

Raymond Clapper Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Collection Summary

Title: Raymond Clapper Papers

Span Dates: 1908-1962

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1913-1944)

ID No.: MSS15925

Creator: Clapper, Raymond, 1892-1944

Extent: 75,000 items; 256 containers; 116 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Journalist. Correspondence, memoranda, diaries and writings, notebooks, dispatches, press releases, radio scripts, reports, printed matter, scrapbooks, promotional matter, photographs, and reference material chiefly pertaining to the New Deal and World War II.

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

Barrett, Edward W. (Edward Ware), 1910-1989--Correspondence.

Capper, Arthur, 1865-1951--Correspondence.

Carlin, George A.--Correspondence.

Clapper family.

Clapper, Raymond, 1892-1944 Racketeering in Washington (1933)

Clapper, Raymond, 1892-1944.

Croly, Herbert David, 1869-1930--Correspondence.

Getts, Charles H.--Correspondence.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.

Howard, Roy Wilson, 1883-1964--Correspondence.

Landon, Alfred M. (Alfred Mossman), 1887-1987--Correspondence.

Landon, Alfred M. (Alfred Mossman), 1887-1987.

Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.

Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944--Correspondence.

Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944.

Organizations

Gridiron Club (Washington, D.C.)

Tennessee Valley Authority.

United States. National Recovery Administration.

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Censorship.

Elections--United States.

Journalism.

Labor.

Neutrality.

Prohibition.

Taxation--United States.

World War, 1939-1945.

Places
Germany.
Great Britain.
Japan.
United States--Armed Forces.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.
Washington (D.C.)

Occupations
Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Raymond Clapper, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Olive Clapper, in 1947, 1959, and 1961-1962.

Processing History

The Clapper Papers were processed in 1961. The finding aid was expanded and revised in 1983, and revised again in 2009.

Additional Guides

The papers of Raymond Clapper were described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 6 (May 1949): 87.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Raymond Clapper 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, Raymond Clapper Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1892, May 30	Born, La Cygne, Kans.
1913	Married Olive Vincent Ewing (died 1968)
1913-1916	Attended University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans.
1916	Joined staff of <i>Kansas City Star</i>

1923-1928	Night manager and chief political writer, Washington, D.C., bureau, United Press
1929-1934	Chief, Washington, D.C., bureau, United Press
1930	Reported on London naval conference, London, England
1933	Published <i>Racketeering in Washington</i> . Boston: L. C. Page & Co.
1934-1936	Chief, Washington, D.C. bureau, <i>Washington Post</i>
1936	Newspaper column, "Between You and Me," syndicated by Scripps-Howard
1939	President, Gridiron Club, Washington, D.C.
1942	Began hosting radio program, Mutual Broadcasting System
1944, circa Jan. 29	Killed in airplane crash over the Marshall Islands while war correspondent in the Pacific

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Raymond Clapper (1892-1944) span the years 1908-1962, with the bulk from 1913 to 1944. The collection consists of diaries, letters, memoranda, biographical material, speeches and writings, printed matter, radio scripts, notes, and research and reference material relating primarily to Clapper's career as a journalist. The papers are organized in six series: [Personal File](#); [Correspondence](#); [Biographical File](#); [Article, Book, and Speech File](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Reference File](#). The largest portion is comprised of reference material focusing on the the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the New Deal, and World War II.

Important in the collection is material relating to Clapper's book, *Racketeering in Washington*, an account of graft in governmental departments and agencies, and correspondence between Clapper and H. L. Mencken, editor of the *American Mercury*, in relation to an article by Clapper on prohibition in Washington, D. C., entitled "Happy Days," published in the *American Mercury* in January 1927.

Prominent topics in the [Reference File](#) include political elections between World War I and World War II, journalism during the interwar period, censorship, presidential administrations from Warren G. Harding through Franklin D. Roosevelt, neutrality and foreign relations with Japan and Germany, the Supreme Court, labor, and the New Deal.

Correspondents include Edward W. Barrett, Arthur Capper, George A. Carlin, Herbert David Croly, Charles H. Getts, Roy Wilson Howard, Alfred M. Landon, H. L. Mencken, William Allen White, and Wendell L. Willkie.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Personal File, 1913-1943](#)
- [Correspondence, 1913-1959](#)
- [Biographical File, 1940-1944](#)
- [Article, Book, and Speech File, 1911-1944](#)

- Miscellany, 1908-1960
- Reference File, 1913-1962

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-42	<u>Personal File, 1913-1943</u> Diaries, personal records, promotion file, Gridiron Club material, foreign travel files, and scrapbooks containing notebooks, correspondence, near-print, and printed matter, manuscripts and typescripts of writings, and newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 43-51	<u>Correspondence, 1913-1959</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 52-55	<u>Biographical File, 1940-1944</u> Correspondence, near-print and printed matter, and newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 56-96	<u>Article, Book, and Speech File, 1911-1944</u> Holograph and typewritten drafts and copies of Clapper's newspaper writings, magazine articles, books, and speeches and radio scripts, including related correspondence, clippings, and other material. Arranged by type of writing and material and therein chronologically.
BOX 97-98	<u>Miscellany, 1908-1960</u> Clapper Award winners, memorabilia, near-print and printed matter, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Organized by type of material.
BOX 99-256	<u>Reference File, 1913-1962</u> Correspondence, near-print and printed matter, and newspapers clippings. Arranged alphabetically by subject, name of person, or organization, and therein by type of material, which is then organized chronologically except for newspaper clippings.

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	Wisconsin, 1938-1940
BOX 255	Work relief
	1935-1936
BOX 256	1935-1938
	World War I, 1928-1939
	Wyoming, 1938-1940
	Youngstown, Ohio, 1939