

Arthur Woods Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2005

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82049619>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007032>

Prepared by Michael Spangler

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Arthur Woods Papers

Span Dates: 1884-1938

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1914-1923)

ID No.: MSS49619

Creator: Woods, Arthur, 1870-1942

Extent: 150 items

Extent: 1 container plus 6 oversize

Extent: 1.4 linear feet

Extent: 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82049619>

Summary: Police commissioner and military officer. Diary, correspondence, reports, notes, scrapbooks, clippings, and photographs chiefly documenting the service of Arthur Woods as New York City police commissioner, colonel in the Division of Military Aeronautics, United States War Department, and assistant to the secretary of war.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Rockefeller, John D., Jr. (John Davison), 1874-1960.

Woods, Arthur, 1870-1942.

Organizations

United States. War Department.

United States. War Department. Division of Military Aeronautics.

Subjects

Airplanes, Military--Piloting--United States.

Airplanes, Military--United States--Design and construction.

Airplanes, Military--United States--Maintenance and repair.

Military readiness.

Police administration--New York (State)--New York.

Unemployment--United States.

Vocational rehabilitation--United States.

World War, 1914-1918.

Places

Boston (Mass.)--Social life and customs.

United States--Defenses.

Williamsburg (Va.)--History.

Occupations

Army officers.

Police commissioners.

Provenance

The papers of Arthur Woods, police commissioner and military officer, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, John Woods, in 1972.

Processing History

The papers of Arthur Woods were prepared for microfilming in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2005.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Arthur Woods 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 these papers is available on three reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1870, Jan. 29	Born, Boston, Mass.
1892	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1895-1905	Educator, Groton School, Groton, Mass.
1907-1909	Deputy police commissioner, New York, N.Y.
1914-1918	Police commissioner, New York, N.Y.
1916	Married Helen Morgan Hamilton
1918-1919	Colonel, Division of Military Aeronautics, United States War Department
1919	Assistant to the secretary of war in charge of efforts to reestablish servicemen in civil life
1921-1922	Chairman, Committee on Civic and Emergency Measures, President's Conference on Unemployment
1927-1931	Assisted John D. Rockefeller (1874-1960) in restoration of historic Williamsburg, Va.
1930-1931	Chairman, President's Commission for Unemployment
1942, May 12	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Arthur H. Woods (1870-1942) span the years 1884-1938, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1914-1923. The collection focuses primarily on Woods's work as police commissioner for New York City, his military service, and his activities regarding unemployment and vocational rehabilitation for servicemen immediately after World War I. The papers contain a diary, correspondence, reports, notes, scrapbooks, clippings, and photographs organized by type of material and thereunder alphabetically or chronologically.

The diary is a record of Woods's adolescence in Boston, Massachusetts, with descriptions of school activities, athletic events, friends, and family. Notable among the documents pertaining to his work as police commissioner are reports with comments by hoteliers, saloon keepers, and pimps regarding Woods and police activities. Correspondence and reports on criminal activities are also contained in the files. Reports and field notes on airplane production and maintenance, pilot training, and military preparedness represent Woods's service in the Division of Military Aeronautics with the American Expeditionary Forces in France and Great Britain during World War I. Other reports and correspondence in the collection pertain to Woods's work as assistant to the secretary of war coordinating vocational rehabilitation for returning servicemen and his service with the President's Conference on Unemployment in 1921-1922. Scrapbooks of clippings relate principally to his activities with the New York City police. They also document his work with John D. Rockefeller (1874-1960) during the 1920s and 1930s, including Rockefeller's support of the restoration of historic Williamsburg, Virginia.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material and thereunder alphabetically or chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,604

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diary, 1884-1888
BOX 1 REEL 1	Subject File
BOX 1 REEL 1	Assistant to secretary of war, vocational rehabilitation of servicemen, 1919-1923
BOX 1 REEL 1	Military Aeronautics Division, 1918-1919, 1938 (3 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Photographs and miscellany, 1918, 1926-1931
BOX 1 REEL 1	New York City Police Commissioner, 1907-1924
BOX 1 REEL 1	President's Conference on Unemployment, 1921-1922 (2 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Special Committee to Investigate Unemployment and Relief, United States Senate, 1937
BOX 2 REEL 1	Scrapbooks (Oversize)
BOX 2 REEL 1	1914, Sept.-1915, June
BOX 3 REEL 2	1916, June-1917, Jan.
BOX 4 REEL 2	1917
BOX 4 REEL 2	June-July
BOX 5 REEL 2	June-Dec.
BOX 6 REEL 3	1924, Apr.-1932, Oct.
BOX 7 REEL 3	1930, Dec.