

Robert Lansing Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin and Andrew Passett



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

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

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Collection Summary

Title: Robert Lansing Papers

Span Dates: 1831-1935

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1914-1920)

ID No.: MSS29454

Creator: Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928

Extent: 6,000 items ; 77 containers plus 6 oversize ; 17 linear feet ; 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, diplomat, secretary of state during the Wilson administration, and member of the American mission to negotiate a peace treaty following World War I. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, resolutions, desk diaries, book manuscripts, speeches, scrapbooks, clippings, printed material, memorabilia, photographs, and other papers relating chiefly to Lansing's years (1914-1920) as counsel to the Department of State and as secretary of state and particularly to American foreign relations during World War I, the Paris Peace Conference, and Lansing's relations with President Woodrow Wilson and with various foreign diplomats and statesmen.

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

Anderson, Chandler P. (Chandler Parsons), 1866-1936--Correspondence.

Boyer, Frederick M.--Correspondence.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.

Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.

Davis, John W. (John William), 1873-1955--Correspondence.

Dickinson, J. M. (Jacob McGavock), 1851-1928--Correspondence.

Dulles, Allen Welsh, 1893-1969--Correspondence.

Dulles, John Foster, 1888-1959--Correspondence.

Elkus, Abram I., 1867-1947--Correspondence.

Foster, John Watson, 1836-1917--Correspondence.

Fuller, Paul, d. 1947--Correspondence.

Gerard, James Watson, 1867- --Correspondence.

Hibben, John Grier, 1861-1933--Correspondence.

Johnson, Cone, 1860-1933--Correspondence.

Jusserand, J. J. (Jean Jules), 1855-1932--Correspondence.

Koo, V. K. Wellington, 1888-1985--Correspondence.

Lane, Franklin K.--Correspondence.

Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928.

Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.

MacVeagh, Wayne, 1833-1917--Correspondence.

Marshall, Thomas R. (Thomas Riley), 1854-1925--Correspondence.

Meiklejohn, Alexander, 1872-1964--Correspondence.

Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947--Correspondence.

Morgenthau, Henry, 1856-1946--Correspondence.

Phillips, William, 1878-1968--Correspondence.

Polk, Frank L. (Frank Lyon), 1871-1943--Correspondence.

Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.

Rowe, L. S. (Leo Stanton), 1871-1946--Correspondence.

Scott, James Brown, 1866-1943--Correspondence.

Smith, Edward North, 1868-1943--Correspondence.

Stone, William Joel, 1848-1918--Correspondence.

Van Santvoord, Seymour, 1858-1938--Correspondence.
Whitlock, Brand, 1869-1934--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Woolsey, Lester Hood, 1877-1961--Correspondence.

Organizations

Lusitania (Steamship)
Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American.
International law.
Merchant marine--United States--History--20th century.
World War, 1914-1918--Diplomatic history.
World War, 1914-1918--Personal narratives.
World War, 1914-1918--Transportation.

Places

China--Foreign relations--United States.
Ireland--History--Sinn Fein Rebellion, 1916.
Japan--Foreign relations--United States.
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
Mexico--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--China.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.
United States--Foreign relations--Mexico.
United States--Politics and government--1913-1921.
Virgin Islands.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Statesmen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Robert Lansing, lawyer, counsel in international arbitration courts, secretary of state, and member of the American commission to negotiate peace at Paris in 1918, were given to the Library of Congress in three installments in 1929 by his wife, Eleanor Lansing. There were subsequent gifts in 1956 by Emma S. Lansing and John Foster Dulles and in 1980 from the Yale University Library.

