, re-election of Franklin D. Roosevelt
BOX 59	Untitled radio speech, Berlin, Germany, Oct. 6
BOX 59	Untitled speech brief, Cleveland, Ohio, July 22
BOX 59	1937
BOX 59	"Can Democracy Be Preserved?" Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 3
BOX 59	"The Dangerous Drift of To-day," Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Va., Sept. 17
BOX 59	"Do unto Others as You Would Have Others Do unto You," Berlin, Germany, May 30
BOX 59	"George Washington and the American Union," Leipzig, Germany, Dec. 16
BOX 59	"The Unique Function of Education in American Democracy"
BOX 59	"Von Steuben," Magdeburg, Germany, May 21
BOX 59	Untitled radio speech, Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 3
BOX 60	1938
BOX 60	"Arrival Message," New York, Jan. 8
BOX 60	"The New German Education"
BOX 60	"Racial-Religious Reforms in Germany"

Container	*Contents*
BOX 60	"The Threatening German Dictatorship"
BOX 60	Undated
BOX 60	"Better Government," editorial
BOX 60	"The Curious German State"
BOX 60	"The Emergence of the First Social Order in the United States"
BOX 60	"Henry White Davis, Embittered Statesman"
BOX 60	"Karl Lamprecht and Kulturgeschichte"
BOX 60	"Lessons of the Great War"
BOX 60	"The Place of Nathaniel Macon in Southern History"
BOX 60	"Should Not the Majority Govern?"
BOX 60	"The Status of Higher Education in Virginia"
BOX 60	"The University and the Public"
BOX 60	"Introduction" to William T. Hutchinson's book
BOX 60	Untitled and miscellaneous manuscripts
BOX 60-61	**Miscellany, 1928-1941**
	Diaries, photographs, printed matter, and other material.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 60	Reception and dinner lists, 1934-1937
	(2 folders)
BOX 60	Listing of doctors of philosophy
BOX 60	Printed matter, 1935-1938
BOX 61	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, 1928-1941
BOX 61	Photographs, 1936, undated
BOX 61	Diaries, 1928, 1931
BOX 62-63	**Family Correspondence, 1895-1953**
	Correspondence.
	Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 62	Dodd, David (brother), 1935-1937, undated
BOX 62	Dodd, David, Jr. (nephew), 1937
BOX 62	Dodd, Jay Hubbard (daughter-in-law), 1952
BOX 62	Dodd, Martha (daughter) 1926-1937 *See Container 63*, Stern, Martha Dodd
BOX 62	Dodd, Martha Johns (wife), 1896-1938
	(9 folders)
BOX 63	Dodd, Roscoe S. (cousin), 1937, Feb. 8-Aug. 10
BOX 63	Dodd, Walter H., Dec. 5, 1933-Oct. 4, 1937
BOX 63	Dodd, William Edward, Jr. (son), 1932, Dec. 13-1952, Oct. 30, undated
	(6 folders)
BOX 63	Griffin, Annie Dodd (sister), 1933-1937
BOX 63	Haynes, Margaret Dodd (niece), 1934, Oct. 28
BOX 63	Horne, Herman H. (cousin), 1934, Apr.-1936, Dec.
BOX 63	Horne, Ida B. (cousin), 1934, Aug. 9-1936, Mar. 18
BOX 63	Johns, Clarence D. (brother-in-law), 1936, Feb. 24-1937, May 15
BOX 63	Johns, Eva (sister-in-law), 1895-1900

Container	*Contents*
BOX 63	Stern, Alfred K. (son-in-law), 1952, July 31- Nov. 20
BOX 63	Stern, Martha Dodd (daughter), 1926, Sept. 29-1937, July 25
	(3 folders)
BOX 63	Sturdivant, Evangeline J. (niece), 1934-1935
BOX 64	**Addition, 1901-1955**
	Correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and miscellany.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material with miscellany at the end.
BOX 64	General correspondence, 1901-1955
	(13 folders)
BOX 64	Writings file, poetry by Carl Sandburg
BOX 64	Miscellany
BOX 64	Photographs
	(2 folders)
BOX 64	Sketches
BOX 64	Clippings
BOX 64	Lock of hair (Carl Sandburg)
BOX 64	Diploma of William E. Dodd, Jr., 1935 *See Oversize*
BOX OV 1	**Oversize, 1935**
	Diploma.
	Described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.
BOX OV 1	Addition
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Diploma of William E. Dodd, Jr., 1935 (Container 64)