Loy W. Henderson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1992
Revised 2010 April

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001022

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm81053314

Prepared by Richard B. Bickel
Revised and expanded by Michael Spangler
Collection Summary

Title: Loy W. Henderson Papers
Span Dates: 1918-1984
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1938-1957)
ID No.: MSS53314
Creator: Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986
Extent: 8,250 items ; 29 containers plus 1 oversize ; 12 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Diplomat; later professor of international relations, American University, Washington, D.C. Correspondence, memoir, speeches and writings, academic and subject files, engagement books, scrapbook, photographs, and miscellany pertaining primarily to Henderson's diplomatic career.

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
Davies, Joseph Edward.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937.
Kennan, George F. (George Frost), 1904-2005.
Messersmith, George S. (George Strausser), 1883-1960--Correspondence.
Steinhardt, Laurence A. (Laurence Adolph), 1892-1950--Correspondence.
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950.
Welles, Sumner, 1892-1961.

Organizations
American Red Cross.
American University (Washington, D.C.)--Faculty.
Germany. Treaties, etc. Soviet Union, 1939 August 23.
United States. Department of State.
United States. Foreign Service Act of 1924.

Subjects
Collectivization of agriculture--Soviet Union.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Baltic States.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--India.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Iraq.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.
Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Humanitarian assistance.
Russo-Finnish War, 1939-1940.

Places
Baltic--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
Germany--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.
India--Foreign relations--United States.
Iran--Foreign relations--United States.
Iraq--Foreign relations--United States.
Palestine--History--Partition, 1947.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Baltic States.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--Germany.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Baltic States.
United States--Foreign relations--India.
United States--Foreign relations--Iran.
United States--Foreign relations--Iraq.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations
Diplomats.
Educators.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Loy W. Henderson, career diplomat and professor, were given to the Library of Congress by Henderson in 1981. Additional materials were received from his estate in 1987.

Processing History
The papers of Loy W. Henderson were arranged and described in 1983. Additional material received in 1987 was incorporated into the collection in 1992.

Transfers
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Most photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Most maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Loy W. Henderson Papers.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Loy W. Henderson 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 Loy W. Henderson 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, Loy W. Henderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1892, June 28</td>
<td>Born, Rogers, Ark.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1915       A.B. degree, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
1917-1918  Student, University of Denver Law School, Denver, Colo.
1919       Member of Inter-Allied Commission to Germany for repatriation of prisoners of war
1919-1921  Member of American Red Cross Commission to Europe
1922       Entered foreign service as vice consul in Dublin, Ireland
1925       Division of East European Affairs, Department of State
1927       Third secretary of legation, Baltic States
1930       Division of East European Affairs
            Married Elise Marie Heinrichson
1934       Second secretary of embassy, Moscow, U.S.S.R.
1942       Inspector, diplomatic missions and consular office, Department of State
1943       Ambassador to Iraq
1945       Director, Near Eastern and African Affairs, Department of State
1948       Ambassador to India and Nepal
1951       Ambassador to Iran
1955       Deputy under secretary of state for administration
1956       Delegate to Baghdad Pact, Iran
1957       Chief of mission to arrange new establishments in Africa, Department of State
1960       Retired
1961-1968  Professor, international relations, American University, Washington, D.C.
1986, March 24  Died, Bethesda, Md.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Loy Wesley Henderson (1892-1986) trace his brief time with the American Red Cross, his long career in the foreign service, and a brief academic career. Relatively little of his personal life is documented outside of the drafts of his memoirs. Although the papers span the years 1918-1984, they are concentrated in the period of the late 1930s to the late 1950s.
Included in the collection are correspondence, subject files, speeches and writings, academic papers, engagement books, and a manuscript of Henderson's extensive memoir detailing his early life, education, and career up to 1942. His professional life in the foreign service was divided between assignments in Washington, D.C., and overseas posts. The memoir comments on the background and implementation of the Rogers Act (Foreign Service Act of 1924), which combined the diplomatic and consular services. Problems in the Baltic states in the late 1920s and early 1930s resulting from Soviet threats to their independence are also discussed. Treated as well are American-Soviet negotiations leading up to the recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933, plus the many difficulties encountered in establishing and operating the American embassy in Moscow.

A highlight of Henderson's career was his service in Moscow (1934-1938) under William C. Bullitt, the first American ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Bullitt's successor, Joseph Edward Davies. Throughout the memoirs Henderson notes his impressions of major figures in American diplomacy during the period between the wars, including William C. Bullitt, Joseph Edward Davies, Cordell Hull, Frank B. Kellogg, Laurence A. Steinhartd, Henry L. Stimson, and Sumner Welles. Others whose careers were just beginning are also mentioned, such as Charles Bohlen, George F. Kennan, George Messersmith, and John C. Wiley.

The Correspondence series includes significant correspondence with George S. Messersmith, Laurence A. Steinhartd, and John C. Wiley. For the years 1939-1941, letters from Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhartd in Moscow and John C. Wiley, Minister to the Baltic states, are mostly personal rather than official correspondence to Henderson, at that time assistant chief of the European Division. Both Steinhartd and Wiley record in some detail the internal problems of their posts, their difficulties in dealing with the Soviets, and observations on the Russo-Finnish War and the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. They also speculate about future actions of the Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan.

Other correspondence is from scholars writing Henderson about events in his career. He was fastidious in answering these queries, and the responses in the Subject Files or the Correspondence series supplement his memoirs.

The Subject Files cover the breadth of his career. Although the files are not extensive, those on the Soviet Union, Israel, Palestine, and Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs are the most substantive.

