

George Creel Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Mathisen

Revised and expanded by Sherralyn McCoy



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: George Creel Papers

Span Dates: 1857-1953

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1896-1953)

ID No.: MSS17210

Creator: Creel, George, 1876-1953

Extent: 500 items; 8 containers plus 22 oversize; 9.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Author, editor, and government official. Scrapbooks and bound volumes of writings by and about Creel form the bulk of the collection. Includes correspondence, notes, speeches, lectures, book reviews, and campaign material. A series on Woodrow Wilson and the United States Committee on Public Information contains correspondence with Wilson as well as his corrections of drafts of Creel's cables, letters, speeches, and other writings relating to the Wilson administration during World War I and subsequent peace negotiations.

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

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965.

Bates, Blanche, 1873-1941.

Bean, Walton. Walton Bean doctoral dissertation. 1941.

Bolling, Randolph.

Byrd, Harry Flood, 1887-1966.

Creel, George, 1876-1953.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948.

Davies, Joseph Edward.

Dewey, George, 1837-1917.

Donner, Robert, d. 1964.

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

Farley, James A. (James Aloysius), 1888-1976.

Garrett, Garet, 1878-1954.

Glass, Carter, 1858-1946.

Gompers, Samuel, 1850-1924.

Hazlitt, Henry, 1894-1993.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.

Jackson, Robert Houghwout, 1892-1954.

Kelley, Robert H.

Knowland, William F. (William Fife), 1908-1974.

Lane, Arthur Bliss, 1894-1956.

Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928.

Long, Breckinridge, 1881-1958.

McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1863-1941.

McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957.

Moley, Raymond, 1886-

Mooney, Thomas J., 1882-1942.

Morley, Felix M. (Felix Muskett), 1894-1982.

Mundt, Karl E. (Karl Earl), 1900-1974.

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.

Norris, Kathleen Thompson, 1880-1966.
Page, Walter Hines, 1855-1918.
Pegler, J. Westbrook (James Westbrook), 1894-1969.
Richberg, Donald R. (Donald Randall), 1881-1960.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Taft, Robert A. (Robert Alphonso), 1889-1953.
Thomas, Lowell, 1892-1981.
Wedemeyer, Albert C. (Albert Coady), 1896-
Wheeler, Burton K. (Burton Kendall), 1882-1975.
Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)
Denver (Colo.). Police Dept.
Golden Gate International Exposition (1939-1940 : San Francisco, Calif.)
League of Nations.
Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. Committee on Public Information.
United States. Dept. of State.
United States. National Recovery Administration.

Subjects

Air power--United States.
Aircraft industry--Military aspects--United States.
American newspapers--Colorado--Denver.
American newspapers--Kansas--Kansas City.
Athletics--Colorado--Denver.
Athletics--Kansas--Kansas City.
Authors, American--20th century.
Cold War.
Elections--California.
German language--Study and teaching--United States.
Governors--California--Election.
Irrigation--California--Central Valley (Valley)
New Deal, 1933-1939.
Peace.
Political campaigns--California.
Women's rights--United States.
World politics--1945-1989.
World War, 1914-1918--African Americans.
World War, 1914-1918--Peace.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

Places

California--Politics and government--1850-1950.
Central Valley (Calif. : Valley)
Russia--History--1801-1917.
Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.
United States--Economic conditions--1918-1945.
United States--Economic policy--1933-1945.
United States--History--20th century.
United States--Politics and government--20th century.
United States--Social conditions--1933-1945.

Titles

Collier's.

Denver post.

Kansas City independent.

Rocky Mountain news.

Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Occupations

Authors.

Editors.

Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of George Creel, author, editor, and government official, were given to the Library of Congress by Creel in 1943 and by his son, George Bates Creel, in 1954. One item was transferred from the Library's Prints and Photographs Division in 1991.

