

James Alexander Robertson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Washington, D.C.
2012**

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Prepared by Clarencetta Jelks

Collection Summary

Title: James Alexander Robertson Papers

Span Dates: 1816-1939

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1898-1939)

ID No.: MSS38000

Creator: Robertson, James Alexander, 1873-1939

Extent: 22,000 items ; 59 containers plus 1 oversize ; 22.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, French, and Spanish

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

Summary: Editor, biographer, and archivist. Correspondence, diaries, notes, writings, subject files, and miscellany relating primarily to Robertson's activities and scholarship in Hispanic studies, especially Florida and the Philippines.

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

Blair, Emma Helen, -1911--Correspondence.

Bond, Carroll T. (Carroll Taney), 1873-1943--Correspondence.

LeRoy, James A. (James Alfred), 1875-1909--Correspondence.

Robertson family--Correspondence.

Robertson family.

Robertson, Cora Halsey--Correspondence.

Robertson, James Alexander, 1873-1939.

Wright, Irene Aloha, 1879-1972--Correspondence.

Organizations

Florida State Historical Society.

Subjects

Archives--Maryland.

Places

Florida--History.

Latin America--History.

Philippines--History.

Titles

Hispanic American historical review.

Occupations

Archivists.

Bibliographers.

Editors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James Alexander Robertson, editor, bibliographer, and first archivist of the state of Maryland, were given to the Library of Congress by James A. Robertson and family, 1930-1960. Additional material was deposited by John B. Stetson, Jr., via Cora Halsey Robertson, in 1940; other material was given by Curtis Wilgus in 1975.

Processing History

The papers of James Alexander Robertson were processed in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Serials have been transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the James Alexander Robertson Papers.

Other Repositories

Manuscripts by Robertson relating to Florida are in the Florida Historical Society, Cocoa, Fla. A collection of Robertson papers on the Philippines is in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University, Durham, N.C.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of James Alexander Robertson 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 James Alexander Robertson 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, James Alexander Robertson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1873, 19 Aug.	Born, Corry, Pa.
1896	Ph.B., Adelbert College, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
1903-1909	Co-edited with Emma Helen Blair <i>The Philippine Islands, 1493-1803</i> . Cleveland: A. H. Clark. 55 vols.
1906	L.H.D., Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
1916-1917	Research assistant, Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C.
1910-1916	Librarian, Philippine Library, Manila, Philippine Islands.
1912	Married Cora Moore Halsey
1916	Founded <i>Hispanic American Historical Review</i>
1917-1923	Served in Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Commerce Department
1918-1922	Managing editor, <i>Hispanic American Historical Review</i> (also in 1926-1939)
1923-1933	Research professor, American history, John B. Stetson University: Deland, Fla.

1923-1939	Executive secretary, Florida State Historical Society
1931	Organized Inter-American Bibliographical Association
1932	Translated and edited <i>True Relation of the Hardships Suffered by Governor Fernando de So . . .</i> Deland, Fla: Florida State Historical Society. 2 vols.
1935	Appointed archivist, state of Maryland
1936	Awarded Cervantes Medal for outstanding contributions in field of Florida history
1938	Elected vice president, Society of American Archivists
1939, 10 Mar.	Died, Annapolis, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Alexander Robertson (1873-1939) extend from 1816 through 1939, with the bulk of the material dated 1898-1939. The major portion of the papers focuses on Robertson's career as editor, bibliographer, librarian, and educator, a professional life that spanned the first four decades of the twentieth century and was devoted to the study of Hispanic America, Florida, and the Philippines. The collection is organized into six series: [Diaries](#), [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Writings File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series constitutes the bulk of the collection and is divided into three subseries: Family, Special, and General. Some correspondence is in Spanish and French. The [Writings File](#) includes translations and editorial notes by Robertson as well as his poems and miscellaneous writings. Included in the papers are two manuscripts pertaining to Americans in Latin America, 1835 and 1845.

Robertson's letters to his wife, Cora Halsey Robertson, began in 1910, two years prior to their marriage and continued to 1938. The [Family Correspondence](#) also includes exchanges with his children and relatives. This correspondence is particularly revealing for his work on the Philippines from 1910 to 1915, and it gives a daily account of his private and family life. Much of the correspondence dated 1939 relates to his illness and death.

Robertson's contribution as compiler and coeditor of the fifty-five volumes of *The Philippine Islands, 1493-1803* is described in the [Special Correspondence](#) from his collaborator, Emma Helen Blair. This correspondence also gives an account of his travels to Spain, Portugal, Italy, and France from 1902 to 1907. Other Special Correspondents include Carroll T. Bond, James A. LeRoy, and Mabel P. LeRoy. Letters to and from Bond relate to Robertson's appointment as archivist for the State of Maryland. The LeRoy correspondence concerns research and translations for *The Philippine Islands* project.

