

Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82012294>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007112>

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of John Monagle

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007

Revised 2014 January

Collection Summary

Title: Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson

Span Dates: 1915

ID No.: MSS12294

Extent: 8,400 items

Extent: 24 containers

Extent: 9.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in Flemish, French, and English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82012294>

Summary: Letters written by Belgian school children to President Woodrow Wilson expressing gratitude for American aid after the German invasion of Belgium during World War I.

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

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Subjects

School children--Belgium--Correspondence.

World War, 1914-1918--Children--Belgium.

World War, 1914-1918--Civilian relief--Belgium.

Provenance

The Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson were forwarded by the American minister at Brussels to the United States Department of State in 1919 and transferred to the Library of Congress that year. An addition was given to the library by the Woodrow Wilson House in 1964.

Processing History

The Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson were arranged and described in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

Additional Guides

A list of personal names in the collection prepared by European Division volunteers Kathleen Hill, Melissa Foge, Mary Barkeley, and David Sadoff is available as a [PDF](#) document.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson 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, Belgian Children's Letters to President Woodrow Wilson, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Belgian Children's Letters were written in February and March of 1915 to President Woodrow Wilson following the German invasion of Belgium during World War I. In 1914 Herbert Hoover had established the Commission for Relief in Belgium which shipped over five million metric tons of supplies into the occupied regions of the country from the United States. These letters, written by school children and their teachers, especially from the city of Ghent, express gratitude for the American aid. The letters are in Flemish and French, and only a few have English translations attached. Approximately half of the letters are decorated with art work and calligraphy, and some include photographs or ribbons. Some letters were written on picture postcards.

Letters from each school and class were packaged together, and the original order of their contents has been retained. The packages have been assigned numbers.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by the city or province from which the letters came and therein by package number.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Brabant Province
BOX 1	Brussels (6 folders)
BOX 1	Ghent
BOX 1	Package no. 1 (5 folders)
BOX 2	(1 folder)
BOX 2	Package no. 2 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Package no. 3 (1 folder)
BOX 3	(5 folders)
BOX 3	Package no. 4
BOX 3	Package no. 5 (2 folders)
BOX 4	(1 folder)
BOX 4	Package no. 6 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Package no. 7 (4 folders)
BOX 5	(6 folders)
BOX 6	Package nos. 8-9 (6 folders)
BOX 7	Package nos. 10-15 (7 folders)
BOX 7	Package no. 16 (1 folder)
BOX 8	(1 folder)
BOX 8	Package nos. 17-26 (7 folders)
BOX 9	Package nos. 27-34 (10 folders)
BOX 10	Package nos. 35-39 (9 folders)
BOX 11	Package nos. 40-45 (9 folders)
BOX 12	Package nos. 46-48 (6 folders)
BOX 12	Package no. 49 (2 folders)
BOX 13	(2 folders)
BOX 13	Package no. 50 (5 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 14	Package nos. 51-55 (9 folders)
BOX 15	Package nos. 56-60 (9 folders)
BOX 16	Package nos. 61-63 (8 folders)
BOX 16	Package no. 64 (1 folder)
BOX 17	(2 folders)
BOX 17	Package nos. 65-66 (7 folders)
BOX 18	Package nos. 67-69 (10 folders)
BOX 19	Package nos. 70-78 (12 folders)
BOX 20	Package nos. 79-86 (8 folders)
BOX 21	Package no. 87
BOX 21	Loose material
BOX 21	Hainaut Province
BOX 21	Package no. 1 (2 folders)
BOX 21	Package no. 2 (4 folders)
BOX 22	(1 folder)
BOX 22	Package no. 3 (3 folders)
BOX 22	Package no. 4 (2 folders)
BOX 23	(2 folders)
BOX 23	Package nos. 5-6 (5 folders)
BOX 23	Package no. 7 (2 folders)
BOX 24	(3 folders)
BOX 24	Liege Province
BOX 24	Limburg Province
BOX 24	Luxembourg Province (3 folders)