Processing History

The papers of George Creel were processed in 1954, reprocessed in 1987, and revised in 2002.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of George Creel 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 George Creel 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, George Creel Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date

Event

1876, Dec. 1 Born, Lafayette County, Mo.

1899-1909 Editor, *Kansas City Independent*

1905 Appointed coal inspector, Kansas City, Mo.

1907 Published *Quatrains of Christ* (Kansas City, Mo.: Independent Press)

1909-1910 Editorial writer, *Denver Post*

1911-1913 Editorial writer, *Rocky Mountain News*

1912 Married Blanche Bates (died 1941)

- 1912-1913 Commissioner of police, Denver, Colo.
- 1914 Published with Edwin Markham and Ben B. Lindsey *Children in Bondage* (New York: Hearst's International Library Co.)
- 1916 Published *Wilson and the Issues* (New York: Century Co.)
- 1917-1919 Chairman, Committee on Public Information
- 1919 Published *Ireland's Fight for Freedom, Setting forth the Highlights of Irish History* (New York and London: Harper & Brothers)
- 1920 Published *How We Advertised America* (New York and London: Harper & Brothers)
- 1923 Published *Uncle Henry* (New York: Reynolds Publishing Co.)
- 1926 Published *The People Next Door* (New York: John Day Co.)
- 1927 Published *Sons of the Eagle* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co.)
- 1928 Published *Sam Houston, Colossus in Buckskin* (New York: Cosmopolitan Book Corp.)
- 1931 Published *Tom Paine-Liberty Bell* (New York: Sears Publishing Co.)
- 1933-1934 Regional director for California, Nevada, and Utah, National Recovery Administration
Chairman, San Francisco Regional Labor Board
- 1934 Defeated as candidate for Democratic Party nomination for governor of California
- 1935 Chairman, National Advisory Board, Works Progress Administration; adviser to Harry Hopkins
- 1937-1940 United States Commissioner, Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco, Calif.
- 1940 Traveled to Mexico to help establish a Mexican Ministry of Public Information and Propaganda
- 1942 Supported Earl Warren for governor of California
- 1943 Married Alice May Rosseter (died 1948)
- 1944 Published *War Criminals and Punishment* (New York: R.M. McBride & Co.)
- 1947 Published *Rebel at Large, Recollections of Fifty Crowded Years* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons)

- 1949 Published with Ross T. McIntyre *White House Physician* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons)
- 1953, Oct. 2 Died, San Francisco, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Creel (1876-1953) span the period 1857-1953, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1896-1953. The collection features Creel's correspondence with Woodrow Wilson during the World War I era when Creel was chairman of the Committee on Public Information (CPI). Also included are scrapbooks of clippings and other items by and about Creel as a journalist, newspaper editor, and public official. The papers consist of seven series: [Woodrow Wilson and the Committee on Public Information](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Miscellany](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [Addition](#), and [Oversize](#).

The series relating to [Wilson and the Committee on Public Information](#) focuses on issues affecting the CPI as it broadcast the goals and purpose of the American war effort from 1917 to the Versailles Treaty. Prepared by Creel for his heirs, the bound volumes contain letters from Wilson, mostly about the work of the CPI, several manuscripts of Wilson's speeches, and letters from Edith Bolling Wilson after her husband's death, along with copies of letters from Creel. A manuscript of Wilson's Fourteen Points speech of 8 January 1918 bears corrections and revisions in the president's hand. Correspondents or individuals discussed in the series, in addition to Wilson, include Randolph Bolling, Joseph Edward Davies, Samuel Gompers, Herbert Hoover, Robert Lansing, Breckinridge Long, Thomas J. Mooney, Walter Hines Page, and Edith Bolling Wilson. Subjects range from America's stated war aims to Russia and the Russian Revolution, the morale of African Americans, Wilson's opposition to proposed amendments to the Versailles Treaty, air power and aircraft production, friction between Creel and the State Department, and the teaching of the German language in American schools.

