

Waldo Gifford Leland Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Anita L. Nolen



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2013

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Collection Summary

Title: Waldo Gifford Leland Papers

Span Dates: 1844-1966

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1915-1966)

ID No.: MSS29900

Creator: Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966

Extent: 55,000 items ; 178 containers plus 5 oversize ; 45 linear feet ; 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Archivist and historian. Honorary consultant in international relations, Library of Congress. Correspondence, diaries, articles, reports, memoranda, notes, and miscellaneous papers relating to Leland's career as archivist, historian, and consultant in international relations.

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

Boyd, Julian P. (Julian Parks), 1903-1980--Correspondence.

Buck, Solon J. (Solon Justus), 1884-1962--Correspondence.

Doysié, Abel, 1886-1973--Correspondence.

Jameson, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1859-1937--Correspondence.

Koht, Halvdan, 1873-1965--Correspondence.

Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966.

Pirrenne, Henri, 1862-1935--Correspondence.

Whitehill, Walter Muir, 1905- --Correspondence.

Organizations

American Council of Learned Societies.

American Philosophical Society.

Brown University.

Cosmos Club (Washington, D.C.)

League of Nations. Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

Unesco.

Subjects

Archives--France--Paris.

Libraries--France--Paris.

Universities and colleges--Rhode Island.

Occupations

Archivists.

Historians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland, historian, archivist, and honorary consultant in international relations at the Library of Congress, were given to the Library of Congress in 1966 and 1969 by his widow, Gertrude Dennis Leland. Portions of the collection had previously been deposited in the Library by Leland.

Processing History

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland were arranged and described in 1968 and expanded in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Additional Guides

A [list of prominent correspondents](#) in the General Correspondence series of the Leland Papers is appended to the finding aid.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Waldo Gifford Leland is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland 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 three reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. One reel was received as part of the papers of Waldo Leland Gifford and is listed and described in this finding aid, but is not available for interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Waldo Gifford Leland Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1879, July 17	Born, Newton, Mass.
1900	A.B., Brown University, Providence, R.I.
1900-1903	Assistant in history, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1901	A.M., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1903-1932	Staff member, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Historical Research
1904	Married Gertrude Dennis Published with Claude H. Van Tyne <i>Guide to the Archives of the Government of the United States in Washington</i> . Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington
1907-1927	Headed mission by Carnegie Institution of Washington to survey sources for American history in French repositories, Paris, France
1909-1920	Secretary, American Historical Association
1917-1919	Secretary, National Board for Historic Service

1919 Organizing secretary, American Council of Learned Societies

1923-1924 Hyde Exchange Lecturer in French universities

1924-1926 Executive secretary, American Council of Learned Societies

1927-1946 Permanent secretary (later called director), American Council of Learned Societies

1923-1946 Delegate, International Union of Academics

1926 Organizer and delegate, International Committee of Historical Sciences
Published with Newton D. Mereness *Introduction to the American Official Sources for the Economic and Social History of the World War*. New Haven: Yale University Press

1929 Named Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor

1929-1931 Vice president, International Union of Academics

1931-1952 Member, National Park Service Advisory Board

1932 Published *Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris*, vol. 1. Washington, D.C., Carnegie Institution of Washington

1933 Awarded Chevalier of Order of Polonia Restituta

1933-1964 Member, Board of Fellows of Brown University, Providence, R.I.

1938-1948 President, International Committee of Historical Sciences

1938-1946 President, International Union of Academics

1939-1941 President, Society of American Archivists

1943 Published *Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris*, vol. 2. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington

1946 Named Officer of French Legion of Honor

1947-1966 Director emeritus, American Council of Learned Societies

1946-1949 Vice chairman, United States National Commission for Unesco

1950 Distinguished Service Award of the Department of the Interior

1952-1966 Honorary collaborator, National Park Service

1952-1966 Honorary consultant in the history of international intellectual relations, Library of Congress

1958 Elected fellow of the Society of American Archivists

1966, Oct. 19 Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland (1879-1966) span the years 1844-1966, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1915-1966. The collection features the development of archival work in the United States and cooperation in the humanities and social sciences. The papers are organized into six series: [Diaries and Notebooks](#); [Family Papers](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); and [Miscellany](#).

