

William Edmund Curtis Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82017491>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009057>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2023 March

Collection Summary

Title: William Edmund Curtis Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1885-1923

Bulk Dates: 1893-1896

ID No.: MSS17491

Creator: Curtis, William Edmund, 1855-1923

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 11 containers

Extent: 2.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82017491>

Summary: Assistant secretary of the United States Treasury. Family and general correspondence, financial papers, memoranda, notes, reports, codebooks, invitations, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material relating chiefly to Curtis's service as assistant secretary of the treasury.

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

Adee, Alvey A. (Alvey Augustus), 1842-1924--Correspondence.
Carlisle, John Griffin, 1835-1910--Correspondence.
Crawford, F. Marion (Francis Marion), 1854-1909--Correspondence.
Curtis, William Edmund, 1855-1923.
Fairchild, Charles S. (Charles Stebbins), 1842-1924--Correspondence.
Field, Hickson W. (Hickson Woolman), 1823- --Correspondence.
Gilder, Richard Watson, 1844-1909--Correspondence.
Goschen, Edward, Sir, 1847-1924--Correspondence.
Gough, Hugh Henry, Sir, 1833-1909--Correspondence.
Johnstone, Alan, Sir--Correspondence.
Jordan, C. N. (Conrad N.), 1830-1903--Correspondence.
McCoy, Joseph S.--Correspondence.
Muhleman, Maurice L. (Maurice Louis), 1852-1913--Correspondence.
Peffer, William Alfred, 1831-1912--Correspondence.
Rosengarten, J. G. (Joseph George), 1835-1921--Correspondence.
Speyer, James, 1861-1941--Correspondence.
Stillman, James, 1850-1918--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Department of the Treasury.

Subjects

Customs administration--United States.
Deficit financing--United States.
Gold standard.
Government lending--United States.
Inflation (Finance)--United States.
Silver question.

Places

United States--Economic policy.

Occupations

Public officials.

Acquisition Information

The papers of William Edmund Curtis, assistant secretary of the treasury, were given to the Library of Congress by Curtis in 1902. Additional papers were given by his sister, Elizabeth Curtis, in 1929.

Processing History

The William Edmund Curtis Papers were bound in 1945. A finding aid was created in 2005 by Patrick Kerwin and Lia Apodaca. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Edmund Curtis 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, William Edmund Curtis Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Edmund Curtis (1855-1923) span the years 1885-1923, with the bulk of the material dated 1893-1896. The papers include family and general correspondence, financial papers, memoranda, notes, reports, code books, invitations, a biographical sketch, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.

The collection relates chiefly to Curtis's service as assistant secretary of the United States Treasury and covers financial topics relating to silver certificates, gold reserves, deficit spending, loans, custom receipts, and inflation. The papers also include letters from Curtis to his mother, Mary Ann Scovill Curtis, chronicling his day-to-day activities.

Correspondents include Alvey A. Adee, John Griffin Carlisle, F. Marion Crawford, Charles S. Fairchild, Hickson W. Field, Richard Watson Gilder, Sir Edward Goschen, Sir Hugh Henry Gough, Sir Alan Johnstone, C. N. Jordan, Joseph S. McCoy, Maurice L. Muhleman, William Alfred Pepper, J. G. Rosengarten, James Speyer, and James Stillman.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence and other papers
BOX 1	1885, Mar. 1-1893, Oct. 5
BOX 2	1893, Oct. 6-1894, Feb. 3
BOX 3	1894, Feb. 5-Sept. 5
BOX 4	1894, Sept. 6-1895, Jan. 25
BOX 5	1895, Jan. 28-June 26
BOX 6	1895, July 1-1896, Jan. 16
BOX 7	1896, Jan. 17-Sept. 5
BOX 8	1896, Sept. 7-1908, Sept. 8
BOX 9	Undated
BOX 10	Miscellany
BOX 10	Biographical sketch, 1923
BOX 10	Clippings, 1894-1897
BOX 10	Codebooks, 1895
BOX 10	Fragments, 1896, undated
BOX 10	Printed matter, 1885, 1893-1899, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Scrapbooks, 1893-1910, undated (2 vols.)