The [General Correspondence](#) series consists largely of letters relating to national politics in the years 1951-1953 reflecting Creel's disillusionment with the Democratic Party, his interest in forming new political alignments, his efforts in behalf of Robert A. Taft's candidacy for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 1952, and his ultimate support of Dwight D. Eisenhower's candidacy. Correspondents include Bernard M. Baruch, Harry Flood Byrd, Josephus Daniels, Joseph E. Davies, George Dewey, Robert Donner, James Aloysius Farley, Garet Garrett, Carter Glass, Henry Hazlitt, Robert Houghwout Jackson, Robert H. Kelley, William F. Knowland, Arthur Bliss Lane, William Gibbs McAdoo, Joseph McCarthy, Raymond Moley, Felix M. Morley, Karl E. Mundt, Richard M. Nixon, J. Westbrook Pegler, Donald R. Richards, Donald R. Richberg, Robert A. Taft, Lowell Thomas, Albert C. Wedemeyer, Burton K. Wheeler, and Woodrow Wilson.

In the [Speeches and Writings](#) file, Creel's early speeches, 1917-1922, relate primarily to the CPI, to Woodrow Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference, and to America's postwar problems. No speeches are present for the years 1923-1931. Several of his speeches made during the years 1932-1940 are in support of William Gibbs McAdoo's candidacy for the Senate in 1932 and 1938, Franklin D. Roosevelt's candidacy for president in 1932, and the programs of the New Deal, particularly the National Recovery Administration (NRA), in which Creel served as regional director for California, Nevada, and Utah. Other speeches concern Creel's candidacy for the Democratic Party nomination for governor of California in 1934; the Golden Gate International Exposition, for which Creel served as United States commissioner; and the Central Valley irrigation project in California, which Creel supported. There is also a group of speeches by persons other than Creel, including Harry Flood Byrd, McAdoo, and Kathleen Norris, which were made on Creel's behalf or on topics in which he was interested. The writings part of the [Speeches and Writings](#)

series contains short stories and poems by Creel and a doctoral dissertation by Walton E. Bean on the criticism of Creel's administration of the CPI.

The Miscellany comprises campaign material, including items related to Creel's unsuccessful effort to become the Democratic Party's candidate for governor of California in 1934, as well as notes, reports, publications of the CPI, photographs, cartoons, and other material.

Scrapbooks compiled by or for Creel trace his work as editor of the *Kansas City Independent* and editorial writer for the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*, his activities as an amateur athlete in Kansas City and Denver, his advocacy of rights for women, especially after his marriage to actress Blanche Bates in 1912, and his service as police commissioner of Denver in 1912-1913. Also featured are his chairmanship of the Committee on Public Information and his loyalty to Wilson and the goal of world peace through the League of Nations. Evident as well are Creel's activities during the 1920s as a lecturer and writer and as a columnist for *Collier's*. Volumes covering the 1930s treat the period during which Creel was regional director of the NRA, candidate for governor of California, and commissioner for the Golden Gate International Exposition. Later volumes document his views on state and national politics in California during World II and the Cold War, including the campaign for the United States Senate in 1950, in which he headed an organization of Democrats for Richard M. Nixon. Prominent throughout are Creel's writings on nonpolitical topics, including biographical sketches and what he called "historical romances," highly dramatic renderings of historical events, as well as short stories and poems by other writers and reviews of Creel's published works.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- Woodrow Wilson and the Committee on Public Information, 1917-1931
- General Correspondence, 1894-1953
- Speeches and Writings, 1916-1953
- Miscellany, 1857-1953
- Scrapbooks, 1896-1951
- Addition, undated
- Oversize, 1896-1951

