

# Harry S. Cummings Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2001

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.  
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## Collection Summary

Title: Harry S. Cummings Papers

Span Dates: 1890-1986

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1890-1917)

ID No.: MSS84247

Creator: Cummings, Harry S., 1866-1917

Extent: 50 items; 2 containers; 0.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: African-American politician and lawyer. Scrapbooks, correspondence, and ephemera relating to Cummings's service on the city council in Baltimore, Md., and his activities in national and local Republican Party politics.

## 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

Cummings, Harry S., 1866-1917.

### Organizations

Baltimore (Md.). City Council.

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

### Subjects

African American politicians.

African Americans--Civil rights.

African Americans--Education.

City councils--Maryland--Baltimore.

Civil rights--Maryland--Baltimore.

Segregation--Maryland--Baltimore.

### Places

Baltimore (Md.)--Politics and government.

Baltimore (Md.)--Race relations.

United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

### Occupations

Lawyers.

Politicians.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Harry S. Cummings, African-American politician and lawyer, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1998 and 1999.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Harry S. Cummings is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Harry S. Cummings 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, Harry S. Cummings Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harry S. Cummings (1866-1917) span the years 1890 to 1986, with the bulk of the material dating from 1890 to 1917. The papers primarily consist of correspondence and four scrapbooks relating to Cummings's political activities in the Republican party and his service on the city council in Baltimore, Maryland. The papers document his efforts to fight racial segregation legislation in Baltimore and his work in support of education for African Americans.

Cummings was born in 1866 in Baltimore. He graduated from Lincoln University in 1886 and was the first African American to be admitted to and graduated from the Maryland School of Law. Cummings was also the first African American elected to the Baltimore city council. He was first elected in 1890 and continued to serve for most years until his death. Cummings delivered the seconding speech for Theodore Roosevelt's nomination at the 1904 Republican National Convention.

Most of the correspondence among the unbound papers is congratulatory upon the occasion of various elections or political activities. The scrapbooks mostly contained newspaper clippings which were crumbling and extremely fragile. These clippings have been replaced by preservation photocopies of the originals. Other items in the scrapbooks, such as postcards and pamphlets, which have been removed from the volumes, are filed with the photocopies, maintaining the original order of each scrapbook so far as possible.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1890-1916, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellany, circa 1911, 1916, 1985-1986, undated
BOX 1	Obituary, 1917
BOX 1	Scrapbooks
BOX 1	Vols. 1-3, 1890-1916, 1926, undated (11 folders)
BOX 2	Vol. 4, 1904-1914, undated (4 folders)