

Donald R. Richberg Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Donald R. Richberg Papers

Span Dates: 1900-1960

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1953-1958)

ID No.: MSS37804

Creator: Richberg, Donald R. (Donald Randall), 1881-1960

Extent: 17,300 items ; 58 containers ; 24 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, author, and public official. Correspondence, writings, subject files, and miscellaneous material relating to Richberg's writings and the period of the New Deal while Richberg was general counsel of the National Recovery Administration and executive director of the National Emergency Council.

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, D. Tennant (David Tennant), 1906-1998--Correspondence.
Creel, George, 1876-1953--Correspondence.
Croly, Herbert David, 1869-1930--Correspondence.
Crow, Allen B.--Correspondence.
Cummings, Homer S. (Homer Stillé), 1870-1956--Correspondence.
Darrow, Clarence, 1857-1938--Correspondence.
Davies, Joseph Edward--Correspondence.
DeMille, Cecil B. (Cecil Blount), 1881-1959--Correspondence.
Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965--Correspondence.
Hawkes, Albert W. (Albert Wahl), 1878-1971--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Hutchinson, B. E. (B. Edwin), 1888-1961--Correspondence.
Hutton, Edward F. (Edward Frances), 1875-1962--Correspondence.
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952--Correspondence.
Kennedy, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1888-1969--Correspondence.
Kilpatrick, James Jackson, 1920-2010--Correspondence.
Lewis, William Draper, 1867-1949--Correspondence.
Lilienthal, David Eli, 1899-1981--Correspondence.
Lindsey, Ben B. (Ben Barr), 1869-1943--Correspondence.
Locke, Peter, d. 1960--Correspondence.
Lord, John S., 1881-1979--Correspondence.
McIntyre, Marvin Hunter, 1878-1943--Correspondence.
Merriam, Charles Edward, 1874-1953--Correspondence.
Moreell, Ben, 1892-1978--Correspondence.
Perkins, Frances, 1880-1965--Correspondence.
Richberg, Donald R. (Donald Randall), 1881-1960.
Robertson, A. Willis (Absalom Willis), 1887-1971--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Rosenman, Samuel I. (Samuel Irving), 1896-1973--Correspondence.
Rumely, Edward A. (Edward Aloysius), 1882-1964--Correspondence.
Russell, Richard B. (Richard Brevard), 1897-1971--Correspondence.
Stagg, Amos Alonzo, 1862-1965--Correspondence.

Swope, Gerard, 1872-1957--Correspondence.
Wallace, DeWitt, 1889-1981--Correspondence.
Watson, Edwin (Edwin Martin), 1883-1945--Correspondence.

Organizations

National Emergency Council (U.S.)
Progressive Party (1912)
United States. National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933.

Subjects

American literature.
Conservatism--United States.
Industrial policy--United States.
Labor laws and legislation--United States.
New Deal, 1933-1939.
Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)
Progressivism (United States politics)

Places

United States--Economic conditions--1918-1945.
United States--Economic policy--1933-1945.
United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.

Occupations

Authors.
Lawyers.
Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Donald R. Richberg, lawyer, author, and public official, were given to the Library of Congress by Richberg in 1957 and 1959. Additional material was given by his wife, Lenore Aagaard, in 1976.

Processing History

The papers of Donald R. Richberg were processed in 1964 and 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Donald R. Richberg 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, Donald R. Richberg Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1881, July 10	Born, Knoxville, Tenn.
1901	B.A., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1904	LL.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1904	Admitted to Illinois bar
1904-1933	Law Firm, Richberg, Ickes and Richberg, Illinois
1912	Adviser to Theodore Roosevelt organizing Progressive Party
1913-1914	Director, Reference Bureau of the Progressive Party
1913-1915	Special assistant to state's attorney, Illinois
1915-1927	Special counsel to city of Chicago, Ill., in gas litigation
1916-1919	Master in chancery, Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill.
1922-1932	Counsel for Conference on Valuation of Railroads
1926	Chief author of Railway Labor Act
1926-1933	Counsel for Railway Labor Executives Association
1929-1933	Special assistant attorney general of Arizona
1930	Defended Railway Labor Act before United States Supreme Court
1932	Special adviser to Senate Judiciary Committee on drafting Morris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Bill
1932	Adviser to Franklin D. Roosevelt during presidential campaign
1933	Adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt in formulating National Industrial Recovery Act
1933-1935	General counsel and later director of National Recovery Administration
1935-1936	Special assistant to attorney general
1936-1960	Member, law firm of Davies, Richberg, Tydings, Beebe and Landa, Washington, D.C.
1960, Nov. 27	Died, Charlottesville, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Donald Randall Richberg (1881-1960) span the years 1900-1960 and consist of correspondence, book material, articles, speeches, interviews, radio broadcasts, statements, poetry, musical compositions and songs, book

