

United States Constitution Collection

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011228>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm81082933>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: United States Constitution Collection

Span Dates: 1773-1944

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1787-1919)

ID No.: MSS82933

Extent: 50 items ; 1 container plus 2 oversize ; .3 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Reports, notes, journals, letters, memoranda, and printed items documenting the drafting of the United States Constitution, the Constitutional Convention, and proposals relating to the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments to the Constitution.

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

Adams, John, 1735-1826.

Baldwin, Abraham, 1754-1807.

Beckley, John James, 1757-1807.

Brearly, David, 1745-1790.

Gilman, Nicholas, 1755-1814.

Ingersoll, Jared, 1749-1822.

King, Rufus, 1755-1827.

Madison, James, 1751-1836.

Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus Conrad, 1750-1801.

Pendleton, Edmund, 1721-1803.

Washington, George, 1732-1799.

Organizations

United States. Constitution.

United States. Constitution. 1st-10th Amendments.

United States. Constitutional Convention (1787)

Subjects

Constitutional history--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1783-1789.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The United States Constitution Collection was obtained by gift and purchase from various sources, 1931-1947, and by gift of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hearst, Jr., in 1986.

Processing History

The United States Constitution Collection was processed between 1931 and 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2005 and again in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of United States Constitution Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The United States Constitution Collection is 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, United States Constitution Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The United States Constitution Collection spans the years 1773-1944, with the bulk of the items concentrated in 1787-1919. The collection consists chiefly of photocopies and facsimiles of originals in various repositories, including the Library of Congress, and contains reports, notes, journals, letters, memoranda, and printed items documenting the drafting of the American Constitution, the Constitutional Convention (1787), and proposals relating to the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments to the Constitution. Included are John James Beckley's manuscript copy of the Bill of Rights signed by Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg and John Adams and material by Abraham Baldwin, David Brearley, Nicholas Gilman, Jared Ingersoll, Rufus King, James Madison, Edmund Pendleton, and George Washington.

Arrangement of the Papers

Original items are organized separately from photocopies, facsimiles, and transcripts, and both groups are arranged chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Originals
BOX 1	1787
BOX 1	Feb. 21, resolution to convene a meeting of delegates in Philadelphia, Pa., in May to revise the Articles of Confederation
BOX 1	circa June
BOX 1	Report of a speech in the Philadelphia, Pa., convention by Jared Ingersoll, including photocopy and transcription of report and memorandum of 1936 on the origin of the speech
BOX 1	Sept. 4, notes by James Madison in unknown hand and docketed by Madison
BOX 1	1789, Sept., John James Beckley copy of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1	Photocopies, facsimiles, and transcripts
FOLDER 1	
BOX OV 1	1787
FOLDER 1	
BOX OV 1	May, Virginia plan in the hand of George Washington
FOLDER 1	
BOX OV 1	circa June, resolutions preparatory to the formation of the Constitution [reported from the Committee of the Whole?], handwritten transcript of the original
FOLDER 2	
BOX OV 1	Aug. 1-6, Committee of Detail, report
FOLDER 3	
BOX OV 1	Aug. 6, Committee of Detail, annotations on report
FOLDER 4	
BOX OV 1	Madison, James
FOLDER 4	
BOX OV 1	Brearily, David
FOLDER 5	
BOX OV 1	Gilman, Nicholas
FOLDER 6	
BOX OV 1	Aug. 8-9, journal of the federal convention
FOLDER 7	
BOX OV 1	Sept. 12
FOLDER 8	
BOX OV 1	Journal of the federal convention
FOLDER 8	
BOX OV 1	Committee of Style
FOLDER 9	
BOX OV 1	Baldwin, Abraham, annotated copy of the Constitution
FOLDER 9	
BOX OV 1	Committee report with annotations of George Washington
FOLDER 10	
BOX OV 1	King, Rufus, annotated copy of the Constitution
FOLDER 11	
BOX OV 1	Madison, James, annotated copy of the Constitution
FOLDER 12	

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 13	Sept. 17
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 13	Final draft of the Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 14	As reported, with notes by Edmund Pendleton
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 15	Pages 2-3 16
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 16	Final signed document, printed copy and covering letter of George Washington to the president of the congress
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 17	Sept. 17-28, plans for the articles of the proposed Constitution, newspaper printing
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Oct., Connecticut General Assembly
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	1788, Nov. 20
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Avery, John, certification
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Virginia Assembly motion, Bill of Rights and other amendments
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	1789
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Jan., Connecticut election of United States representatives
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Feb. 4, New Hampshire presidential electors vote
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Mar. 4, twelve amendments
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	May 2, David Humphreys, presidential visitors
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	July 17, bill to establish the judiciary
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Sept. 30, letter, George Washington to Henry Dearborn
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Oct. 2, letter, George Washington to John Hancock
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	1789-1919, first nineteen amendments
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	1790
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	June 4, Massachusetts General Court resolutions
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	Nov. 24-30, North Carolina resolutions
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	Dec. 1-11, North Carolina resolutions
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1865, Duval Swander & Co. issue of Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1929, Wadiah B. NeJane edition of Constitution (as a flat)

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1935, J. Franklin Jameson edition of Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1937, U. S Constitution Sesquicentennial commission, broadside
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1939, H. L. Whitteman issue of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1943, Library of Congress "Reproolith" of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Undated
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Albertype Co. reproduction of Bogart copy of Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Miscellaneous photographs and photocopies
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	National Archives issue of Bill or Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Treasury Department issue of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Unidentified material relating to Bill of Rights