Additional Guides

A listing of important topics, correspondence, and events reflected in containers 1-62 in the Chronological File, 1911-1928, is appended to the finding aid in the Manuscript Reading Room.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Lansing 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 Robert Lansing 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on three reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Robert Lansing Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1864, Oct. 17	Born, Watertown, N.Y.
1886	Graduated, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
1889	Admitted to New York bar
1890	Married Eleanor Foster
1892-1893	Associate counsel for United States on Bering Sea fur-seal arbitrations
1896-1897	Counsel, United States Bering Sea Claims Commission
1903	American counsel, Alaskan Boundary Tribunal
1906	Helped found American Society of International Law
1907	Associate editor, <i>American Journal of International Law</i>
1909-1910	American counsel, Hague Tribunal for arbitration of the North Atlantic Fisheries
1912-1914	Agent of American-British Claims Arbitration
1914	Appointed counsellor for State Department
1915-1920	Secretary of state
1917	Lansing-Ishii Agreement
1918-1919	Member, American commission to negotiate peace at Paris, France
1921	Published <i>The Big Four and Others of the Peace Conference</i> . Boston and New York. Published <i>Notes on Sovereignty from the Standpoint of the State and the World</i> . Washington, D.C.: The Endowment.
1920-1928	Member, firm of Lansing and Woolsey
1923	Counsel for China Counsel for Persia

1923-1925	Counsel for Chile in Tacna-Arica Arbitration
1928, Oct. 30	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Lansing (1864-1928) span the years 1831-1935 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1914-1920. The collection chiefly concerns his service as counsellor for the Department of State (1914-1915) and as secretary of state (1915-1920). It focuses on World War I, Lansing's participation in the American commission to negotiate peace at Paris and the gradual rift between him and President Woodrow Wilson which eventually culminated in his resignation in 1920, the *Lusitania* affair, the Mexican crisis, the arming of merchantmen, the Irish rebellion, the purchase of the Danish West Indies, relations with Japan and China, and Latin America and the proposed Pan American Pact. Papers of a personal nature concern Lansing's participation in private legal cases involving international law and his activity in domestic politics. The collection is divided into seven series; [Chronological File](#), [Private Memoranda](#), [Desk Diaries and Notes](#), [Correspondence](#), [North Atlantic Coast Fisheries](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), and [Scrapbooks](#).

The [Chronological File](#) includes the bulk of Lansing's correspondence as well as memoranda, reports, and other material. The [Private Memoranda](#) includes personal accounts of cabinet meetings, character sketches and impressions of men with whom he dealt, and detailed descriptions of the peace conference negotiations in 1919. The [Desk Diaries](#) contain notations on Lansing's activities and during periods when he was abroad contain more descriptive and personal entries. The [Correspondence](#) series supplements the [Chronological File](#) and primarily consists of his letters with Frederick M. Boyer. Miscellaneous correspondence includes some family letters as well as important letters from important individuals. The [North Atlantic Coast Fisheries](#) series relates to Lansing's arbitration at the Hague in 1910. The [Speeches and Writings](#) contains two drafts of books including *War Memoirs of Robert Lansing*, which contains material not contained in the published edition as well as speeches and miscellaneous writings. The [Scrapbooks](#) cover a wide range of Lansing's activities including his marriage and articles written about him after his death.