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3	<u>Woodrow Wilson and the Committee on Public Information, 1917-1931</u> Bound volumes of correspondence between Creel and Wilson and others, manuscripts of addresses by Wilson, and papers and correspondence drafted by Creel for Wilson's signature. Arranged and bound by Creel or his heirs.
BOX 4	<u>General Correspondence, 1894-1953</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5-7	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1916-1953</u> Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches, lectures, and writings, including articles, a book draft, poems, and short stories. Organized as speeches or writings, then according to authorship by Creel or by others, and therein alphabetically by type of writing or material
BOX 7	<u>Miscellany, 1857-1953</u> Campaign material, notes, printed matter and clippings, reports, photographs, a testimonial, and other miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 8	<u>Scrapbooks, 1896-1951</u> Bound newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed copies of writings by and about Creel, including feature stories, news briefs, editorials, book reviews, and publications of the Committee on Public Information. Includes related memoranda and transcriptions of writings. Arranged in five categories and therein chronologically by first date of scrapbook.
BOX 8	<u>Addition, undated</u> Poem by an unidentified author.
BOX OV 1-OV 22	<u>Oversize, 1896-1951</u> Cartoon and bound newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed copies of writings by and about Creel, including feature stories, news briefs, editorials, book reviews, and publications of the Committee on Public Information. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	Woodrow Wilson and the Committee on Public Information, 1917-1931 Bound volumes of correspondence between Creel and Wilson and others, manuscripts of addresses by Wilson, and papers and correspondence drafted by Creel for Wilson's signature. Arranged and bound by Creel or his heirs.
BOX 1	Vol. I, 1917-1918, 1931
BOX 2	Vol. II, 1918-1930, undated
BOX 3	Vol. III, 1917-1918, 1931
BOX 4	General Correspondence, 1894-1953 Letters received and copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	1894-1934, 1942-1953, undated (7 folders)
BOX 5-7	Speeches and Writings, 1916-1953 Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches, lectures, and writings, including articles, a book draft, poems, and short stories. Organized as speeches or writings, then according to authorship by Creel or by others, and therein alphabetically by type of writing or material
BOX 5	Speeches
BOX 5	By Creel
BOX 5	Printed, 1918-1938
BOX 5	Typescripts, 1917-1940, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	By others, 1933-1953, undated
BOX 6	Writings
BOX 6	By Creel
BOX 6	Articles and fragments
BOX 6	Printed, 1916-1948, undated
BOX 6	Typescripts, 1916-1953, undated
BOX 6	Book, "Liberty Bells," foreword and chapters 1-20, undated (2 folders)
BOX 6	Poems, undated
BOX 6	Short stories and play, undated
BOX 6	By others
BOX 6	Articles and reviews
BOX 6	Printed, 1918, undated
BOX 6	Typescripts, 1923-1944, undated

Speeches and Writings, 1916-1953

Container

Contents

- BOX 7 Doctoral dissertation, by Walton E. Bean, "George Creel and His Critics: A Study of the Attacks on the Committee on Public Information, 1917-1919," 1941
(2 folders)
- BOX 7 Miscellany, 1857-1953
Campaign material, notes, printed matter and clippings, reports, photographs, a testimonial, and other miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
- BOX 7 Announcements, invitations, and memorabilia, 1857-1953, undated
- BOX 7 Campaign material, 1934-1952, undated
- BOX 7 Committee on Public Information, printed matter, 1917-1920
- BOX 8 Notes, undated
- BOX 8 Photographs, cartoons, and illustrations, 1948, undated *See also Oversize*
- BOX 8 Reports, 1917-1945
- BOX 8 Testimonials, 1918
- BOX 8 Scrapbooks, 1896-1951
Bound newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed copies of writings by and about Creel, including feature stories, news briefs, editorials, book reviews, and publications of the Committee on Public Information. Includes related memoranda and transcriptions of writings. Arranged in five categories and therein chronologically by first date of scrapbook.
- BOX 8 Book reviews *See Oversize*
- BOX 8 Miscellaneous, 1907-1944, undated
- BOX 8 *Rebel at Large and Russia's Race for Asia*, 1947-1951
- BOX 8 *Words That Won the War* and *Criminals and Punishment*, 1939-1944
- BOX 8 Chronological file *See Oversize*
- BOX 8 1896-1913, "Kansas City, New York, Denver"
- BOX 8 1913-1917, "Denver 1913, New York 1913-1917"
- BOX 8 1917-1918
- BOX 8 "Washington"
- BOX 8 "Attacks on Committee on Public Information"
- BOX 8 1917-1921, "Washington, Europe, New York, Mexico"
- BOX 8 1919-1925
- BOX 8 1926-1933, "Editorials"
- BOX 8 1933-1934
- BOX 8 1934, "Campaign for Governor"
- BOX 8 1934-1938
- BOX 8 1938-1940
- BOX 8 1940-1951, "Personal Starting 1940 and Continuing"
- BOX 8 *Collier's* *See Oversize*
- BOX 8 1911-1938, "Articles by Creel," chiefly from *Collier's*
(2 vols.)
- BOX 8 1922-1933, "Historical Romances"