Speeches and writings document various periods of Henderson's career. Dispatches from the American legation in Riga, Latvia, in 1930, the originals of which are in the National Archives, analyze Josef Stalin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture. Also in the file is Henderson's brief summary of his foreign service assignments from 1922 to 1961, part of which treats his tenure as ambassador to Iran from 1951 to 1954.

The Academic File consists of correspondence, course outlines and notes, reports, and student papers related to his teaching at American University. Biographical information, engagement books, oral history transcripts, and awards comprise the Miscellany series.

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in six series:

- Correspondence, 1938-1974
- Subject File, 1918-1981
- Academic File, 1961-1968
- Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984
- Miscellany, 1950-1973
- Oversize, 1922-1982
# Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-5</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1938-1974</strong></td>
<td>Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>attachments. Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>arranged alphabetically by name or topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5-16</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1918-1981</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 16-18</td>
<td><strong>Academic File, 1961-1968</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 18-22</td>
<td><strong>Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984</strong></td>
<td>Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 23-29</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1950-1973</strong></td>
<td>Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook. Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1922-1982</strong></td>
<td>Certificates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-5</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1938-1974</strong>&lt;br&gt;Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments.&lt;br&gt;Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>M-Z&lt;br&gt;(9 folders)&lt;br&gt;Congratulations&lt;br&gt;1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>1954-1958&lt;br&gt;(3 folders)&lt;br&gt;Retirement, 1961&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Death of former colleagues and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5-16</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1918-1981</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, memoranda, and reports.&lt;br&gt;Arranged alphabetically by subject.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOX 5**<br>American Red Cross<br>Correspondence, 1919-1924<br>Instructions, 1918-1921<br>Miscellany, 1919-1975<br>Travel documents, 1918-1921<br>Work in Europe<br>(2 folders)
**Subject File, 1918-1981**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BOX 6** | Africa trip, 1960  
(2 folders)  
Baghdad Pact, 1956-1957  
Baltic States, 1928-1976  
(2 folders)  
Bullitt, William C., 1936-1938  
Communism |
| **BOX 7** | Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.  
Delta Tau Delta  
Foreign service  
Appointments  
Blacks in foreign service, 1975  
Cemetery  
Changes  
Conferences  
Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa., 1963  
San Salvador, 1959  
Congressional comments  
Correspondence, 1962-1963  
Dawson, H. G., Jr. *See same Container, Blacks in foreign service*  
Draft report, 1961  
Entry into, 1921-1922 |
| **BOX 8** | Printed material  
Greece  
(2 folders)  
India  
Appointment to position, 1948  
Exchanges with Indian officers, 1949-1950  
Ismail, Mirza, 1950-1951  
Miscellany  
(2 folders) |
| **BOX 9** | Nehru, Jawaharlal, 1965-1967  
Social and ceremonial, 1949-1950  
(2 folders) |
| **BOX 10** | Iran  
Background  
Correspondence, 1954-1978  
Colleagues  
Congratulations and condolence  
Personal  
Henderson, Elise (Mrs. Loy)  
Miscellany  
(1 folder)  
(2 folders)  
Trips, 1953-1954  
Zahedi, Ardeshir, 1962-1974 |
Subject File, 1918-1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, 1943-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social and ceremonial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>Israel-Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adler, Frank J., 1975-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, 1947-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lilienthal, Alfred, 1969-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Papers/lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printed material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 12</td>
<td>Wilson, Evan, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margolin, Arnold D., 1943-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Middle East oil, 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs, 1945-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Substantive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nepal, King Mahendra's visit to Washington, 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., 1951-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shigemitsu, Mamoru (Japan), 1937-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkey, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American-Russian Institute, 1940-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrests, trials, cases, 1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baltic States, problems, 1939-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collective farms, report, 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control of distribution of labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Diplomatic lists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Europe, 1939-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Embassy and consular office staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establishment of relations, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>German-Soviet relations, 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great Purge, 1935-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 15</td>
<td>Historical treatment of ambassadors in Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oumansky, Constantine A., 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-retirement papers, 1961-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telegrams and dispatches list, 1934-1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Krasnoyarsk and Igarka, 1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Siberia, 1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 16</td>
<td>United States citizens, problems, 1938-1941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subject File, 1918-1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States personnel, 1939-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States-USSR relations, report on first three years after diplomatic recognition, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States-USSR trade, 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zinoviev-Kamenev trial, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wagner College, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, Washington, D.C., 1974-1978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOX 16-18

Academic File, 1961-1968

Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX 16

Correspondence, 1961-1968

Problems in diplomacy

BOX 17

Program reports, 1963-1964

(2 folders)

Scholarship applications, 1962-1963

Seminars, 1963-1965

(2 folders)

BOX 18

(1 folder)

Student papers

Zambian students, 1963-1964

BOX 18-22

Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984

Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 18

Articles

(2 folders)

BOX 19

Writings

Memoirs

(5 folders)

(4 folders)

Summary of foreign service career, 1984

BOX 20

Dispatches from Latvia, 1930

(6 folders)

BOX 21

Speeches, 1945-1967, undated

(4 folders)

BOX 22

Miscellany, 1950-1973

Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook.

Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.

BOX 23

Biographical data

Comments about Henderson

Awards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24</td>
<td>1953-1956 (4 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>1956-1958 (4 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 26</td>
<td>1958-1961 (5 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 27</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 28</td>
<td>Printed material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 29</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Oversize, 1922-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Certificates, 1922-1982, undated (Container 23)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>