This collection documents in detail the period from 1947 to 1966 after Leland had retired as director of the American Council of Learned Societies and while he was associated with various organizations, government agencies, and other projects, often in an advisory capacity. For earlier years, there is considerable material concerning the formation and early years of the ACLS, 1919-1928, and the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations, 1925-1939. The work of this committee was continued after World War II by Unesco, and Leland was also involved in the formation and subsequent work of this group.

The professional correspondence is also strongest for the two periods cited, during Leland's early professional career and his years of retirement. The largest groups of correspondence are those with his longtime friends, Abel Doysie, his primary assistant in Paris collecting information for the *Paris Guide*, and J. Franklin Jameson, whom Leland first knew as his teacher at Brown University. Jameson was instrumental in starting Leland on a career in the historical-archival field by inviting Leland to serve under him in the newly formed Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Other major correspondents are Julian P. Boyd, Solon J. Buck, Halvdan Koht, Henri Pirenne, and Walter Muir Whitehill. There is also correspondence documenting Leland's close and longstanding associations with the American Philosophical Society, Brown University, and the Cosmos Club.

The earliest correspondence in the collection consists of letters to Leland's father, mother, and sister from people outside the family as well as correspondence between family members. Among the letters are two written to Leland's father by Charles Sumner, senator from Massachusetts, in 1851 and 1854. The earliest letter to Waldo Leland appears in 1883.

A significant part of the collection consists of material relating to the *Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris*. He undertook this work for the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which published volumes 1 and 2 in 1932 and 1943 respectively. Although data and typescripts were completed for three more volumes, they were not published. Leland's notes made in France and those of his assistants on the project are contained in over five hundred cahiers (or notebooks) and numerous note cards. The drafts of volumes 3-5 prepared by David W. Parker and John J. Meng and typescripts of these and of volume 2 are included in the collection as are offset plates prepared for the volumes' proposed publication. There is correspondence concerning the guide dating from 1911, but most of it relates to Leland's efforts to publish the later volumes during the period 1954-1963.

Miscellaneous material in the Leland Papers includes copies of the *Bulletins* of the ACLS, 1920-1952, and a small number of items constituting the papers of Orié O. Brown, a friend of the Leland family, for the period 1891-1893, when she was a teacher at an Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Diaries and Notebooks, 1895-1960](#)
- [Family Papers, 1844-1966](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1890-1966](#)
- [Subject File, 1908-1966.](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964](#)
- [Miscellany, 1877-1966](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-4

Diaries and Notebooks, 1895-1960

Miscellaneous notebooks and notes of Leland, followed by intermittent diaries and appointment books. Also diaries of Leland's wife.
Arranged chronologically within the two groupings.

BOX 5-14

Family Papers, 1844-1966

Family correspondence, including between Waldo and his wife, and material concerning the family and the settling of family estates. Also includes personal papers of Leland's father, Luther E. Leland, his mother, Nellie M. Gifford Leland, and his sister, Minerva E. Leland.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 15-29

General Correspondence, 1890-1966

Personal and professional correspondence.
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with invitations and letters of authorization filed at the end of the series. See also a partial listing of major correspondents in the [Appendix](#).

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Subject File, 1908-1966.

Correspondence and other material concerning the various organizations, advisory boards, and projects with which Leland was associated.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 120-175

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964

Chiefly typescripts and reprints of articles and speeches by Leland, but including some of Leland's student papers. Also includes some correspondence.
Arranged by title or type of writing.

BOX 176-183

Miscellany, 1877-1966

School report cards, memorabilia, routine correspondence, miscellaneous unidentified notes, a short biography of Leland, photographs, newspaper clippings, and British Microfilm Project documentation.
Arranged by type of material.

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BOX 15-29	General Correspondence, 1890-1966 Personal and professional correspondence.

