

William Edward Dodd Papers

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Allan Teichroew, Wilhelmena Curry, and Karen Linn Femia

Collection Summary

Title: William Edward Dodd Papers

Span Dates: 1895-1955

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1940)

ID No.: MSS18697

Creator: Dodd, William Edward, 1869-1940

Extent: 22,000 items ; 64 containers plus 1 oversize ; 25.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and German with French

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

Summary: Historian and diplomat. Correspondence, diaries, speeches, writings, autobiographical notes, printed matter, photographs, and other papers relating to Dodd's work as an author, professor of history at the University of Chicago, and ambassador to Germany.

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--Correspondence.
Becker, Carl L. (Carl Lotus), 1873-1945--Correspondence.
Beveridge, Albert Jeremiah, 1862-1927--Correspondence.
Bowers, Claude Gernade, 1879-1958--Correspondence.
Brett, George P. (George Platt), 1858-1936--Correspondence.
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Dodd family--Correspondence.
Dodd, Martha Johns, -1938--Correspondence.
Dodd, Martha, 1908-1990--Correspondence.
Dodd, William Edward, 1869-1940.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Moore, R. Walton (Robert Walton), 1859-1941--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roper, Daniel C. (Daniel Calhoun), 1867-1943--Correspondence.
Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967. Carl Sandburg poetry drafts.
Schacht, Hjalmar Horace Greeley, 1877-1970--Correspondence.
Turner, Frederick Jackson, 1861-1932--Correspondence.

Organizations

University of Chicago.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Germany.
World politics--20th century.

Places

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government.
Europe--Description and travel.
Germany--Foreign relations--United States.
Illinois--Politics and government.
United States--Foreign relations--Germany.
United States--History.
United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Occupations

Diplomats.
Historians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Edward Dodd, historian and diplomat, were received by the Library as a deposit in 1945 and 1953 from Dodd's son, William E. Dodd, Jr., and daughter, Martha Dodd Stern. Stern added further papers as gifts in 1964, 1969, and 1972, and as a deposit in 1981. In 1965 the 1945 deposit was converted to a gift. Additional material came through gift and purchase, 1952-1979. In 1989, the remainder of the collection was converted to a gift.

Processing History

The papers of William Edward Dodd were arranged and described in 1963-1964. The collection was expanded and revised in 1979 and 1982. The finding aid was revised again in 2011.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Edward Dodd 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, William Edward Dodd Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1869, Oct. 21	Born, Clayton, N.C.
1897	B.S. and M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.
1899	Ph.D., University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
1901	Married Martha Johns
1900-1908	Professor of history, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Va.
1908-1933	Professor of history, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1933-1937	Ambassador to Germany
1934	President, American Historical Association
1938-1940	Returned and resided in the United States

1940, Feb. 9 Died, Round Hill, Va.

1941 Publication of *Ambassador Dodd's Diary, 1933-1937* . New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Edward Dodd (1869-1940) span the years 1895 to 1955, with the bulk of the material dating from 1900 to 1940. The papers are in English and German with French and are organized in six series: [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Miscellany](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [Addition](#), and [Oversize](#). Included are two pocket diaries from 1928 and 1931, articles, speeches, book material, autobiographical notes relating to Dodd's life before 1930, a correspondence file, much of it within the family, from 1895 until 1953 long after his death, and letters written by Dodd during a trip to Europe, 1928-1929. The earlier papers relate to Dodd's work as an historian, author, and citizen-scholar interested in local, state, national, and international politics. The greater part of the papers concern Dodd's career as professor of history at the University of Chicago and as ambassador to Germany.

Prominent correspondents include Newton Diehl Baker, Carl L. Becker, Albert Jeremiah Beveridge, Claude Gernade Bowers, George P. Brett, Nicholas Murray Butler, Josephus Daniels, Edward Mandell House, Cordell Hull, R. Walton Moore, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Daniel C. Roper, Hjalmar Horace Greeley Schacht, and Frederick Jackson Turner, as well as many other scholars and diplomatic colleagues. Family correspondents include Dodd's wife, Martha Johns Dodd, and their daughter, Martha Dodd (Stern).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, 1900-1953](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938](#)
- [Miscellany, 1928-1941](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1895-1953](#)
- [Addition, 1929-1955](#)
- [Oversize, 1935](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-57	<u>General Correspondence, 1900-1953</u> Correspondence. Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically therein.
BOX 59-60	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938</u> Writings by Dodd, including autobiographical notes, academic articles and reviews, speeches, editorials, and book material. Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically by title therein, with untitled items at the end.
BOX 60-61	<u>Miscellany, 1928-1941</u> Diaries, photographs, printed matter, and other material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 62-63	<u>Family Correspondence, 1895-1953</u> Correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 64	<u>Addition, 1901-1955</u> Correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by type of material with miscellany at the end.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize, 1935</u> Diploma. Described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.

