

Cordell Hull Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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and Patrick Doyle



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Cordell Hull Papers

Span Dates: 1908-1956

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1933-1944)

Language: Collection material in English

ID No.: MSS26765

Creator: Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955

Extent: 70,000 items; 264 containers plus 1 classified and 1 oversize; 99.6 linear feet; 118 microfilm reels plus 11 second copies

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

Abstract: United States senator and representative of Tennessee and secretary of state.

Correspondence, memoranda, diaries, manuscript of *The Memoirs of Cordell Hull* (1948), speeches and statements, scrapbooks, and printed matter relating chiefly to Hull's career as secretary of state.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937.

Blair, Emily Newell.

Colby, Bainbridge, 1869-1950.

Davis, Norman H. (Norman Hezekiah), 1878-1944.

Guffey, Joseph F., 1870-1959.

Hamlin, Charles, 1861-1938.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955. *Memoirs of Cordell Hull*. 1948.

Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937.

Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928.

Milton, George Fort, 1894-1955.

Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946.

Pittman, Key, 1872-1940.

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

Smith, Alfred Emanuel, 1873-1944.

Tumulty, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1879-1954.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

Monetary and Economic Conference (1933 : London, England)

United Nations.

United States. Congress. Senate.

United States. Dept. of State.

Subjects

Economics--Congresses.

Neutrality.

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.

Tariff--United States.

Places

Europe--Foreign relations--1918-1945.

Japan--Foreign relations--1912-1945.
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
Tennessee--Politics and government.
United States--Foreign relations--1933-1945.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Tennessee.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Tennessee.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Cordell Hull, U.S. senator and representative of Tennessee and secretary of state, were deeded to the Library of Congress by Hull in 1951. The major portion of the papers was received by the Library in 1952-1955, and further gifts were received in 1957-1972.

Processing History:

The Hull Papers were organized in 1956 and revised and expanded in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides:

In 1975 the Library published *Cordell Hull, [A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress]*. An alphabetical index of the first three series of the Hull collection is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room as well as on the microfilm edition of the papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Cordell Hull 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 Cordell Hull 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.

Security Classified Documents:

Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on 118 reels. Consult a reference librarian 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, Cordell Hull Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1871, Oct. 2	Born, Overton County (now Pickett), Tenn.
1889-1890	Student, National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio
1891	B.L., Cumberland University Law School, Birmingham, Ala. Admitted to the Tennessee bar
1893-1897	Member, Tennessee house of representatives
1903-1907	Judge, fifth judicial circuit, Tennessee
1907-1921	Member, U.S. Congress from the fourth strict of Tennessee
1917	Married Rose Frances Whitney (died 1954)
1921-1924	Chairman, Democratic National Committee
1923-1931	Member, U.S. Congress
1930	Elected U.S. senator (resigned 1933)
1933	Appointed secretary of state
1933-1943	Chairman, American delegation at various international conferences
1943	Attended Quebec Conference, Quebec, Canada
1944	Resigned as secretary of state
1945	Awarded Nobel Peace Prize Appointed delegate to United Nations Conference, San Francisco, Calif.
1948	Published <i>The Memoirs of Cordell Hull</i> . New York: Macmillan. 2 vols.
1955, July 23	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Cordell Hull (1871-1955) span the years 1908-1956, with the bulk from 1933 to 1944. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, desk diaries, speeches and statements, transcripts of press conferences, press releases, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. There is no correspondence covering Hull's career prior to 1910 and only a small amount prior to 1924, but printed copies of Hull's congressional speeches detail his political views as a member of Congress beginning in 1907, especially on such issues as the income tax, reciprocal trade, and tariff legislation. The collection includes nine series: [Correspondence](#); [Memoranda of Conversations](#); [Subject File](#); [Routine Correspondence](#); [Speech, Statement, and Article File](#); [Printed Material](#); [Miscellany](#); [Index](#); and [Classified](#).

The focus of the papers is on Hull's nearly twelve years as secretary of state under Franklin D. Roosevelt. His diplomatic efforts are outlined in memoranda he prepared of conversations with representatives of foreign countries before and during World War II. Relations between the United States and Latin America and Hull's role in the early stages of planning for the establishment of the United Nations are documented in the [Correspondence](#) and [Subject File](#) series and in newspapers clippings. Also treated are reciprocal trade, neutrality, and the major foreign policy issues of the period.