Significant correspondents in the papers include Chandler P. Anderson, William Jennings Bryan, James Bryce Bryce, John W. Davis, J. M. Dickinson, Allen Welsh Dulles, John Foster Dulles, Abram I. Elkus, John Watson Foster, Paul Fuller, James Watson Gerard, John Grier Hibben, Cone Johnson, J. J. Jusserand, V. K. Wellington Koo, Franklin K. Lane, Henry Cabot Lodge, Wayne MacVeagh, Thomas R. Marshall, Alexander Meiklejohn, John Bassett Moore, Henry Morgenthau, William Phillips, Frank L. Polk, L. S. Rowe, Elihu Root, James Brown Scott, Edward North Smith, William Joel Stone, Seymour Van Santvoord, Brand Whitlock, Woodrow Wilson, and Lester Hood Woolsey.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Chronological File, 1911-1928](#)
- [Private Memoranda, 1915-1922](#)
- [Desk Diaries and Notes, 1914-1920](#)
- [Correspondence, 1831-1921](#)
- [North Atlantic Coast Fisheries, 1909-1910](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1891-1935](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1890-1933](#)
- [Oversize, 1890-1933](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-62	<p><u>Chronological File, 1911-1928</u></p> <p>Bound volumes containing correspondence, memoranda, reports, resolutions, and other material. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 63-64	<p><u>Private Memoranda, 1915-1922</u></p> <p>Original and typescript copies of Lansing's personal memoranda and notes. Arranged chronologically. Available on microfilm, shelf no. 15,347.</p>
BOX 65-67	<p><u>Desk Diaries and Notes, 1914-1920</u></p> <p>Bound volumes containing notations and descriptions of days' proceedings. Arranged chronologically. Available on microfilm, shelf no. 15,347.</p>
BOX 68-70	<p><u>Correspondence, 1831-1921</u></p> <p>Correspondence and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein. This series supplements the chronological file.</p>
BOX 70-74	<p><u>North Atlantic Coast Fisheries, 1909-1910</u></p> <p>Printed and near-print volumes relating to the North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration at The Hague. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 75-77	<p><u>Speeches and Writings, 1891-1935</u></p> <p>Book manuscripts, speeches, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 77	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1890-1933</u></p> <p>See Oversize.</p>
BOX OV 1-OV 6	<p><u>Oversize, 1890-1933</u></p> <p>Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, programs, letters, invitations, and other material. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-62	Chronological File, 1911-1928 Bound volumes containing correspondence, memoranda, reports, resolutions, and other material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1911, Jan. 31-1913, Dec. 11
BOX 2	1913, Dec. 13-1914, June 1
BOX 3	1914, June 2-Aug. 30
BOX 4	1914, Aug. 31-Oct. 2
BOX 5	1914, Oct. 3-Nov. 14
BOX 6	1914, Nov. 16-1915, Jan. 8
BOX 7	1915, Jan. 9-Feb. 25
BOX 8	1915, Feb. 26-Mar. 29
BOX 9	1915, Mar. 30-June 3
BOX 10	1915, June 4-July 10
BOX 11	1915, July 12-Aug. 7
BOX 12	1915, Aug. 8-Sept. 3
BOX 13	1915, Sept. 4-Oct. 7
BOX 14	1915, Oct. 8-Nov. 14
BOX 15	1915, Nov. 15-Dec. 23
BOX 16	1915, Dec. 27-1916, Feb. 2
BOX 17	1916, Feb. 3-Mar. 31
BOX 18	1916, Apr. 1-May 18
BOX 19	1916, May 22-July 6
BOX 20	1916, July 7-Sept. 20
BOX 21	1916, Sept. 21-Oct. 31
BOX 22	1916, Nov. 2-Dec. 5
BOX 23	1916, Dec. 6-1917, Jan. 23
BOX 24	1917, Jan. 24-Feb. 28
BOX 25	1917, Mar. 1-Apr. 3
BOX 26	1917, Apr. 4-19
BOX 27	1917, Apr. 20-May 24
BOX 28	1917, May 25-July 2
BOX 29	1917, July 3-Aug. 8
BOX 30	1917, Aug. 9-Oct. 2
BOX 31	1917, Oct. 3-Nov. 19
BOX 32	1917, Nov. 20-Dec. 15
BOX 33	1917, Dec. 17-1918, Jan. 29
BOX 34	1918, Jan. 30-Apr. 10
BOX 35	1918, Apr. 10-June 10
BOX 36	1918, June 11-29
BOX 37	1918, July 1-Aug. 12