The [General Correspondence](#) dates from 1898 to 1939 and covers Robertson's professional activities in an uninterrupted sequence. It includes copies or carbons of Robertson's outgoing letters, memoranda, notes, and telegrams. From 1898 to 1900 the letters refer to *The Jesuit Relations* project. In addition to the material of Emma Helen Blair in the [Subject File](#) series, much of the General Correspondence file from 1900 to 1907 includes Blair-Robertson correspondence. Although the letters and other manuscript materials relating to the *Hispanic American Historical Review* (1916-1918) are a part of the Subject File, correspondence for the years 1920-1939 in the General Correspondence also concerns *HAHR* matters. This is especially true of letters between 1923 and 1929, the period in which Robertson served as managing editor of the journal. Letters relating to the activities of the Florida State Historical Society and Robertson's duties as executive secretary of that organization and as general editor of its publications date from March 1923 to 1932. Specific business letters, reports, and minutes of the society are a part of the Subject File.

The [Subject File](#) details the founding of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*. Documents and correspondence in the American Historical Association and *Hispanic American Historical Review* files refer to this phase of the journal's history.

Most of the research and duplication of Spanish manuscripts relating to the history of Florida in the archives of Spain was the work of Irene Aloha Wright. In a file for Wright are letters and financial records relating to her work.

Of special interest in the Miscellany series are the writings of Robertson's colleagues and the reproduction of Cabeza de Vaca's *Relacion de la Florida* (Zamora, 1542).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- Diaries, 1902-1911
- Correspondence, 1896-1939
- Subject File, 1835-1938
- Writings File, 1901-1939
- Miscellany, 1816-1939
- Oversize

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Diaries, 1902-1911</u> Diaries and journals kept by Robertson. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-44	<u>Correspondence, 1896-1939</u>
BOX 2-4	<u>Family Correspondence, 1910-1939</u> Letters sent and received between family members, including with Robertson's wife, Cora Halsey Robertson, and children. Arranged chronologically within each file. Letters of condolence on the death of Robertson are arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 5-6	<u>Special Correspondence, 1902-1935</u> Letters from Emma Helen Blair to Robertson concerning his early research and publishing ventures. Includes letters to and from Carroll T. Bond and James A. LeRoy and Mabel LeRoy and letters relating to Robertson's tenure and activities in the Philippines. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 7-44	<u>General Correspondence, 1896-1939</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 45-49	<u>Subject File, 1835-1938</u> Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, notes, manuscripts, and financial statements. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 50-56	<u>Writings File, 1901-1939</u> Transcripts, typescripts, and handwritten copies of lectures, draft copies of articles, books, manuscripts, and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material and chronologically within each file.
BOX 56-59	<u>Miscellany, 1816-1939</u> Cards, clippings, printed matter, and writings by others. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize</u> Certificates, awards, and memorabilia. Described according to the series, container and folder from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Diaries, 1902-1911 Diaries and journals kept by Robertson. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1902-1903, 1910-1911, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2-44	Correspondence, 1896-1939
BOX 2-4	Family Correspondence, 1910-1939 Letters sent and received between family members, including with Robertson's wife, Cora Halsey Robertson, and children. Arranged chronologically within each file. Letters of condolence on the death of Robertson are arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 2	Wife, Cora M. Halsey Robertson
BOX 2	1910-1915 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1916-1927 (5 folders)
BOX 4	1928-1938
BOX 4	Children, 1922-1927
BOX 4	Miscellaneous, 1911-1934
BOX 4	Illness and death, 1939
BOX 4	Death notices, 1939
BOX 4	Condolences on death, 1939 (4 folders)
BOX 5-6	Special Correspondence, 1902-1935 Letters from Emma Helen Blair to Robertson concerning his early research and publishing ventures. Includes letters to and from Carroll T. Bond and James A. LeRoy and Mabel LeRoy and letters relating to Robertson's tenure and activities in the Philippines. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 5	Blair, Emma Helen, 1902
BOX 5	General, 1902-1911, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Concerning death of, 1911-1912
BOX 5	Bond, Carroll T., 1935
BOX 5	LeRoy, James A., 1904-1909 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Le Roy, Mabel P., 1909-1913
BOX 6	Philippine affairs, 1909-1917 (4 folders)
BOX 7-44	General Correspondence, 1896-1939 Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments.