General Correspondence, 1890-1966

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Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with invitations and letters of authorization filed at the end of the series. See also a partial listing of major correspondents in the [Appendix](#).

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BOX 30-119

Subject File, 1908-1966.

Correspondence and other material concerning the various organizations, advisory boards, and projects with which Leland was associated.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Chiefly typescripts and reprints of articles and speeches by Leland, but including some of Leland's student papers. Also includes some correspondence.
Arranged by title or type of writing.

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Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964

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BOX 178	Book, <i>Manners and Customs of Ye Harvard Students</i> , by F. G. Attwood (J. R. Osgood, 1877) Photographs Newspaper clippings Bound copy, <i>Studies in the History of Culture</i> , 1942
BOX OV 179	Scrapbook, memorabilia of college days, Brown University, class of 1900
BOX 180	Papers of Orié O. Brown, teacher, Indian School Service, Pine Ridge, S.D., 1891-1893 Correspondence, 1891-1893 (mostly with the Indian School Service) Notebook, "Travel Notes"
BOX 181	<i>Bulletins</i> , American Council of Learned Societies Nos. 1-25, 1920-1936
BOX 182	Nos. 26-45, 1937-1952
BOX 183	British Microfilm Project Conference on Microfilming Research Materials, 1940-1943 General correspondence, 1953 Printed matter, 1941-1943 Reports, 1940-1947 Simpson, Claude M., "Early Rhode Island Pronunciation, 1636-1700" <i>Available only on Microfilm, shelf no. 13,631</i>

Appendix: List of Prominent Correspondents in the General Correspondence Series

- Barbour, Mary S.
- Bemis, Samuel Flag
- Bell, Whitfield J.
- Bellot, H. Hale
- Berrien, William
- Bingham, Millicent
- Boussemart, Annette
- Boyd, Julian P.
- Brigham, Clarence S.
- Buck, Solon J.
- Burkhardt, Frederick
- Butterfield, Lyman H.
- Cappon, Lester J.
- Carmichael, Leonard
- Churchill, John D.
- Clapp, Verner
- Curti, Merle
- Dilliard, Irving
- Doysie, Abel (and family)
- Eisenhower, Milton
- Evans, Luther H.
- Flanders, Helen H and Ralph E.
- Ford, Guy Stanton
- Frankfurter, Felix
- Graves, Mortimer
- Grover, Wayne
- Hamer, Philip
- Heindel, Richard H.
- Holland, Kenneth
- Holmes, Oliver Wendell
- Huntington, W. Chapin
- Hyde, James Hazen
- Jameson, J. Franklin
- Keeney, Barnaby C.
- Kidder, Alfred V.
- Kirkconnell, Watson
- Koht, Halvdan
- Lee, Ronald F.
- Lheritier, Michel and Andree
- Lingelbach, William E.
- McKay, Donald
- Margry, Gertrude
- Marshall, John
- Mearns, David C.
- Moe, Henry Allen
- Mumford, L. Quincy
- O'Brien, John Lord
- O'Brien, Robert Lincoln
- Odegard, Charles E.
- Parker, David W.
- Perkins, Fred B.

- Pirenne, H.
- Posner, Ernst
- Putnam, Herbert
- Quynn, William and Dorothy
- Robinson, Fred N.
- Schafer, Boyd C.
- Schilpp, Paul A.
- Schlesinger, Arthur M.
- Shipton, Clifford K.
- Simon, Lewis A.
- Skard, Sigmund
- Snell, Edwin
- Starr, Harris E.
- Stevens, David H.
- Takagi, Yasaka
- Tate, Vernon D.
- Thomson, Charles A.
- Trever, Karl L.
- Van Kalken, Frans
- Vignaud, Henry
- Vitoux, H.
- Vitoux, Pierre
- Ware, Edith E.
- Wells, William S.
- Webster, Charles K.
- Westergaard, Waldemar
- Whitaker, Arthur P.
- Whitehill, Walter Muir
- Zdanowicz, Casimir