Chronological File, 1911-1928

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 38	1918, Aug. 3-Oct. 9
BOX 39	1918, Oct. 10-Nov. 9
BOX 40	1918, Nov. 10-1919, Jan. 4
BOX 41	1919, Jan. 16- Feb. 24
BOX 42	1919, Feb. 25-May 9
BOX 43	1919, May 10-June 20
BOX 44	1919, June 21-July 30
BOX 45	1919, July 31-Aug. 22
BOX 46	1919, Aug. 23-Sept. 15
BOX 47	1919, Sept. 16-Oct. 14
BOX 48	1919, Oct. 15-Nov. 10
BOX 49	1919, Nov. 11-Dec. 4
BOX 50	1919, Dec., 5-23
BOX 51	1919, Dec. 30-1920, Feb. 10
BOX 52	1920, Feb. 11-Mar. 31
BOX 53	1920, Apr. 1-June 23
BOX 54	1920, June 24-Dec. 3
BOX 55	1920, Dec. 6-1921, Jan. 31
BOX 56	1921, Feb. 1-May 2
BOX 57	1921, May 3-Aug. 11
BOX 58	1921, Aug. 19-Dec. 21
BOX 59	1921, Dec. 23-1922, Apr. 15
BOX 60	1922, Apr. 21-1923, Jan. 10
BOX 61	1923, Jan. 15-1924, May 5
BOX 62	1924, May 15-1928, Nov. 28, n.d.
BOX 63-64	Private Memoranda, 1915-1922 Original and typescript copies of Lansing's personal memoranda and notes. Arranged chronologically. Available on microfilm, shelf no. 15,347.
BOX 63 REEL 1	Originals, 1915-1922 (6 folders)
BOX 64 REEL 1	Typescripts, 1915-1922 (3 folders)
BOX 65-67	Desk Diaries and Notes, 1914-1920 Bound volumes containing notations and descriptions of days' proceedings. Arranged chronologically. Available on microfilm, shelf no. 15,347.
BOX 65 REEL 2	General
BOX 65 REEL 2	1914-1915 (2 vols.)

Desk Diaries and Notes, 1914-1920

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 66 REEL 2-3	1916-1920 (5 folders)
BOX 67 REEL 3	South America, 1917 (3 folders)
BOX 68-70	Correspondence, 1831-1921 Correspondence and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein. This series supplements the chronological file.
BOX 68 BOX 68	Boyer, Frederick M. 1911-1916 (7 folders)
BOX 69	1917-1918 (4 folders)
BOX 69 BOX 69	Miscellaneous 1831-1918 (4 folders)
BOX 70	1921, n.d. (6 folders)
BOX 70-74	North Atlantic Coast Fisheries, 1909-1910 Printed and near-print volumes relating to the North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration at The Hague. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 70 BOX 70 BOX 71 BOX 71 BOX 72 BOX 73 BOX 74	British case, 1909 Appendix to British counter case, 1910 Arbitration at the Hague, 1910 Vols. 1-2 Vols. 3-4 Vols. 5-6 Vols. 9-10
BOX 75-77	Speeches and Writings, 1891-1935 Book manuscripts, speeches, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 75 BOX 75	Books <i>War Memoirs of Robert Lansing</i> , 1935 (6 folders)
BOX 76	<i>Principles of American Political Parties</i> , undated (5 folders)
BOX 76	Miscellaneous, 1909-1919, n.d.

Speeches and Writings, 1891-1935

Container

Contents

BOX 77	Speeches, 1891-1912, n.d. (16 folders)
BOX 77	Scrapbooks, 1890-1933 See Oversize.
BOX 77	<i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1-OV 6	Oversize, 1890-1933 Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, programs, letters, invitations, and other material. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks
BOX OV 1	1890, Jan. 15-1894, Nov. 29
BOX OV 1	1914, Mar. 20-June 13
BOX OV 1	1914, Sept. 2-1915, June 10
BOX OV 2	1915, June 9- July 13
BOX OV 2	1915, July 7-1916, May 30
BOX OV 3	1915, Oct. 13-1921, Nov. 12
BOX OV 4	1916, Oct. 17-1918, Nov. 21
BOX OV 4	1918, Dec. 8-1920, Feb. 26
BOX OV 4	1919, Oct. 30-Nov. 13
BOX OV 5	1905, June 20-1927, Apr. 6
BOX OV 5	1920, Feb. 14-1925, Dec. 25
BOX OV 5	1924, Oct. 11-1928, Mar. 1
BOX OV 6	1928, Oct. 30-1933, Jan. 16
BOX OV 6	1917, Apr. 23-25