Correspondence, 1896-1939

Container

Contents

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 7	1896-1903
BOX 7	Jan.-July (4 folders)
BOX 8	1904-1906 (3 folders)
BOX 8	1907
BOX 8	Jan.-May
BOX 9	June-Dec.
BOX 9	1908-1909 (4 folders)
BOX 10	1910-1917 (6 folders)
BOX 11	1918 (5 folders)
BOX 11	1919
BOX 11	Jan.-Mar.
BOX 12	Apr.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 12	1920
BOX 12	Jan.-Mar.
BOX 13	Apr.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 13	1921
BOX 13	Jan.-Sept. (2 folders)
BOX 14	Oct.-Dec.
BOX 14	1922
BOX 14	Jan.-Sept. (4 folders)
BOX 15	Oct.-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 15	1923
BOX 15	Jan.-Sept. (3 folders)
BOX 16	Oct.-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 16	1924
BOX 16	Jan.-Sept. (3 folders)
BOX 17	Oct.-Dec.
BOX 17	1925
BOX 17	Jan.-Nov. (4 folders)
BOX 18	Dec.
BOX 18	1926
BOX 18	Jan.-May (5 folders)

Correspondence, 1896-1939

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 19	June-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 20	Dec.
BOX 20	1927
BOX 20	Jan.-Apr. (3 folders)
BOX 21	May-Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 22	Oct.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 22	1928
BOX 22	Jan.
BOX 23	Feb.-June (5 folders)
BOX 24	July-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 25	Dec., undated (2 folders)
BOX 25	1929
BOX 25	Jan.-Apr. (4 folders)
BOX 26	May-Oct. (5 folders)
BOX 27	Nov.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 27	1930
BOX 27	Jan. (2 folders)
BOX 28	Feb.-May (5 folders)
BOX 29	June-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 30	Dec.
BOX 30	1931
BOX 30	Jan.-Apr. (5 folders)
BOX 31	Apr.-July (6 folders)
BOX 32	Aug.-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 33	Nov.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 33	1932
BOX 33	Jan.-Feb. (4 folders)
BOX 34	Mar.-Aug. (6 folders)

Correspondence, 1896-1939

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 35	Sept.-Dec., undated (5 folders)
BOX 35	1933
BOX 35	Jan.-Mar. (3 folders)
BOX 36	Mar.-Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 37	Sept.-Dec., undated (5 folders)
BOX 37	1934
BOX 37	Jan.-Mar. (3 folders)
BOX 38	Apr.-Sept. (7 folders)
BOX 39	Oct.-Dec., undated (4 folders)
BOX 39	1935
BOX 39	Jan.-Apr. (4 folders)
BOX 40	May-Dec., undated (9 folders)
BOX 40	1936
BOX 40	Jan.
BOX 41	Feb.-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 42	Sept.-Dec., undated (5 folders)
BOX 42	1937
BOX 42	Jan.-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 43	Sept.-Dec., undated (5 folders)
BOX 43	1938
BOX 43	Jan.-June (6 folders)
BOX 44	July-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 44	1939
BOX 44	Jan.-Oct., undated (4 folders) (4 folders)
BOX 45-49	Subject File, 1835-1938 Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, notes, manuscripts, and financial statements. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 45	American Historical Association, Conference on Hispanic American History, Canada, 1932
BOX 45	Florida
BOX 45	Florida State Historical Society, 1929-1930
BOX 45	Correspondence

Subject File, 1835-1938

Container

Contents

BOX 45	Minutes, reports
BOX 45	French Florida, 1933
BOX 45	Correspondence, 1924-1935 (2 folders)
BOX 45	Footnotes (2 folders)
BOX 46	Index
BOX 46	Narrative
BOX 46	Pictures
BOX 46	Miscellaneous
BOX 46	Harris, Alta California, 1846
BOX 46	<i>Hispanic American Historical Review</i>
BOX 46	Correspondence, 1916-1917 (2 folders)
BOX 47	Reports, minutes, 1916-1932
BOX 47	Inter-American Historical Series, Correspondence, 1929-1939
BOX 47	Mollan, R. C., 1835
BOX 47	Monday, H. A., inventory of collection
BOX 47	Pan American Institute of Geography and History, 1929-1930
BOX 47	Pan American Union, Advisory Committee on Bibliography, minutes, 1930
BOX 47	Philippine Customary Law Project, correspondence, 1932-1938
BOX 47	Spanish Institute of Florida
BOX 47	Union Catalog of Floridiana, proposal
BOX 47	Wright, Irene Aloha
BOX 47	Correspondence
BOX 47	1923
BOX 48	1924-1935 (5 folders)
BOX 48	Financial statements
BOX 48	1922-1923
BOX 49	1924-1931 (4 folders)
BOX 50-56	Writings File, 1901-1939
	Transcripts, typescripts, and handwritten copies of lectures, draft copies of articles, books, manuscripts, and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material and chronologically within each file.
BOX 50	Articles on
BOX 50	Philippines
BOX 50	Miscellaneous topics
BOX 50	"Cartography, 1492-1867"
BOX 50	Correspondence/notes, 1916-1932
BOX 50	Notes/drafts (2 folders)
BOX 51	(2 folders)
BOX 51	"Flora and Fauna," notes
BOX 51	"Florida"

