

William Lindsay Scruggs Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by John McDonough



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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Collection Summary

Title: William Lindsay Scruggs Papers

Span Dates: 1828-1955

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1893-1898)

ID No.: MSS39347

Creator: Scruggs, William Lindsay, 1836-1912

Extent: 4 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English and Spanish

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

Abstract: Editor and diplomat. Microfilm of correspondence, memoranda, diaries, articles and other writings, notes, speeches, financial papers, annotated scrapbooks, and other papers pertaining primarily to Scruggs's service as United States minister to Colombia and Venezuela, and United States consul in China.

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

Andrade, José, 1838-1902--Correspondence.

Foster, John Watson, 1836-1917--Correspondence.

Loomis, Francis B. (Francis Butler), 1861-1948--Correspondence.

Rojas Paúl, Juan Pablo, 1826-1905--Correspondence.

Scruggs, William Lindsay, 1836-1912.

Places

China--Foreign relations--United States.

Colombia--Foreign relations--United States.

Guyana--Boundaries--Venezuela.

United States--Foreign relations--China.

United States--Foreign relations--Colombia.

United States--Foreign relations--Venezuela.

Venezuela--Boundaries--Guyana.

Venezuela--Foreign relations--United States.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Editors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Lindsay Scruggs, editor and diplomat, were microfilmed by the Library of Congress with the permission of the private owners of the material. Part I was reproduced by permission of Mrs. C. A. Horne, Margaret Scruggs McMillan, and Mrs. Sam P. McKenzie, of Atlanta, Ga.; Part II by permission of Mrs. Walter M. Robinson, Jr., of Nashville, Tenn.; and Part III consists of material in the possession of William H. Oldknow, Los Angeles, Calif.

Processing History

The first segment of the Scruggs Papers was filmed in 1966, the second in 1974, and the third in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of William Lindsay Scruggs in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The microfilm of the papers of William Lindsay Scruggs 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

The microfilm of these papers is available on four reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Reel number, William Lindsay Scruggs Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1836, Sept. 14	Born near Knoxville, Tenn.
1858	Principal, Hamilton Male Academy, Harrison, Tenn., following graduation from Strawberry Plains College in East Tennessee Married Judith Ann Potts (died 1897)
1861	Moved to Georgia and was admitted to the bar
1862-1865	Edited Columbus <i>Daily Sun</i>
1870-1872	Edited Atlanta <i>New Era</i>
1873-1876	U.S. minister to Columbia
1878-1882	U.S. consul at Chin-Kiang, and then at Canton, China
1882-1885	U.S. minister to Columbia
1889-1892	U.S. minister to Venezuela
1894	Appointed legal adviser and special agent of Venezuelan government, particularly with respect to the boundary dispute with Great Britain
1898	Published <i>Brief concerning the Question of Boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana</i>

1912, July 18 Died, Atlanta, Ga.

Scope and Content Note

The microfilm of the papers of William Lindsay Scruggs (1836-1912) spans the years 1828-1955, with the bulk of the material from the period 1893-1898. Filmed in three parts from papers in private hands, the collection contains correspondence, memoranda, diaries, articles and other writings, notes, speeches, financial papers, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous papers pertaining primarily to Scruggs's service as United States minister to Colombia and Venezuela and United States consul in China. It includes material concerning Scruggs's work as special agent and general counsel to the Venezuelan government, particularly in relation to the disputed boundary between Venezuela and Guyana (British Guiana). Correspondents include Jose´ Andrade, John Watson Foster, Francis B. Loomis, and Juan Pablo Rojas Paùl. Collection material is in English and Spanish. The special correspondence in Part I was filmed as received, reflecting the arrangement imposed by Scruggs.

The scrapbooks in Part II are heavily annotated and consist of correspondence as well as newspaper clippings, brochures, and pamphlets.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged as filmed.

Container List

Part I available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,464, Part II available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,096 and Part III available on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,497.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 1	Part I (Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,464)
REEL 1	Special correspondence, 1888-1889
REEL 1	Andrade, to Scruggs, 1895, June 28-Sept. 26
REEL 1	Principally letters between Rojas Paül and Scruggs
REEL 1	Rojas and Scruggs, 1896, Jan. 27-Mar. 31 ("The Yuruan Incident")
REEL 1	Andrade, to Scruggs, 1896, Oct. 8-Dec. 23, Venezuelan Legation, Washington, D.C.
REEL 1	Scruggs to Rojas Paül, drafts, 1896, Nov. 13-1897, Mar. 3
REEL 1	Andrade, Loomis, Mathieu, and Rojas Paül to Scruggs, 1897, May 29-1898, Mar. 31
REEL 1	John Watson Foster to Scruggs, 1893, Jan. 26, resignation
REEL 1	"Folio II," correspondence with Venezuelan government regarding Boundary Commission, 1896, May 19-Aug. 9
REEL 1	1896, Aug. 10-Oct. 20, Venezuelan brief
REEL 1	1895-1899, various
REEL 1	General correspondence, 1828-1955
REEL 1	1828-1876
REEL 1	1877-1887
REEL 1	1890-1891
REEL 1	1892
REEL 1	Jan.-June
REEL 1	July-Sept.
REEL 1	1893
REEL 1	1894-1898
REEL 1	1900-1907
REEL 1	1908-1955
REEL 2	Miscellaneous
REEL 2	Memoranda
REEL 2	"Basis of Agreement for Arbitration of the Guayana Boundary Dispute" (11 parts listed on folder)
REEL 2	"The Cuyuni Incident"
REEL 2	"Memorandum on the Boundary Question between Venezuela and British Guiana," communicated to Gresham [Seixas claim]
REEL 2	"The Seixas Case and My Unofficial Connection with It," 1909, Apr.
REEL 2	"Synopsis of Previous Correspondence in the Seixas Claim"
REEL 2	Various
REEL 2	Agreement, rough draft of agreement of arbitration, United States and Columbia, 1874
REEL 2	List, partial list of maps (1745-1895) submitted to Venezuela Boundary Commission
REEL 2	Seixas claim, exhibits "A" and "B"

Container List

Container

Contents

REEL 2	Speeches, articles, and other writings
REEL 2	“Ethics of the Legal Profession”
REEL 2	“Evolution of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments”
REEL 2	“The Monroe Doctrine and Its Future”
REEL 2	“Our Diplomatic and Consular Service”
REEL 2	“The Venezuela Question”
REEL 2	Fragments
REEL 2	Appointments
REEL 2	Financial papers (filmed in part)
REEL 2	Printed matter (not filmed)
REEL 2	Envelopes and scraps (not filmed)
REEL 1	Part II (Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,096)
REEL 1	Scrapbooks
REEL 1	1867-1871
REEL 1	1871-1889
REEL 1	1894-1895
REEL 1	1895-1896
REEL 1	1896-1900
REEL 1	1889-1903
REEL 1	1903-1907, 1912
REEL 1	Part III (Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,497)
REEL 1	Diary, minister to Colombia, 10 June-7 Sept. 1873
REEL 1	Diary/narrative, consul to Chin-Kiang and Canton, China, 1888
REEL 1	Note on constitutional history, undated