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
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: 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
Bates, Blanche, 1873-1941.
Bolling, John Randolph.
Creel, George, 1876-1953.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948.
Davies, Joseph Edward.
Dewey, George, 1837-1917.
Donner, Robert, -1964.
Garrett, Garet, 1878-1954.
Glass, Carter, 1858-1946.
Gompers, Samuel, 1850-1924.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.
Jackson, Robert H., 1892-1954.
Lane, Arthur Bliss, 1894-1956.
Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928.
McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941.
McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957.
Moley, Raymond, 1886-1975.
Mooney, Thomas J., 1882-1942.
Mundt, Karl E. (Karl Earl), 1900-1974.
Pegler, J. Westbrook (James Westbrook), 1894-1969.
Richberg, Donald R. (Donald Randall), 1881-1960.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Thomas, Lowell, 1892-1981.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations
Democratic Party (U.S.)
Denver (Colo.), Police Department.
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. Department of State.

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 War, 1914-1918--African Americans.
World War, 1914-1918--Peace.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

Places
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.
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


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 John 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.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-3</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson and the Committee on Public Information, 1917-1931</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1894-1953</td>
<td>Letters received and copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5-7</td>
<td>Speeches and Writings, 1916-1953</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1857-1953</td>
<td>Campaign material, notes, printed matter and clippings, reports, photographs, a testimonial, and other miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Scrapbooks, 1896-1951</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Addition, undated</td>
<td>Poem by an unidentified author.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1-OV 22</td>
<td>Oversize, 1896-1951</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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| **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 |
**Box 7**


(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"

**Box 8**

1918-1943, "Articles" (3 vols.)
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<th>Container</th>
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| BOX 8     | 1922-1932, series of articles under pseudonym "Uncle Henry"
| BOX 8     | (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 See Oversize |
| BOX 8     | 1914-1927, undated |
| BOX 8     | Rocky Mountain News, articles by Creel and others See Oversize |
| BOX 8     | 1911, Sept.-1913, May |
| BOX 8     | (3 vols.) |
| BOX 8     | Addition, undated |
| BOX 8     | Poem by an unidentified author. |
| BOX 8     | Poem by an unidentified author |
| BOX OV 1-OV 22 | Oversize, 1896-1951 |
| BOX OV 1  | Cartoon and bound newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed copies of |
| BOX OV 1  | writings by and about Creel, including feature stories, news briefs, editorials, book reviews, |
| BOX OV 1  | and publications of the Committee on Public Information. |
| BOX OV 1  | Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items |
| BOX OV 1  | were removed. |
| BOX OV 2  | Miscellany (Container 8) |
| BOX OV 2  | Photographs, cartoons, and illustration |
| BOX OV 2  | Cartoon by Lynch, undated |
| BOX OV 2  | Scrapbooks (Container 8) |
| BOX OV 2  | Book reviews |
| BOX OV 2  | Miscellaneous, 1907-1944 |
| BOX OV 3  | Rebel at Large and Russia's Race for Asia, 1947-1951 |
| BOX OV 3  | Words That Won the War and Criminals and Punishment, 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"
<p>| BOX OV 11 | 1933-1934 |
| BOX OV 12 | 1934, &quot;Campaign for Governor&quot; |
| BOX OV 13 | 1934-1938 |
| BOX OV 14 | 1938-1940 |
| BOX OV 15 | 1940-1951, &quot;Personal Starting 1940 and Continuing&quot; |
| BOX OV 16 | Collier's |
| BOX OV 16 | 1911-1938, &quot;Articles by Creel,&quot; chiefly from Collier's |
| BOX OV 16 | (2 vols.) |</p>
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<th>Container</th>
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<td>BOX OV 16</td>
<td>1922-1933, &quot;Historical Romances&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 17</td>
<td>1918-1943, &quot;Articles&quot; (3 vols.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 18</td>
<td>1922-1932, series of articles under pseudonym &quot;Uncle Henry&quot; (2 vols.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 19</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 19</td>
<td>“Miscellaneous writings,” by and about Creel, 1912-1924, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 20</td>
<td><em>Rocky Mountain News</em> articles by Creel and others</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 20</td>
<td>1911 Sept.-1912, Feb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 21</td>
<td>1912, Mar.-Aug.</td>
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<td>BOX OV 22</td>
<td>1912, Sept.-1913, May</td>
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