

Frank Knox Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by George Mazuza



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

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Collection Summary

Title: Frank Knox Papers

Span Dates: 1898-1954

ID No.: MSS28845

Creator: Knox, Frank, 1874-1944

Extent: 2,800 items ; 12 containers plus 7 oversize ; 5.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Newspaper editor and publisher, and U.S. secretary of the navy. Correspondence, diaries, speeches and writings, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and miscellany relating to Knox's service in the Spanish-American War and World War I, his work as editor and publisher, 1936 campaign for vice president, and stint as secretary of the navy. Includes papers of his wife, Annie Reid Knox.

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

Chiang, Kai-shek, 1887-1975--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947--Correspondence.
Forrestal, James, 1892-1949--Correspondence.
Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952--Correspondence.
Knox, Annie Reid, 1876-1958. Annie Reid Knox papers. 1936-1954.
Knox, Frank, 1874-1944.
Lippmann, Walter, 1889-1974--Correspondence.
Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence.
Muehling, John Adam, 1862-1944--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Vandenberg, Arthur H. (Arthur Hendrick), 1884-1951--Correspondence.
White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.
Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944--Correspondence.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. Army. Volunteer Cavalry, 1st.
United States. Navy Dept.

Subjects

American newspapers--Illinois--Chicago.
Spanish-American War, 1898.
Vice-Presidential candidates--United States--1936.
World War, 1914-1918.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

Titles

Chicago Daily News.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Newspaper editors.
Publishers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Frank Knox, newspaper editor and publisher and U.S. secretary of the navy, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Annie Reid Knox, 1950-1954.

Processing History

The papers of Frank Knox were arranged and described in 1977. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Frank Knox Papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Frank Knox 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, Frank Knox Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1874, Jan. 1	Born, Boston, Mass.
1881	Moved to Grand Rapids, Mich.
1898	A.B., Alma College, Alma, Mich. Private in "Rough Rider" regiment of Leonard Wood and Theodore Roosevelt
1890	Married Annie Reid
1898	Reporter, <i>Grand Rapids Herald</i>
1902	With John Adam Muehling purchased the <i>Lake Superior Journal</i> , Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
1912	Sold <i>Lake Superior Journal</i> and started the Manchester Union and Leader. Manchester, N.H.
1917-1918	Artillery officer with American Expeditionary Force in France
1928	Became publisher of <i>Boston American</i> for William Randolph Hearst

1929	Appointed general manager for all Hearst newspapers
1931	Resigned from Hearst organization
1932	Purchased with Theodore Ellis the <i>Chicago Daily News</i>
1933	Became sole owner of the <i>Chicago Daily News</i>
1936	Nominated and campaigned as Republican vice-presidential candidate
1940	Appointed secretary of the navy
1944, Apr. 28	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frank Knox (1877-1944) span the years 1898-1954. The collection consists mainly of family and special correspondence, some general correspondence, Knox's speeches and writings, correspondence and speeches of his wife, Annie Reid Knox, and a clippings file. Additional papers donated by Annie Reid Knox document the establishment of the Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship at Harvard University. The Knox Papers are strongest for his role in politics and government service; they contain little material relating to his career as a publisher. The collection is organized into eight series: [Diaries](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Annie Reid Knox File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Family Correspondence](#) reflects Knox's service as a private in the Rough Riders regiment in the Spanish-American War and his World War I service as an artillery officer. The letters to his wife in the 1930s and 1940s provide insights into the development of his public career. A [Special Correspondence](#) file of letters with Theodore Roosevelt documents Knox's support of Roosevelt's political ambitions from 1911 through 1918.

The [General Correspondence](#) extends from 1917 through 1944, but the bulk of the material covers Knox's service as secretary of the navy. This series includes letters with many prominent public figures such as Calvin Coolidge, Henry Ford, James Forrestal, Felix Frankfurter, Cordell Hull, Chiang Kai-shek, Harold L. Ickes, Walter Lippmann, George Marshall, John Adam Muehling, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Arthur H. Vandenberg, William Allen White, Wendell Willkie.

Knox's [Speeches and Writings](#) cover the major addresses he delivered from the late 1930s through his tenure as secretary of the navy. The writings include a series of editorials he wrote from 1934 to 1940 while he was publisher and editor of the *Chicago Daily News*. The clippings file contains rather extensive coverage of Knox's campaign as Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1936.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Diaries, 1898-1944](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1898-1944](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1917-1944](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1911-1943](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1914-1944](#)
- [Annie Reid Knox File, 1936-1954](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Diaries, 1898-1944</u> Secretary of the navy logbook, desk calendar for 1943, record book of lunches and dinners, calendar of Knox's life compiled by Annie Reid Knox, and incomplete diary. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-3	<u>Family Correspondence, 1898-1944</u> Correspondence with parents and with Annie Reid Knox. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	<u>General Correspondence, 1917-1944</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5	<u>Special Correspondence, 1911-1943</u> Correspondence with John Adam Muehling and Theodore Roosevelt. Arranged by name of correspondent and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 5-7	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1914-1944</u> Texts of most speeches delivered by Knox between 1934 and 1944 and writings. Organized into speeches and writings and therein chronologically.
BOX 8-10	<u>Annie Reid Knox File, 1936-1954</u> Letters sent and received by Annie Reid Knox. Organized into general correspondence, letters of condolence on the death of Knox to his wife and to James Forrestal, and Cordell Hull, and speeches by Mrs. Knox.
BOX 10-12	<u>Miscellany</u> Memorabilia, miscellaneous business records, passport papers, writings about Knox, clippings, and scrapbooks. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 1-7	<u>Oversize</u> Oversize scrapbooks. Arranged and described according to the series and containers from which they were removed.

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