

Henry Prather Fletcher Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012198>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78020818>

Prepared by John J. McDonough

Collection Summary

Title: Henry Prather Fletcher Papers

Span Dates: 1898-1958

ID No.: MSS20818

Creator: Fletcher, Henry Prather, 1873-1959

Extent: 6,600 items ; 29 containers ; 10.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Diplomat. Correspondence, diary, letterbook, speeches and articles, scrapbook, clippings, memorabilia, photographs, and other papers documenting Fletcher's career from his enlistment in the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War through his service as a special adviser to the secretary of state on post-World War II problems and plans.

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.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Fletcher, Beatrice Bend, -1941--Correspondence.
Fletcher, Henry Prather, 1873-1959.
Grew, Joseph C. (Joseph Clark), 1880-1965--Correspondence.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937--Correspondence.
Knox, Frank, 1874-1944--Correspondence.
Landon, Alfred M. (Alfred Mossman), 1887-1987--Correspondence.
Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947--Correspondence.
Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Straight, Willard Dickerman, 1880-1918--Correspondence.
Taft, Robert A. (Robert Alphonso), 1889-1953--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

Organizations

International American Conference (5th : 1923 : Santiago, Chile)
International American Conference (6th : 1928 : Havana, Cuba)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. Army--History--Spanish-American War, 1898.
United States. Army. Volunteer Cavalry, 1st.
United States. Department of State.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Pan-Americanism.
Reconstruction (1939-1951)
Spanish-American War, 1898.
World War, 1939-1945.

Places

Belgium--Foreign relations--United States.
Chile--Foreign relations--United States.
China--Foreign relations--United States.
Cuba--Foreign relations--United States.
Italy--Foreign relations--United States.
Mexico--Foreign relations--United States.
Portugal--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--Belgium.
United States--Foreign relations--Chile.
United States--Foreign relations--China.
United States--Foreign relations--Cuba.
United States--Foreign relations--Italy.
United States--Foreign relations--Mexico.
United States--Foreign relations--Portugal.
United States--Politics and government--1945-

Occupations

Diplomats.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Henry Prather Fletcher, diplomat, were bequeathed to the Library of Congress in 1960 and received in 1960 and 1966.

Processing History

The Henry Prather Fletcher Papers were processed in 1961 and expanded in 1966. Formerly classified material was made available in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry Prather Fletcher 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, Henry Prather Fletcher Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1873, Apr. 10	Born, Greencastle, Pa.
1894	Admitted to bar

1898-1899	Enlisted in Troop K, 1st United States Cavalry Volunteers (Rough Riders); served in Cuban campaign
1899-1901	Served in regular army in Philippines, first lieutenant and battalion adjutant, Fortieth United States Volunteer Infantry
1902-1903	Second secretary, American legation, Havana, Cuba
1903-1905	Second secretary, American legation, Peking, China, serving under Edwin H. Conger
1905-1907	First secretary, American legation, Lisbon, Portugal
1907-1909	First secretary, American legation, Peking, China, serving under W. W. Rockhill
1907-1910	Charge d'affaires, Peking, China
1914-1916	Ambassador to Chile
1916-1920	Ambassador to Mexico
1921-1922	Under secretary of state
1923	Chairman, United States Delegation, Fifth Pan-American Conference, Santiago, Chile
1924-1929	Ambassador to Italy
1928	Delegate, Sixth Pan-American Conference, Havana, Cuba
1929	Member, Special commission to Investigate and Report on Conditions in Haiti
1930-1931	Chairman, United States Tariff Commission
1934-1936	Chairman, Republican National Committee
1936-1944	General counsel, Republican National Committee, and member of Executive Committee
1944-1945	Special adviser to secretary of state
1959, July 10	Died, New York, N.Y

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Prather Fletcher (1873-1959) span the years 1898-1958. The collection includes include a diary, letterbook, special and general correspondence, speeches and articles, a scrapbook, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other printed matter. The collection is organized into eight series: [Diary](#), [Special Correspondence and Letterbook](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Articles](#), [Miscellany](#), [Printed Matter](#), [Additional Scrapbooks](#), and [Declassified Documents](#).

[General Correspondence](#) constitutes the bulk of the collection and covers the span of Fletcher's career from the time of his enlistment in the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War through his service as a special adviser to the secretary of state on post-World War II problems and plans. The relatively small amount of correspondence after the war deals chiefly with the affairs of the Republican Party.

