Louis F. Post Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the 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.ms012041

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm77036657

Prepared by Adrienne Thomas

Collection Summary

Title: Louis F. Post Papers
Span Dates: 1864-1940
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1922)
ID No.: MSS36657
Creator: Post, Louis F. (Louis Freeland), 1849-1928
Extent: 600 items ; 11 containers ; 4.4 linear feet ; 1 microfilm reel
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Journalist, lawyer, and public official. Correspondence, manuscripts of articles and books, biographical data, scrapbooks, printed matter, and other papers relating to Post's career as a writer, public official, and advocate of the single tax.

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
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
George, Henry, 1839-1897.
Post, Alice Thacher, 1853-1947. Alice Thacher Post papers.
Post, Louis F. (Louis Freeland), 1849-1928.
Post, Louis F. (Louis Freeland), 1849-1928. Deportations delirium of nineteen-twenty : a personal narrative of an historic official experience. 1923.
Post, Louis F. (Louis Freeland), 1849-1928. Prophet of San Francisco : personal memories & interpretations of Henry George. 1930.

Organizations
Ku Klux Klan (19th century)--Trials, litigation, etc.
United States. Department of Labor.

Subjects
Buried treasure.
Civil rights--South Carolina.
Civil rights--United States.
Deportation--United States.
Dissenters--United States.
Journalism--United States.
New Jerusalem Church.
Progress.
Radicalism--United States.
Radicals--United States.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--South Carolina .
Single tax.
Social change.
Social history.
Treasure troves--South Africa.

Places
United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.
United States--Social conditions.

Titles
Hackettstown gazette.

Occupations
Journalists.
Lawyers.
Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Louis F. Post, journalist, lawyer, and government official, were given to the Library of Congress by Alice Thacher Post, Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, and the Post family, 1933-1936. An addition was given by his daughter, Phyllis B. Post, in 1977.

Processing History

The papers of Louis F. Post were arranged and described in 1970-1971 and expanded in 1977. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Louis F. Post is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Louis F. Post 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 one reel. 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 number, Louis F. Post Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1849, Nov. 15	Born, Sussex County, N.J.
1864-1865	Printer's apprentice, Hackettstown (N.J.) *Gazette*
1866	Worked on the *Brooklyn Union*
1867	Entered New York, N.Y., law office of Thomas, Glassey & Blake
1870	Admitted to the bar
1870-1871	Clerk to David T. Corbin, U.S. attorney, Charleston, S.C.
1871	Took stenographic records at Ku Klux Klan trials in South Carolina

1871	Married Anna Johnson (died 1891)
1874-1875	Assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of New York
1875	Formed law partnership of Lockwood & Post
1880-1882	Editorial writer, New York *Truth*
1886	Editor, New York *Leader*
1886-1892	Served successively as editorial writer, news editor, and editor of the New York *Standard* (weekly paper of the single-tax movement)
1892-1895	Lectured widely on the single tax
1893	Married Alice Thacher (died 1947)
1896-1898	Editorial writer, Cleveland *Recorder*
1898-1913	With his wife established and edited Chicago *Public*
1903	Published *Ethics of Democracy*. New York: Moody Publishing Co.
1904	Published *The Prophet of San Francisco*. Chicago: L. S. Dickey
1906	Published *Ethical Principles of Marriage and Divorce*. Chicago: Public Publishing Co.
1906-1909	Appointed to Chicago, Ill., school board
1913-1920	Served as assistant secretary of labor
1920	Attempt to have him impeached as assistant secretary of labor failed
1923	Published *The Deportations Delirium of Nineteen-Twenty*. Chicago: C. H. Kerr
1926	Published *What Is the Single Tax?* New York: Vanguard Press
1927	Published *The Basic Facts of Economics*. Washington, D.C.: [Columbian Print. Co.]
1928, Jan. 10	Died, Washington, D.C.
1930	Posthumous publication of *The Prophet of San Francisco*. New York: Vanguard Press

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) span the years 1864-1940, with the bulk of the material from the period 1900-1922. The collection consists of a diary, correspondence, writings, and miscellaneous biographical material and printed matter. The papers document Post's wide-ranging interests, especially his support of Henry George and the single tax, his Swedenborgian religious views, his policies favoring the civil rights of radicals, and his optimistic view of society and progress. A main feature of the correspondence is a file of letters to and from William Jennings Bryan described on

receipt as correspondence selected by Post of their communications. The collection is organized into four series: Correspondence, Article and Book File, Miscellany, and Addition.

The writings consist of articles, book drafts, and copies of published books. The articles were written for various national magazines as well as newspapers such as the *Daily Democrat*, *Day Star*, *Public*, and New York *Standard*. Included in the book manuscripts is Post's unpublished autobiography, "Living a Long Life Over Again." There are also manuscripts of *The Deportations Delirium of Nineteen-Twenty* and *The Prophet of San Francisco*. Among the published books in the collection are copies of *The Ethics of Democracy*, *What Is the Single Tax?*, and *The Basic Facts of Economics*.

The Miscellany includes two scrapbooks of note. One records Post's correspondence with the Hackettstown *Gazette* and other newspapers while he was in South Carolina covering Ku Klux Klan trials as a government stenographer. The other relates primarily to the attempted impeachment of Post as assistant secretary of labor because of his policies relating to the deportation of political dissidents and radicals. Also in Miscellany is material pertaining to an alleged buried treasure in South Africa supposedly hidden at the time Paul Kruger, president of Transvaal, made his escape to Holland, and a file containing Russian loan data.

