

Robert McNutt McElroy Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013052>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78032078>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Robert McNutt McElroy Papers

Span Dates: circa 1909-1924

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1913-1924)

ID No.: MSS32078

Creator: McElroy, Robert McNutt, 1872-1959

Extent: 5,700 items ; 28 containers plus 1 oversize ; 11.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Editor, author, and historian. Correspondence, writings, and other material relating to McElroy's book *Grover Cleveland: The Man and the Statesman* and papers pertaining to his work as educational director of the National Security League, as professor of American history at Princeton University, and supporter of Leonard Wood and Warren G. Harding for the Republican nomination for president in 1920.

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

Cleveland, Frances Folsom, 1864-1947--Correspondence.

Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908--Correspondence.

Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908.

Gibbons, James, 1834-1921--Correspondence.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923.

McElroy, Robert McNutt, 1872-1959.

McElroy, Robert McNutt, 1872-1959. Grover Cleveland, the man and the statesman. 1923.

Page, Arthur W. (Arthur Wilson), 1883-1960--Correspondence.

Putnam, George Haven, 1844-1930--Correspondence.

Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927.

Organizations

National Security League.

Princeton University--Faculty.

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Subjects

Military readiness.

Presidents--United States--Election--1920.

Places

United States--Defenses.

United States--History.

United States--Politics and government--1921-1923.

Occupations

Authors.

Editors.

Educators.

Historians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Robert McNutt McElroy, educator, author, and historian, were acquired from McElroy by the Library of Congress together with his collection of autograph letters of Grover Cleveland, circa 1924-1932.

Processing History

The McElroy Papers were processed in 1959. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Related Material

Related collections in the Library of Congress include the papers of [Grover Cleveland](#).

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Robert McNutt McElroy 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, Robert McNutt McElroy Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1872, Dec. 28	Born, Perryville, Ky.
1896	B.A., Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1900	Ph.D., Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1900-1901	Studied at universities of Leipzig and Berlin, Germany, and Oxford University, Oxford, England
1898-1901	Instructor in history, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1901-1909	Assistant professor, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1909-1925	Professor, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1912-1916	Succeeded Woodrow Wilson as chairman, Department of History and Politics, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1916-1917	First American exchange professor to China
1917-1919	Educational director, National Security League
1919	Organizer, national campaign to celebrate Constitution Day

1924-1925	Associate editor in charge of international events, <i>Current History</i>
1926	Sir George Watson Lecturer, London, Cambridge, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Bristol, England; and fellow of Queens College, Oxford, England
1942-1945	Historian, Office of Civilian Defense and Chemical War Services
1959, Jan. 16	Died, Lihue, Hawaii

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert McNutt McElroy (1872-1959) span the years 1909-1924, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1913-1924. The collection relates to his work as the educational director of the National Security League, professor of American History at Princeton University, supporter of General Leonard Wood for the Republican nomination for president, 1920, and later that year of Warren G. Harding, and especially as official biographer of President Grover Cleveland. Considerable correspondence dates from 1913-1924, although only the years 1918-1921 seem to be represented with anything like completeness. The papers are organized into five series: [General Correspondence and Other Papers](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Oversize](#).

Of consequence to those interested in the papers of Grover Cleveland is the correspondence, June 1922-1924, relating to the ninety collections of holograph Cleveland letters that McElroy assembled and later presented to the Library as the "McElroy Collection, Cleveland Papers." These letters are now bound in the Cleveland Papers. Among McElroy's correspondents are Frances Folsom Cleveland, James Cardinal Gibbons, Warren G. Harding, Arthur W. Page, George Haven Putnam, and Leonard Wood.

Also included in the papers are the manuscript of *Grover Cleveland: The Man and the Statesman* (1923); many copies of Cleveland letters, 1824-1905; McElroy's notes for the book; and a list of his sources. The notes are particularly useful as the published edition omits the footnotes included in them. Additional material includes lecture notes, speeches, memoranda, printed matter, and a scrapbook of clipping concerning McElroy's service as educational director of the National Security League.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1913-1924](#)
- [Subject File, 1909-1922](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, circa 1912-1924](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-7	<u>General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1913-1924</u> Largely letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 8	<u>Subject File, 1909-1922</u> Course material and memoranda relating to Princeton University and calling cards. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 9-26	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, circa 1912-1924</u> Notes and drafts, largely of McElroy's biography of Grover Cleveland. Arranged by chapter. Some notes, copies of Cleveland's letters, and drafts are unarranged.
BOX 27-28	<u>Miscellany</u> Genealogical chart, photographs, printed matter, and a scrapbook of clippings relating mainly to McElroy's position as educational director of the National Security League. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize</u> Scrapbook. Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1913-1924 Largely letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 1	1913-1918, June
BOX 2	1918, July-1919, Mar.
BOX 3	1919, Apr.-Oct.
BOX 4	1919, Nov.-1920, Mar.
BOX 5	1920, Apr.-Oct.
BOX 6	1920, Nov.-1922, Oct.
BOX 7	1922, Nov.-1924
BOX 8	Subject File, 1909-1922 Course material and memoranda relating to Princeton University and calling cards. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 8	Calling cards
BOX 8	Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, course material and office memoranda, 1909-1922
BOX 9-26	Speech, Article, and Book File, circa 1912-1924 Notes and drafts, largely of McElroy's biography of Grover Cleveland. Arranged by chapter. Some notes, copies of Cleveland's letters, and drafts are unarranged. <i>Grover Cleveland</i> , manuscripts and related material
BOX 9-18	
BOX 19	Miscellaneous notes
BOX 19	China and Germany
BOX 20	National Security League
BOX 21	Political campaigns of Leonard Wood and Warren G. Harding
BOX 22-26	Cleveland, Grover, copies of letters
BOX 27-28	Miscellany Genealogical chart, photographs, printed matter, and a scrapbook of clippings relating mainly to McElroy's position as educational director of the National Security League. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 27	Cleveland, Grover
BOX 27	Genealogical chart, photographs, and printed matter
BOX 28	Printed matter
BOX 28	Scrapbook, circa 1917-1919 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize Scrapbook. Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Scrapbook, circa 1917-1919 (Container 28)