

Newton Diehl Baker Papers
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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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

Collection Summary

Title: Newton Diehl Baker Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1896-1962

Bulk Dates: 1916-1937

ID No.: MSS11585

Creator: Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937

Extent: 100,000 items

Extent: 276 containers

Extent: 110.4 linear feet

Extent: 31 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79011585>

Summary: U.S. secretary of war, author, lawyer, and municipal official of Cleveland, Ohio. Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, speeches and articles, newspaper articles, and printed material relating primarily to Baker's post-World War I activities as the head of several business firms and of organizations devoted to education, law and jurisprudence, and philanthropy, relief, and other types of human services.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937.

Clarke, John H. (John Hessin), 1857-1945--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Davis, Norman H. (Norman Hezekiah), 1878-1944--Correspondence.

Frothingham, Thomas Goddard, 1865-1945--Correspondence.

Hapgood, Norman, 1868-1937--Correspondence.

Hayes, Ralph A.--Correspondence.

Lamont, Thomas W. (Thomas William), 1870-1948--Correspondence.

Lape, Esther Everett, 1881-1981--Correspondence.

Lippmann, Walter, 1889-1974--Correspondence.

Mooney, Charles A., 1879-1931--Correspondence.

Peabody, George Foster, 1852-1938--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Selzer, Louis B.--Correspondence.

Shotwell, James T., 1874-1965--Correspondence.

Ungerleider, Samuel--Correspondence.

Wickersham, George W. (George Woodward), 1858-1936--Correspondence.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Wright, Howell, 1882-1954--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Institute of Pacific Relations--Correspondence.

American Judicature Society.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

Cleveland Chamber of Commerce (Cleveland, Ohio)

Cleveland Trust Company.

National Consumers' League.

Phi Gamma Delta.

United States. War Department.

Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

Subjects

Banks and banking--Ohio--Cleveland.
Consumers' leagues.
Education--Societies, etc.
Human services.
Justice, Administration of.
Railroads--Management.
Trust companies--Ohio--Cleveland.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

Places

Cleveland (Ohio)--Commerce.
United States--Politics and government--1913-1921.

Occupations

Authors.
Cabinet officers.
Lawyers.
Public officials--Ohio.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Newton Diehl Baker, U.S. secretary of war, author, lawyer, and municipal official of Cleveland, Ohio, were given to the Library of Congress by Baker's children, Elizabeth Baker McGean, Newton D. Baker III, and Margaret Baker Wright in 1952. Major additions were made by Ralph Hayes in 1956 and the Cleveland Municipal Reference Library, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1966; other material was added through multiple gifts, 1939-1993.

Processing History

The Baker Papers were processed in 1952. Additions and revisions were made between 1957 and 2002, and the finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include a microfilm edition of Newton Diehl Baker Letterbooks consisting of letters written or signed by Baker during his terms as city solicitor (1903-1912) and mayor (1912-1915) of Cleveland, Ohio, held in the original by the Cleveland Municipal Reference Library.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Newton Diehl Baker 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 Newton Baker Papers of 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 part of these papers is available on thirty-one reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

1871, Dec. 3	Born, Martinsburg, W.Va.
1892	B.A., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1894	L.L.B. Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.
1902	Married Elizabeth Leopold
1896-1897	Private secretary to Postmaster General William L. Wilson
1897-1899	Private law practice, Martinsburg, W.Va.
1899	Private law practice, Cleveland, Ohio
1901-1902	First assistant city solicitor, Cleveland, Ohio
1902-1912	City solicitor, Cleveland, Ohio
1912-1916	Mayor, Cleveland, Ohio
1916-1921	Secretary of war
1918	Published <i>Frontiers of Freedom</i> . New York: George H. Doran Co.
1921	Private law practice, firm of Baker, Hostetler, and Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio
1925	Published <i>Progress and the Constitution</i> . New York: Scribner's Sons
1928	Appointed to permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague, Netherlands
1929	Appointed to Law Enforcement Commission
1932	Published <i>Bolshevism, Fascism and Capitalism</i> . New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press
1936	Published <i>Why We Went to War</i> . Freeport, N.Y.: Harper & Brother for the Council on Foreign Relations
1937, 25 Dec.	Died, Shaker Heights, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Newton Diehl Baker (1871-1937) span the years 1896-1962, with the bulk concentrated in the period 1916-1937. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, speeches and articles, newspaper articles, and printed material relating primarily to Baker's post-World War I activities as the head of several business firms and of organizations devoted to education, law and jurisprudence, and philanthropy, relief, and other types of human services. The firms and organizations include the American Judicature Society, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland Trust Company, National Consumer's League, Phi Gamma Delta, and Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Included is material relating to Baker's post as secretary of war in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet during World War I.