An Addition to the collection includes correspondence, writings, and other material of Post's wife, Alice Thacher Post, as well as a diary, letters, articles, poems, speeches, and a scrapbook of Louis Post.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Correspondence, 1900-1939
- Article and Book File, 1879-1926
- Miscellany, 1864-1939
- Addition, 1905-1940

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1	**Correspondence, 1900-1939** Letters sent and received. Arranged into a general correspondence file and correspondence with William Jennings Bryan.
BOX 2-6	**Article and Book File, 1879-1926** Drafts and printed copies of books and articles. Arranged alphabetically by type of writing and therein by title or type of material. Post's autobiography, "Living a Long Life Over Again," is available on microfilm shelf no. 16,981
BOX 7-9	**Miscellany, 1864-1939** Obituary notices, biographical data, printed material, scrapbooks, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 10-11	**Addition, 1905-1940** Diary, correspondence, articles, poems, speeches, and miscellany. Includes correspondence, writings, and other material of Post's wife, Alice Thacher Post. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1	**Correspondence, 1900-1939**
	Letters sent and received.
	Arranged into a general correspondence file and correspondence with William Jennings Bryan.
BOX 1	Bryan, William Jennings, 1900-1922
BOX 1	General, 1914-1939
BOX 2-6	**Article and Book File, 1879-1926**
	Drafts and printed copies of books and articles.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of writing and therein by title or type of material.
	Post's autobiography, "Living a Long Life Over Again," is available on microfilm shelf no. 16,981
BOX 2	Books
BOX 2	*American Immigration Policies and Problems*, manuscript
BOX 2	*The Basic Facts of Economics*, second edition of published vol.
BOX 2	The *Deportations Delirium of Nineteen-Twenty*, manuscript
BOX 3	*Ethics of Democracy*, two inscribed copies and a copy containing a letter from Charles Frederick Adams, 1916, Dec. 3
BOX 3	"If I Were President," unpublished manuscript, biographical sketch, and correspondence
BOX 4	"Living a Long Life Over Again," typescript of autobiography *Available on microfilm shelf no. 16,981*
BOX 4	"A Primer of Political Economy," charts prepared by Charles Johnson Post
BOX 5	*The Prophet of San Francisco*, manuscript
BOX 5	*What Is the Single Tax*?, published vol.
BOX 6	Articles
BOX 6	*Daily Democrat*
BOX 6	*Day Star*
BOX 6	Deportation
BOX 6	Magazine articles
BOX 6	Published articles and letters
BOX 6	Syndicated articles
BOX 6	Other articles by Post
BOX 7-9	**Miscellany, 1864-1939**
	Obituary notices, biographical data, printed material, scrapbooks, and other material.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7	Articles by Alice Thacher Post
BOX 7	Biographical material
BOX 7	Articles concerning Post
BOX 7	Dictionary, 1928-1933
BOX 7	Meetings and dinners

Container	*Contents*
BOX 7	Notes
BOX 7	Study by John Lombardi
BOX 7	Study by Stuart Portner
BOX 7	Study by Paul W. Pritchard
BOX 7	"Boer State Treasure"
	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Lectures and speeches
BOX 7	Morey letter episode
BOX 7	Newspaper clippings
BOX 7	Obituary notices
BOX 8	Printed material
BOX 9	Printed material
BOX 9	"Report to the Commission on Unemployment"
BOX 9	Reviews of *Prophet of San Francisco*
BOX 9	Russian loan
BOX 9	Scrapbooks
BOX 9	Impeachment attempt, 1920
BOX 9	1864-1878, especially concerning Ku Klux Klan trials in South Carolina
BOX 9	Unidentified
BOX 10-11	**Addition, 1905-1940**
	Diary, correspondence, articles, poems, speeches, and miscellany. Includes correspondence, writings, and other material of Post's wife, Alice Thacher Post.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 10	Diary, 1922-1927
BOX 10	Correspondence
BOX 10	Post, Louis Freeland
BOX 10	Post, Charles J.
BOX 10	Wilson, Woodrow
BOX 10	Post, Alice Thacher, A-W
	(14 folders)
BOX 11	Articles
BOX 11	"Administrative Decisions in Connection with Immigration," 1916
BOX 11	"A Carpetbagger in South Carolina," 1925
BOX 11	"The Greatest Forgery in American Political History," 1911
BOX 11	"Women as Managing Editors," by Alice Thacher Post
BOX 11	"The Work of the Department of Labor of the United States during the War," 1919
BOX 11	Poems
BOX 11	"From Youth to Youth," 1931
BOX 11	"The Garbage Man Speaks," 1930, by Alice Thacher Post
BOX 11	"Le Japon Frisonne-t-il Aussi?," by Alice Thacher Post
BOX 11	"Old Age," 1926
BOX 11	"Wisdom for Kings," 1929, by Alice Thacher Post
BOX 11	Speeches
BOX 11	"A Non-Ecclesiastical Confession of Religious Faith," 1905
BOX 11	Speech at a mass protest in Chicago, Ill., 1909, Feb. 14

Container	*Contents*
BOX 11	Miscellany
BOX 11	Unfinished primer of political economy, 1927
BOX 11	Alice Thacher Post's notes regarding the disposition of some of her husbands books, letters, another material, 1930-1940
BOX 11	Scrapbooks
BOX 11	Printed matter, 1920s
BOX 11	Certificate of appointment as assistant secretary of labor