reviews, plays, skits, short stories, legislative and political files, biographical material, financial papers, photographs, printed matter, and miscellaneous items. The collection is organized into four series: [General Correspondence](#), [Writings](#), [Subject File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The Richberg Papers relate mainly to his service as a member of the New Deal brain trust, labor and public works adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt in formulating the National Industrial Recovery Act, general counsel and chairman to the National Recovery Administration, executive secretary of the President's Executive Council, director of the Industrial Emergency Committee, executive director of the National Emergency Council, and special assistant to the attorney general. There is material on Richberg as an author of important labor legislation including the Railway Labor Act, the Norris LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Law, and the Ball-Burton Hatch Labor Relations Bill; to his political career in the Bull Moose movement and later in the Progressive Party as director of the National Legislative Reference Bureau; as supporter of the New Deal; and later as a conservative. Rounding out the collection is material on his legal career, specifically relating to his corporate and labor practice in which he argued landmark cases before the United States Supreme Court, and to his literary and public speaking career. The papers comprising the latter element of Richberg's career dominate the collection. In addition to his many articles, book reviews, short stories, and poems, he was the author and coauthor of books on economics, politics, works of fiction and poetry. The papers contain material concerning most of his published works including *The Shadow Men* (1911), *A Man of Purpose* (1922), *The Rainbow* (1936), *Government and Business Tomorrow* (1943), *My Hero* (1954), *Labor Union Monopoly* (1957), *Only the Brave Are Free* (1958) (coauthored with Albert Britt), *Old Faith and Fancies New* (1949), *More Faith and Fancies* (1955), and *Poems of Donald R. Richberg* (1959).

The correspondence is small in volume but important. Prominent among his correspondents were David Tennant Bryan, George Creel, Herbert David Croly, Allen B. Crow, Homer S. Cummings, Joseph Edward Davies, Cecil B. DeMille, Felix Frankfurter, Albert W. Hawkes, B. E. Hutchinson, Harold L. Ickes, Joseph P. Kennedy, James Jackson Kilpatrick, William Draper Lewis, David Eli Lilienthal, Peter Locke, John S. Lord, Charles Edward Merriam, Marvin Hunter McIntyre, Eleanor Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), Samuel I. Rosenman, Edward A. Rumely, Gerard Swope, and Edwin Watson. Other correspondents included Clarence Darrow, Herbert Hoover, Edward F. Hutton, Ben B. Lindsey, Ben Moreell, Frances Perkins, A. Willis Robertson, Richard B. Russell, Amos Alonzo Stagg, and DeWitt Wallace.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1903-1960](#)
- [Writings, 1900-1960](#)
- [Subject File, 1904-1959](#)
- [Miscellany, 1900-1960](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-4	<u>General Correspondence, 1903-1960</u> Letters, telegrams, and memoranda sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5-37	<u>Writings, 1900-1960</u> Drafts, typescripts, galley proofs and published copies of articles, books, speeches, interviews, radio broadcasts, statements, poetry, musical compositions and songs, book reviews, plays, skits, short stories, and memoranda. Included is correspondence pertaining to and requests for copies of articles and speeches. Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 38-50	<u>Subject File, 1904-1959</u> Correspondence, reports, legal briefs, memoranda, records, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged by subject. Each major subject is subdivided under various headings and arranged chronologically therein. Miscellaneous subject files are arranged alphabetically.
BOX 51-58	<u>Miscellany, 1900-1960</u> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, records, biographical and personal material, financial papers, photographs, material relating to real estate transactions, newspaper clippings, printed matter, memorabilia, scrapbooks, and miscellany. Grouped by type of material or subject.

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