Writings File, 1901-1939

Container

Contents

BOX 51	Notes (2 folders)
BOX 51	Notes, "Monroe Doctrine, United States Foreign Policy"
BOX 52	"Florida Missions"
BOX 52	Draft
BOX 52	Notes/draft
BOX 52	" <i>Leyes de Indias</i> ," notes
BOX 52	<i>Louisiana under the Rule of Spain, France, and the United States, notes 1785-1807, 1911</i>
BOX 52	"The Luna Papers"
BOX 52	"McCartney Mission to China," notes
BOX 52	"Panama," notes/draft
BOX 52	"Rivers," notes
BOX 52	"Gentlemen of Elvas"
BOX 52	Correspondence, 1932-1939
BOX 52	Draft
BOX 53	"The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents"
BOX 53	<i>The Philippine Islands, 1493-1803</i>
BOX 53	Notes (2 folders)
BOX 54	(2 folders)
BOX 54	Poems, 1901-1928, undated
BOX 54	Translations (Spanish to English)
BOX 54	Early Spanish documents (1513)
BOX 54	Jesuit letter from Siam (1686)
BOX 54	Letter from China (1745)
BOX 55	Pavón, José María
BOX 55	<i>The Ancient Legends of the Island of Negros</i>
BOX 55	<i>Stories of the Indios of This Island (Negros)</i>
BOX 55	Rochmanteux, Camille, The Jesuits and New France
BOX 55	Translations, English to Spanish, "How the War Came to America," 1917
BOX 55	Miscellaneous
BOX 55	Concerning libraries and archives
BOX 55	Concerning Hispanic American history and others (2 folders)
BOX 56	Unidentified fragments
BOX 56-59	Miscellany, 1816-1939 Cards, clippings, printed matter, and writings by others. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.
BOX 56	Cards
BOX 56	Certificates, awards, and memorabilia <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 56	Clippings
BOX 56	Examinations
BOX 56	Invitations
BOX 56	Legal documents
BOX 56	Notes
BOX 57	Notes

Miscellany, 1816-1939

Container

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BOX 57	Printed matter
BOX 57	Programs
BOX 57	Receipts
BOX 57	Reproduction, Cabeca de Vaca, <i>Relacion de la Florida</i>
BOX 57	Writings by others (2 folders)
BOX 58	Speeches and lectures
BOX 58	Writings
BOX 58	Biographical file
BOX 58	Short stories
BOX 58	Introductions and foreword
BOX 58	"Bits about Masonry in Former Spanish Countries"
BOX 58	British seamen
BOX 58	Florida and Louisiana
BOX 58	Latin America
BOX 58	Philippine Islands
BOX 58	Spain
BOX 58	Spanish exploration
BOX 58	"Suggestions regarding Translation and Typographical Style"
BOX 58	Pardo de Tavera, T. H., "Resena Historica"
BOX 58	Cleary, R., "Brazil under the Monarchy"
BOX 58	Notebook
BOX 58	Notes on colonization
BOX 58	Notes re Philippine Islands
BOX 58	Notes from Jose Montero y Vidal
BOX 58	Miscellaneous notes
BOX 59	Subject files
BOX 59	American Mestizo Protective Association, report, 1914
BOX 59	Instituto Historico e Geographico Brasileiro, 1922
BOX 59	Inter-American Historical Series, report, circa 1934
BOX 59	Official names of Barrios, Philippine Islands, 1911
BOX 59	Ordinances for the Treatment of the Indians
BOX 59	Puente de Espana, 1875
BOX 59	Sanitation in Mexico
BOX 59	<i>Stafford</i> (schooner), invoice, 1816-1817
BOX 59	War Trade Board records
BOX 59	General
BOX 59	Greece
BOX 59	Latin America
BOX 59	Report of the Near Eastern Division
BOX 59	Ultra-Mayan
BOX 59	Duplicates
BOX 59	Bibliographical material
BOX 59	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Oversize Certificates, awards, and memorabilia.

Oversize

Container

Contents

	Described according to the series, container and folder from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Certificates, awards, and memorabilia (Container 56)