Correspondents during his Hull's tenure as secretary of state include Franklin D. Roosevelt, other members of Roosevelt's cabinet, foreign ambassadors and heads of state, and officials of the Department of State. Correspondents from his congressional career include Woodrow Wilson, James M. Cox, Alfred Emanuel Smith, Robert Lansing, Newton Diehl Baker, Joseph P. Tumulty, Norman H. Davis, Key Pittman, Joseph F. Guffey, Bainbridge Colby, George Fort Milton, Frank B. Kellogg, Frederick H. Allen, Josephus Daniels, Gifford Pinchot, Emily Newell Blair, and Charles Hamlin. There is no family correspondence.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains biographical information and material relating to the years after Hull's retirement, including a file pertaining to the establishment of the Hull Foundation.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Correspondence, 1910-1949](#)
- [Memoranda of Conversations, 1933-1944](#)
- [Subject File, 1916-1949](#)
- [Routine Correspondence, 1928-1948](#)
- [Speech, Statement, and Article File, 1908-1948](#)
- [Printed Material, 1908-1953](#)
- [Miscellany, 1921-1956](#)
- [Index](#)
- [Classified, 1943](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-56
REEL 1-27

Series

Correspondence, 1910-1949

Letters received and copies of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically. See the Index series, reels 110-118, for an alphabetical index of correspondents.

BOX 57-61
REEL 28-32

Memoranda of Conversations, 1933-1944

Typescripts relating to conversations between Hull and representatives of other countries.
Arranged alphabetically by country and therein chronologically.
Memoranda of conversations are also in certain international conference files in the Subject File. See the Index series, reels 110-118, for an alphabetical index of correspondents.

BOX 62-95
REEL 32-55

Subject File, 1916-1949

Memoranda, drafts of topical writings and notes, reports, desk diaries, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically. See the Index series, reels 110-118, for an alphabetical index of individual names.

BOX 96-129
REEL 55-80

Routine Correspondence, 1928-1948

Letters received and copies of letters sent.
Arranged in groups according to invitations; honorary degrees and commencements; commendatory letters; congratulatory letters; speeches, statements, and articles; and material relating to the S. B. Anderson farm. Correspondence within each group is chiefly arranged chronologically by year and therein alphabetically, in part.

BOX 130-147
REEL 80-95

Speech, Statement, and Article File, 1908-1948

Typescripts and near-print and printed copies of speeches, statements, and articles, some with handwritten emendations and additions. Includes typescripts of press conferences by Hull and President Franklin D. Roosevelt and near-print and printed copies of Department of State press releases.
Arranged chronologically and, in some cases, alphabetically therein by subject.

BOX 148-261
REEL 95-107

Printed Material, 1908-1953

Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and loose clippings and magazine articles.
Arranged chronologically, except for the clippings in the last seven boxes of the series, Containers 215-261, which have not been microfilmed.

BOX 262-265
REEL 107-109

Miscellany, 1921-1956

Newspaper clippings, some correspondence, calling cards, invitations, biographical material, and near-print and printed material. Includes an oversize container of memorabilia.
Arranged by subject and type of material.

REEL 110-118

Index

Microfilm of an index to items in Containers 1-95.
Arranged alphabetically by name and thereunder chronologically. The index is also available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

BOX CL 1
not filmed

Classified, 1943

Government security-classified documents.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

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BOX 2 REEL 1	1918, Jan. 12-1920, Dec. 30 1921, Jan. 6-Dec. 28
BOX 3 REEL 1	1922 Jan. 2-Aug. 29 Sept. 9-Nov. 9 Nov. 10-20
BOX 4 REEL 1	Nov. 21-Dec. 30 No month or day 1923 Jan. 3-Feb. 28 Mar. 1-Apr. 28 May 1-June 28
BOX 5 REEL 2	July 2-Oct. 30 Nov. 3-Dec. 31
BOX 6 REEL 2	1924 Jan. 1-31 Feb. 1-29 Mar. 1-31 Apr. 1-29
BOX 7 REEL 2	May 1-29 June 2-July 29 Aug. 4-Sept. 29
BOX 8 REEL 2	Oct. 1-Nov. 29 Dec. 1-31 1925 Jan. 1-Feb. 28

Correspondence, 1910-1949

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	Arranged alphabetically by country and therein chronologically.
	Memoranda of conversations are also in certain international conference files in the Subject File. See the Index series, reels 110-118, for an alphabetical index of correspondents.
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	Spain, 1936-1945
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Routine Correspondence, 1928-1948

Container

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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