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BOX 17	1921, Sept.-1922, Apr.
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General Correspondence, 1900-1953

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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General Correspondence, 1900-1953

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 59-60	Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938 Writings by Dodd, including autobiographical notes, academic articles and reviews, speeches, editorials, and book material. Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically by title therein, with untitled items at the end.
BOX 59	Undated, autobiographical notes
BOX 59	1911, "The Fight for the Northwest, 1860," papers read before the American Historical Association, Dec. 30, 1910: <i>American Historical Review</i> , XVI, no. 4, July 1911
BOX 59	1925
BOX 59	"Little Men of Great Influence: Lecture III, Robert Walker; Lecture IV, Theodore Roosevelt"
BOX 59	"When Washington Tried Isolation," <i>Arts and Sciences</i>
BOX 59	1928, "Cross Currents in American Politics," outline of Cincinnati, Ohio, speech, Jan. 27
BOX 59	1929, book review of <i>The Tragic Era</i> , by Claude Bowers
BOX 59	1932, "George Washington," Study for Vanderbilt Lectures, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 22-23
BOX 59	1933

Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938

Container

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BOX 59	"Back to the Land?" editorial
BOX 59	"The Federal Constitution and Its Application, 1789 to 1933"
BOX 59	"The Federal Constitution and the Economic Effects of Its Administration"
BOX 59	"The First Stratified Society in the United States," Munich, Germany, Dec. 5
BOX 59	"Frank Stringfellow," sketch
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BOX 59	"What Is the Matter with the Country?"
BOX 59	"The Worse Economic Dilemma of Modern History," editorial
BOX 59	"Preface" to book by Helmut Magers, Oct.
BOX 59	Untitled dinner address, June 23
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BOX 59	"A Troubled World," Bremen, Germany, Sept. 9
BOX 59	"Subjects of Study," Berlin, Germany, June 26
BOX 59	"Woodrow Wilson," <i>Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences</i>
BOX 59	Book review of <i>Woodrow Wilson</i> , by Edith Gittings
BOX 59	Untitled article for Griffin of the <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , May 16
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BOX 59	"Abraham Lincoln and His Problem, 1861," Berlin, Germany, June 14
BOX 59	"The International Dilemma"
BOX 59	"The Problem of Recovery"
BOX 59	"The Urgent Problems," Berlin, Germany, Nov. 28
BOX 59	Untitled speeches, June 4 and July 24
BOX 59	1936
BOX 59	"The Problem of Modern Civilization"
BOX 59	"On Wilson's 80th Birthday," <i>New York Times</i> , Dec. 27
BOX 59	"The Struggle for Democracy," Chicago, Ill., July 7
BOX 59	"Thomas Jefferson," Berlin, Germany, Apr. 16
BOX 59	Statements to radio and press
BOX 59	Aug. 16, re: Olympic Games
BOX 59	Nov. 4, re-election of Franklin D. Roosevelt
BOX 59	Untitled radio speech, Berlin, Germany, Oct. 6
BOX 59	Untitled speech brief, Cleveland, Ohio, July 22
BOX 59	1937
BOX 59	"Can Democracy Be Preserved?" Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 3
BOX 59	"The Dangerous Drift of To-day," Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Va., Sept. 17
BOX 59	"Do unto Others as You Would Have Others Do unto You," Berlin, Germany, May 30
BOX 59	"George Washington and the American Union," Leipzig, Germany, Dec. 16
BOX 59	"The Unique Function of Education in American Democracy"
BOX 59	"Von Steuben," Magdeburg, Germany, May 21
BOX 59	Untitled radio speech, Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 3
BOX 60	1938
BOX 60	"Arrival Message," New York, Jan. 8
BOX 60	"The New German Education"
BOX 60	"Racial-Religious Reforms in Germany"

Speeches and Writings, 1911-1938

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BOX 60	"Better Government," editorial
BOX 60	"The Curious German State"
BOX 60	"The Emergence of the First Social Order in the United States"
BOX 60	"Henry White Davis, Embittered Statesman"
BOX 60	"Karl Lamprecht and Kulturgeschichte"
BOX 60	"Lessons of the Great War"
BOX 60	"The Place of Nathaniel Macon in Southern History"
BOX 60	"Should Not the Majority Govern?"
BOX 60	"The Status of Higher Education in Virginia"
BOX 60	"The University and the Public"
BOX 60	"Introduction" to William T. Hutchinson's book
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BOX 60	Listing of doctors of philosophy
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BOX 62	Dodd, Martha Johns (wife), 1896-1938 (9 folders)
BOX 63	Dodd, Roscoe S. (cousin), 1937, Feb. 8-Aug. 10
BOX 63	Dodd, Walter H., Dec. 5, 1933-Oct. 4, 1937
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BOX 63	Griffin, Annie Dodd (sister), 1933-1937
BOX 63	Haynes, Margaret Dodd (niece), 1934, Oct. 28
BOX 63	Horne, Herman H. (cousin), 1934, Apr.-1936, Dec.
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BOX 63	Johns, Clarence D. (brother-in-law), 1936, Feb. 24-1937, May 15
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Family Correspondence, 1895-1953

Container

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BOX 63	Stern, Martha Dodd (daughter), 1926, Sept. 29-1937, July 25 (3 folders)
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BOX 64	Addition, 1901-1955 Correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by type of material with miscellany at the end.
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BOX OV 1	Diploma of William E. Dodd, Jr., 1935 (Container 64)