Correspondents include the American Institute of Pacific Relations, John H. Clarke, Josephus Daniels, Norman H. Davis, Thomas Goddard Frothingham, Norman Hapgood, Ralph A. Hayes, Thomas W. Lamont, Esther Everett Lape, Walter Lippmann, Charles A. Mooney, George Foster Peabody, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louis B. Selzer, James Thomson Shotwell, Samuel Ungerleider, George W. Wickersham, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, and Howell Wright.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1922](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1922-1937](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1915-1937](#)
- [Miscellany, 1918-1935](#)
- [Ralph Hayes File, 1916-1962](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1896-1917](#)
- [Addition, 1917-1930](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-15 REEL 1-13	<p><u>Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1922</u> Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,577</p>
BOX 1-13 REEL 1-12	<p><u>Personal Correspondence, 1916-1922</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year and therein alphabetically.</p>
BOX 14 REEL 12-13	<p><u>Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1916-1921</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year.</p>
BOX 15 REEL 13	<p><u>Subject File, 1917-1918</u> Letters sent and received and minutes and reports relating to the Supreme War Council and to shipping during World War I. Arranged by topic.</p>
BOX 16-243 not filmed	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1922-1937</u> Letters and memoranda sent and received with attached and related reports, printed matter, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization.</p>
BOX 244-252 not filmed	<p><u>Speeches and Writings, 1915-1937</u> Correspondence, notes, drafts, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to speeches and writings by Baker. Arranged by type of writing and speeches organized chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 253-254 not filmed	<p><u>Miscellany, 1918-1935</u> Miscellaneous topical files. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, subject, or title of writing.</p>
BOX 255-265 not filmed	<p><u>Ralph Hayes File, 1916-1962</u> Correspondence between Baker and Ralph Hayes, subject files, speeches and writings, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 266-275 REEL 1-18	<p><u>Letterbooks, 1896-1917</u> Bound volumes of copies of personal letters sent, 1896-1916, and of letters sent as secretary of war, 1916-1917. Arranged chronologically. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,549</p>
BOX 275 not filmed	<p><u>Addition, 1917-1930</u> Letters to D. C. Westenhaver and Paul Westenhaver.</p>

Arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-15 REEL 1-13	Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1922 Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,577
BOX 1-13 REEL 1-12	Personal Correspondence, 1916-1922 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year and therein alphabetically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1916 "A-W" miscellaneous (5 folders) Wilson, Woodrow
	1917 "A-F" miscellaneous (6 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	"G-L" miscellaneous (11 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	"M-V" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	Wilson, Woodrow (10 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	"W" miscellaneous (2 folders) Yeates, Charles E., report on the Philippines, 1917
	1918 "A-F" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	"G-L" miscellaneous (11 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	"M-V" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 5-6	Wilson, Woodrow (9 folders) "W-Z" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 6-7	1919 "A-G" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 7-8	"H-P" miscellaneous (12 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 8-9	"R-V" miscellaneous (4 folders) Wilson, Woodrow (2 folders)

Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1922

Container	Contents
	"W" miscellaneous (3 folders)
	1920
	"A-C" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 9-10	"D-P" miscellaneous (13 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 10-11	"Q-Z" miscellaneous (7 folders)
	1921
	"A-F" miscellaneous (6 folders)
BOX 13(a) REEL 11-12	"G-Z" miscellaneous (13 folders)
	1922, "A-Z" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 12-13	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1916-1921 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 14 REEL 12-13	1916-1921 (9 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 13	Subject File, 1917-1918 Letters sent and received and minutes and reports relating to the Supreme War Council and to shipping during World War I. Arranged by topic.
BOX 15 REEL 13	Supreme War Council, minutes of meetings, 1917-1918 (9 folders) "Shipping AEF," war transport, 1917 (2 folders)
BOX 16-243 not filmed	General Correspondence, 1922-1937 Letters and memoranda sent and received with attached and related reports, printed matter, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization.
BOX 16	"Aa-AI" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 17	1934-1937 Academy of Political Science, speech, 1934 Adult Education Association 1927-1928
BOX 18	1933-1937 "Am-Ar" miscellaneous 1922-1930
BOX 19	1931-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 20	American Arbitration Association, 1927-1932 American Association for Adult Education, 1929-1936 American Bar Association 1932-1933
BOX 21	1934-1935
BOX 22	1935-1937
BOX 23	1937 Audit report, 1936-1937 Booklets, statements, etc., 1937
BOX 24	Board of Governors, 1936-1937
BOX 25	Committee on Jurisprudence and Law Reform, 1937 Committee on Portraits, 1935 Committee on Radio, Press, and Bar, 1936-1937 Committees of state and local bar associations, 1936-1937 Coordination Committee, 1935
BOX 26	Executive Committee, 1936 House of Delegates, 1937 Memoranda, comments, clippings, etc., 1936 American-British Friendly Relations Society, 1935 American Foreign Bondholders' Protective Committee, 1933 American Foundation Committee of the American Peace Award 1931-1932
BOX 27	1933-1934 American Foundation for the Blind, 1934 American Iron and Steel Institute, speech, 1937 American Judicature Society 1930-1936
BOX 28	1937 American Law Institute 1931-1937 Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice, 1934
BOX 29	American Legion Convention, 1931 American Legion Convention Corporation, speech, 1936 American Philosophical Society, 1936 American Red Cross, 1932-1937
BOX 30	American Shakespeare Foundation, 1927-1929 American Social Hygiene Association 1929-1937 Report by the Special Body of Experts
BOX 31	American Youth Commission, 1936-1937
BOX 32	Applications for positions, 1931-1937 Armistice Day, American Legion, 1930 Armistice Day, speech, 1932 "As-Az" 1922-1933
BOX 33	1934-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
	<i>Atlantic Monthly</i> , article, 1934
	Atkinson, Will, 1927
	Ayres, Leonard P., 1922-1925, 1936
BOX 34	"Baa-Bar" miscellaneous 1922-1930
BOX 35	1931-1936
BOX 36	1937
	Baker, Frank H. 1922-1936
BOX 37	1937
	Baker, Julian C., 1922-1937
	Baker, Newton Diehl Birthday greetings, 1936-1937 Personal, 1937
	Baker, Newton D., III, 1932
	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co. 1922-1923
BOX 38	1925-1931
BOX 39	1932-1937
	"Bas-Bd" miscellaneous 1923-1931
BOX 40	1932-1937
	"Be-Bh" miscellaneous 1922-1928
BOX 41	1929-1936
BOX 42	1937
	"Bi-Bn" miscellaneous 1922-1931
BOX 43	1932-1937
	Biskind, Elliot, 1930-1931
	Bliss, E. Goring 1930
BOX 44	1934
	Bliss, Tasker Howard, 1929-1930
	Block, Elizabeth D., 1933-1936
	"Bo-Bq" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 45	1934-1937
	Boston, Mass., speech, 1931-1932
	Boy Scouts of America, 1934-1937
	"Bra-Brn" miscellaneous 1922-1923
BOX 46	1924-1937
BOX 47	Brett, