

# **Theodore Roosevelt (1887-1944) Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78038281>

Prepared by Tom Gedosch  
Revised by Laura J. Kells and Nazera Sadiq Wright

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Theodore Roosevelt Papers

**Span Dates:** 1780-1962

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1920-1944)

**ID No.:** MSS38281

**Creator:** Roosevelt, Theodore, 1887-1944

**Extent:** 25,000 items ; 77 containers ; 33 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Army officer, author, and public official. Correspondence, memoranda, diaries, drafts of speeches and writings, subject files, newspaper clippings, and other papers pertaining chiefly to Roosevelt's service as United States assistant secretary of the navy (1921-1924) under Warren G. Harding and Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby, as governor of Puerto Rico (1929-1932), and as governor general of the Philippines (1932-1933).

## 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

Alsop, Joseph, 1910-1989--Correspondence.

Alsop, Stewart--Correspondence.

Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.

Buck, Pearl S. (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973--Correspondence.

Chiang, Kai-shek, 1887-1975--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Denby, Edwin, 1870-1929.

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.

Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965--Correspondence.

Frost, Robert, 1874-1963--Correspondence.

Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904--Correspondence.

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

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

Hilles, Charles Dewey, 1867-1949--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Knox, Frank, 1874-1944--Correspondence.

Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931--Correspondence.

Lippmann, Walter, 1889-1974--Correspondence.

MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964--Correspondence.

Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence.

Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965--Correspondence.

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.

Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.

Quezon, Manuel Luis, 1878-1944--Correspondence.

Roosevelt family--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Eleanor Butler, 1889-1960. Eleanor Butler Roosevelt papers.

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

Roosevelt, Kermit, 1889-1943--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1887-1944.

Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.

Smith, Alfred Emanuel, 1873-1944.  
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence.  
Vandenberg, Arthur H. (Arthur Hendrick), 1884-1951--Correspondence.  
White, Walter, 1893-1955--Correspondence.  
White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.  
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927.  
Woollcott, Alexander, 1887-1943--Correspondence.

### **Organizations**

American Legion.  
Conference on the Limitation of Armament (1921-1922 : Washington, D.C.)  
Philippines. Gobernador-General.  
Puerto Rico. Governor.  
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )  
United States. Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

### **Subjects**

Disarmament.  
Military pensions--United States.  
Military readiness.  
Outdoor life.  
Political campaigns--United States.  
Politics, Practical--United States.  
Prohibition.  
Socialism.  
Travel.  
Veterans--United States.  
World War, 1914-1918.  
World War, 1939-1945.

### **Places**

Africa--Description and travel.  
East Asia--Description and travel.  
New York (State)--Politics and government.  
United States--Intellectual life--20th century.  
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.  
United States--Social conditions.

### **Occupations**

Army officers.  
Authors.  
Public officials.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., assistant secretary of the navy during the administration of Warren G. Harding, army officer, author, and political aspirant, were given to the Library of Congress by his heirs, 1958-1964.

### **Processing History**

The papers of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. were arranged and described in 1972. This register was revised in 1998.

## Transfers

Photographic negatives and prints have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and his wife Eleanor Butler Roosevelt in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 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, Theodore Roosevelt (1887-1944) Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1887, Sept. 13	Born, Oyster Bay, N.Y.
1908	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1910	Married Eleanor Butler Alexander (died 1960)
1910-1917	Engaged in business
1917, June	Arrived in France with the U.S. Army's First Division, American Expeditionary Forces
1918	Promoted to lieutenant colonel
1919	Helped organize the American Legion Published <i>Average Americans</i> (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. 252 pp.)
1919-1920	Member, New York State Assembly
1921-1924	Assistant secretary of the navy
1922	Chairman, Committee of Naval Experts at Limitation of Armament Conference
1924	Republican candidate for governor of New York
1925-1926	Led James Simpson-Roosevelt Asiatic expedition
1926	Published with Kermit Roosevelt <i>East of the Sun and West of the Moon</i> (New York: C. Scribner's Sons. 284 pp.)
1928	Published <i>Rank and File; True Stories of the Great War</i> (New York: C. Scribner's Sons. 279 pp.)

1928-1929	Led Kelley-Roosevelt-Field Museum expedition, Asia
1929	Published <i>All In the Family</i> (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. 189 pp.) Published with Kermit Roosevelt <i>Trailing the Giant Panda</i> (New York: C. Scribner's Sons. 278 pp.)
1929-1932	Governor, Puerto Rico
1932-1933	Governor General, the Philippines
1933	Published with Harold J. Coolidge <i>Three Kingdoms of Indo-China</i> (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. 331 pp.)
1934-1935	Chairman of the Board, American Express Co.
1935	Vice president, Doubleday, Doran and Co.
1937	Published <i>Colonial Policies Of the United States</i> (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran. 204 pp.)
1941	Returned to active duty in the U.S. Army; promoted to brigadier general
1944, July 12	Died in France

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (1887-1944), which include correspondence and other papers of his wife Eleanor Butler Roosevelt, cover the period 1780-1962, bulking largest between 1920 and 1944. The collection consists of [Diaries](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [Letters of Condolence and Congratulation](#), [Subject File](#), [Speech, Article, and Book File](#), [Printed Matter](#), and [Papers of Theodore Roosevelt \(1858-1919\)](#). The last segment of the papers contains correspondence of President Theodore Roosevelt, including nine letters addressed to Marcus Alonzo (Mark) Hanna.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was not a consistent diarist. However, the [diaries](#) he did maintain, written primarily during the 1920s, are significant for their observations on important events and individuals. There are numerous entries concerning his activities as assistant secretary of the navy and his relationships with Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby, President Warren G. Harding, and others. The diaries, which are handwritten as well as in typescript, contain notations and deletions made by Eleanor Roosevelt after her husband's death.

Roosevelt maintained a large correspondence with family members, often writing diary-like letters. Other significant [family correspondence](#) includes the letters he exchanged with his father concerning political events, particularly after 1903.

Correspondence of Theodore and Eleanor Butler Roosevelt with prominent associates and friends is contained chiefly in the [Special Correspondence](#) series. Among their numerous correspondents are Joseph and Stewart Alsop, William Edgar Borah, Pearl S. Buck, Chiang Kai-shek, Calvin Coolidge, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Felix Frankfurter, Robert Frost, Edward Grey, Warren G. Harding, Charles Dewey Hilles, Herbert Hoover, Frank Knox, Vachel Lindsay, Walter Lippmann, Douglas MacArthur, George C. Marshall, W. Somerset Maugham, John J. Pershing, Gifford Pinchot, Manuel Luis Quezon, Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Elihu Root, Henry Lewis Stimson, Arthur H. Vandenberg, Walter Francis White, William Allen White, and Alexander Woollcott.

The [General Correspondence](#) and the [Subject File](#) contain much information about social, political, and intellectual currents in the 1920s and 1930s. Prohibition, military preparedness, "Cousin Franklin" (Franklin D. Roosevelt), political campaigns, socialism, and veterans' benefits are among the topics discussed. As a government official, military officer, and son of a

former president, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., received letters from ordinary citizens as well as prominent individuals. These letters and Roosevelt's replies constitute a rich source of information about the period.

Among the major facets of Roosevelt's career that are documented in the [Subject File](#) are his activities in organizing the American Legion in 1919; his role in the presidential election campaign of Leonard Wood, 1919-1920; his participation in the Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armament, 1921-1922; his race against Alfred Emanuel Smith for the governorship of New York, 1924; his expeditions to Africa and the Far East, 1924-1939; and his military participation in both world wars, which led to numerous medals and decorations, including the Croix de Guerre and (posthumously) the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Roosevelt was in much demand as a speaker and appeared before many veterans groups and political gatherings. During the period between the world wars, he regularly campaigned throughout the nation for Republican presidential nominees. The [Speech, Article, and Book File](#) contains the texts of many such speeches, as well as speech requests and comments. It also contains speeches and other material relating to his role as governor of Puerto Rico, 1929-1932, and governor general of the Philippines, 1932-1933. Roosevelt's many magazine articles of the 1920s and 1930s usually concerned travel, the out-of-doors, or World War I and are preserved in typescript form in the [Speech, Article, and Book File](#). On the other hand, there is little more than correspondence to represent the many books he wrote, although there are drafts, reviews, clippings, legal papers, and research material relating to Eleanor Butler Roosevelt's book, *Day Before Yesterday* (1959).

The [Miscellany](#) file contains a variety of papers, including an autograph collection, items relating to the Roosevelt family, and typewritten transcripts of many letters from Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. and Jr., and Eleanor Butler Roosevelt. A fairly complete file of clippings on the activities of the two Theodore Roosevelts is located among the [Printed Matter](#). Since the clippings are unmounted and in poor condition, photocopies are available for reader use.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in ten series:

- [Diaries, 1921-1933](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1858-1962](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1915-1960](#)
- [Special orrespondence, 1898-1960](#)
- [Letters of Condolence nd Congratulation, 1934-1949](#)
- [Subject File, 1917-1959](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1960](#)
- [Miscellany, 1780-1960](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1894-1959](#)
- [Papers of Theodore Roosevelt \(1858-1919\), 1876-1918](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<b><u>Diaries, 1921-1933</u></b> Handwritten diaries and typescripts of diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3-10	<b><u>Family Correspondence, 1858-1962</u></b> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 11-25	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1915-1960</u></b> Letters received, with enclosures, and copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically by name of correspondent therein.
BOX 26-31	<b><u>Special Correspondence, 1898-1960</u></b> Correspondence of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and Eleanor Butler Roosevelt with prominent individuals and friends. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 32-35	<b><u>Letters of Condolence and Congratulation, 1934-1949</u></b> Letters of congratulation to Theodore and Eleanor Butler Roosevelt on the marriage of their daughter, Grace, to William McMillan, and condolence letters to Eleanor Butler Roosevelt on the death of her husband, and her son Quentin. Arranged alphabetically and chronologically. Replies and telegrams have been separated regarding Grace Roosevelt's marriage.
BOX 36-39	<b><u>Subject File, 1917-1959</u></b> Correspondence, supplemented by reports, transcriptions, copies of speeches, and printed material. Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 40-54	<b><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1960</u></b> Holograph, typewritten, and bound volumes of speeches, with related correspondence, followed by articles and material relating to <i>Day Before Yesterday</i> by Eleanor Butler Roosevelt. Arranged chronologically or alphabetically within categories.
BOX 40-49	<b><u>Speech File, 1919-1944</u></b>
BOX 50-51	<b><u>Article File, 1919-1943</u></b>
BOX 51-54	<b><u>Book File, 1926-1960</u></b>
BOX 55-62	<b><u>Miscellany, 1780-1960</u></b> Holograph, typewritten, and printed material including guest lists, financial and household records, awards, certificates, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material.

**BOX 63-76**

**Printed Matter, 1894-1959**

Newspaper clippings, photocopies of clippings, books, and monographs.

Arranged by type of material and, in the case of the newspaper clippings, in chronological order by year.

**BOX 77**

**Papers of Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), 1876-1918**

Letters to and from Theodore Roosevelt and one speech. Arranged by type of material.

Correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-2</b>	<b>Diaries, 1921-1933</b> Handwritten diaries and typescripts of diaries. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1921-1923 (3 vols.)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1923-1933 (6 vols.)
<b>BOX 3-10</b>	<b>Family Correspondence, 1858-1962</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
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<b>BOX 4</b>	1942-1955 (2 folders) Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow To Eleanor Butler Roosevelt, 1910-1945, undated To Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. 1897-1932 (2 folders)
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## Family Correspondence, 1858-1962

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BOX 13	1923-1924 "H"
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BOX 14	1924 "I"-1926 "L"
	(8 folders)
BOX 15	1926 "M"-1927
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BOX 16	1928-1931
	(8 folders)
BOX 17	1932
	(7 folders)
BOX 18	1933-1934 "B"
	(5 folders)
BOX 19	1934 "C"-"R"
	(6 folders)
BOX 20	1934 "S"-1935 "M"
	(7 folders)
BOX 21	1935 "N"-1936 "M"
	(7 folders)

## General Correspondence, 1915-1960

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 22	1936 "N"-1937 (7 folders)
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BOX 24	1939 "T"-1941 "S" (8 folders)
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BOX 26-31	<b>Special Correspondence, 1898-1960</b> Correspondence of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and Eleanor Butler Roosevelt with prominent individuals and friends. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
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## Special Correspondence, 1898-1960

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	Denby, Edwin, 1921-1923
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	Eisenhower, Dwight D. and Mamie, 1944-1960
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	Frankfurter, Felix, 1938-1939
	Frost, Robert, 1930-1937
	Gibson, Hugh, 1938-1942
	Gompers, Samuel, 1923
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Marquardt, Frederic, 1933-1935

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Marx, Harpo, 1940

Masefield, John, undated

Maugham, William Somerset, 1928-1945

Mead, Margaret, 1935

Mencken, Henry L., 1934-1941

Meyer, Eugene L., 1936

Miller, Alice Duer, undated

Mills, Ogden L., 1926-1932

Mitchell, William, 1927

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Nevins, Allan, 1928

Newton, Walter H., 1929-1930

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O'Laughlin, John Collar, 1926-1936

Palmer, Frederick, 1929-1940

Parker, Frank, 1918-1933

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Pershing, John J., 1923-1928

Pinchot, Gifford, 1921-1933

Pound, Ezra, circa 1930s

Quezon, Manuel, 1932-1940

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Wood, Leonard. *See Container 36, Election campaign of Leonard Wood*  
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Letters of congratulation to Theodore and Eleanor Butler Roosevelt on the marriage of their daughter, Grace, to William McMillan, and condolence letters to Eleanor Butler Roosevelt on the death of her husband, and her son Quentin.  
Arranged alphabetically and chronologically. Replies and telegrams have been separated regarding Grace Roosevelt's marriage.
- BOX 32** Condolence on death of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 1944

## Letters of Condolence and Congratulation, 1934-1949

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BOX 34	S-Z (3 folders)
	Condolence on death of Quentin Roosevelt, 1948-1949
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BOX 36-39	<b>Subject File, 1917-1959</b> Correspondence, supplemented by reports, transcriptions, copies of speeches, and printed material. Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein.
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BOX 39	Teapot Dome investigation, 1924 (2 folders)

## Subject File, 1917-1959

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World War I, papers concerning Roosevelt's service, 1917-1932

(2 folders)

World War II, papers concerning Roosevelt's service, 1942-1951

BOX 40-54

#### Speech, Article, and Book File, 1919-1960

Holograph, typewritten, and bound volumes of speeches, with related correspondence, followed by articles and material relating to *Day Before Yesterday* by Eleanor Butler Roosevelt.

Arranged chronologically or alphabetically within categories.

BOX 40-49

#### Speech File, 1919-1944

BOX 40

By Eleanor Butler Roosevelt

Comments on speeches, 1940-1941

Speeches, "Marriage as a Career," and "American Character," 1940-1944

By Theodore Roosevelt (1887-1944)

Correspondence

Comments on speeches

General

1919-1934

(11 folders)

BOX 41

1935-1941

(6 folders)

BOX 42

New York State Republican Convention keynote address, 1927

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Radio broadcast from Manila, Philippines, 1932

Second message to Philippine legislature, 1932

Requests for speeches

1919-1924

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BOX 45

Speeches

Bound

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BOX 46

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BOX 47

Philippine statements and speeches, 1932-1933

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BOX 51-54	<b>Book File, 1926-1960</b>
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BOX 53	Typescript draft (chiefly carbons), undated (8 folders)
BOX 54	By Theodore Roosevelt (1887-1944) <i>East of the Sun and West of the Moon</i> (1926) Comments, 1926-1927 Publication rights, 1925-1926 <i>Rank and File</i> (1928) Chapter topics and related individuals Dunn, Parker, 1927 Ellis, Michael, 1927 Hays, George P., 1927 Johnson, Henry, 1927 Kishler, Edwin P., 1927 Kocak, Matej, 1927 Luke, Frank, 1927

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  - Rodgers, John, 1927
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  - Comments, 1937
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