Scrapbooks, 1896-1951

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 8	1918-1943, "Articles" (3 vols.)
BOX 8	1922-1932, series of articles under pseudonym "Uncle Henry" (2 vols.)
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Articles," 1915-1929, undated, chiefly by Creel
BOX 8	"Miscellaneous Writings," by and about Creel
BOX 8	1912-1924, undated <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 8	1914-1927, undated
BOX 8	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i> , articles by Creel and others <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 8	1911, Sept.-1913, May (3 vols.)
BOX 8	Addition, undated Poem by an unidentified author.
BOX 8	Poem by an unidentified author
BOX OV 1-OV 22	Oversize, 1896-1951 Cartoon and bound newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed copies of writings by and about Creel, including feature stories, news briefs, editorials, book reviews, and publications of the Committee on Public Information. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany (Container 8)
BOX OV 1	Photographs, cartoons, and illustration
BOX OV 1	Cartoon by Lynch, undated
BOX OV 2	Scrapbooks (Container 8)
BOX OV 2	Book reviews
BOX OV 2	Miscellaneous, 1907-1944
BOX OV 2	<i>Rebel at Large and Russia's Race for Asia</i> , 1947-1951
BOX OV 3	<i>Words That Won the War and Criminals and Punishment</i> , 1939-1944
BOX OV 4	Chronological file
BOX OV 4	1896-1913, "Kansas City, New York, Denver"
BOX OV 5	1913-1917, "Denver 1913, New York 1913-1917"
BOX OV 6	1917-1918
BOX OV 6	"Washington"
BOX OV 7	"Attacks on Committee on Public Information"
BOX OV 8	1917-1921, "Washington, Europe, New York, Mexico"
BOX OV 9	1919-1925
BOX OV 10	1926-1933, "Editorials"
BOX OV 11	1933-1934
BOX OV 12	1934, "Campaign for Governor"
BOX OV 13	1934-1938
BOX OV 14	1938-1940
BOX OV 15	1940-1951, "Personal Starting 1940 and Continuing"

Oversize, 1896-1951

Container

Contents

BOX OV 16	<i>Collier's</i>
BOX OV 16	1911-1938, "Articles by Creel," chiefly from <i>Collier's</i> (2 vols.)
BOX OV 16	1922-1933, "Historical Romances"
BOX OV 17	1918-1943, "Articles" (3 vols.)
BOX OV 18	1922-1932, series of articles under pseudonym "Uncle Henry" (2 vols.)
BOX OV 19	Miscellaneous
BOX OV 19	"Miscellaneous writings," by and about Creel, 1912-1924, undated
BOX OV 20	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i> articles by Creel and others
BOX OV 20	1911 Sept.-1912, Feb.
BOX OV 21	1912, Mar.-Aug.
BOX OV 22	1912, Sept.-1913, May