The period 1902-1929, when Fletcher served in the foreign service at such varied posts as Havana, Peking, Lisbon, Santiago, Mexico City, Brussels, and Rome, is amply represented by correspondence that is of interest not only because it treats with the foreign relations of the United States, but also for the manner in which it traces Fletcher's rise from second secretary of the American legation at Havana to the post of ambassador to Italy during the early years of Benito Mussolini. There is also correspondence relating to Fletcher's term as under secretary of state, 1921-1922, and his participation in the fifth and sixth International American Conferences.

The [Special Correspondence and Letterbook](#) series includes letters to his wife, Beatrice Bend Fletcher, and from Senator and then President Warren G. Harding. In the [General Correspondence](#) file are letters from William Jennings Bryan, Calvin Coolidge, Joseph C. Grew, Herbert Hoover, Edward Mandell House, Charles Evans Hughes, Frank B. Kellogg, Robert Lansing, Henry Cabot Lodge, John Bassett Moore, Benito Mussolini, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Willard Dickerman Straight, and William H. Taft. Frank Knox, Alfred M. Landon, and Robert A. Taft are among those represented in the period of Fletcher's active participation in Republican affairs after his foreign service.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Diary, 1915, 1925-1926](#)
- [Special Correspondence and Letterbook, 1898-1939](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1898-1958](#)
- [Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949](#)
- [Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950](#)
- [Printed Matter](#)
- [Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940](#)
- [Declassified Documents, 1944](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Diary, 1915, 1925-1926</u> One volume of diary entries.
BOX 1	<u>Special Correspondence and Letterbook, 1898-1939</u> Correspondence with Fletcher's wife and with Warren G. Harding. Also a letterbook filed separately. The correspondence is arranged by name of correspondent
BOX 2-17	<u>General Correspondence, 1898-1958</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 18	<u>Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949</u> Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of drafts of speeches, articles, remarks, and press releases. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19-21	<u>Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950</u> Financial records, lists, charts, excerpts, notes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, cards, invitations, passport, photographs, a scrapbook, and unpublished verse. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 22	<u>Printed Matter</u> Bulletins, reports, studies, pamphlets, articles, and books. No arrangement.
BOX 23-28	<u>Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940</u> Bound volumes of correspondence, telegrams, newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, and souvenirs. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 29	<u>Declassified Documents, 1944</u> Formerly government-security classified reports, correspondence, and minutes. Arranged chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Diary, 1915, 1925-1926 One volume of diary entries.
BOX 1	1915, 1925-1926
BOX 1	Special Correspondence and Letterbook, 1898-1939 Correspondence with Fletcher's wife and with Warren G. Harding. Also a letterbook filed separately. The correspondence is arranged by name of correspondent
BOX 1	Fletcher, Beatrice Bend Fletcher (wife), 1918-1939, undated
BOX 1	Harding, Warren G., 1920-1923
BOX 1	Letterbook, 1898-1899
BOX 2-17	General Correspondence, 1898-1958 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	1898-1909
BOX 3	1910-1915
BOX 4	Oct. 1916-1917
BOX 5	Nov. 1917-1918
BOX 6	Dec. 1918-June 1919
BOX 7	July-Dec. 1919
BOX 8	Jan. 1920-May 1922
BOX 9	June 1922-Jan. 1923
BOX 10	Jan.-Nov. 1923
BOX 11	Dec. 1923-Nov. 1924
BOX 12	Dec. 1924-May 1926
BOX 13	June 1926-Aug. 1927
BOX 14	Sept. 1927-Dec. 1928
BOX 15	1929-1933
BOX 16	1934-1940
BOX 17	1941-1958, undated
BOX 18	Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949 Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of drafts of speeches, articles, remarks, and press releases. Arranged chronologically.

Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 18	1902-1949, undated
BOX 19-21	Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950 Financial records, lists, charts, excerpts, notes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, cards, invitations, passport, photographs, a scrapbook, and unpublished verse. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 19	Financial records
BOX 19	General miscellany
BOX 19	Memorabilia
BOX 19	Newspaper clippings
BOX 20	Newspaper clippings
BOX 20	Personal miscellany
BOX 20	Photographs
BOX 21	Scrapbook, 1907-1915
BOX 21	Verse
BOX 22	Printed Matter Bulletins, reports, studies, pamphlets, articles, and books. No arrangement.
BOX 22	Miscellaneous printed matter
BOX 23-28	Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940 Bound volumes of correspondence, telegrams, newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, and souvenirs. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 23	1917-1921
BOX 24	1921-1922
BOX 25	1923-1928
BOX 26	1928-1930
BOX 27	1930-1934
BOX 28	1934-1940
BOX 29	Declassified Documents, 1944 Formerly government-security classified reports, correspondence, and minutes. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 29	Conversations, minutes, and documents, 22 Aug.-2 Oct. 1944
BOX 29	General, 23 Aug.-27 Nov. 1944, undated
BOX 29	Official texts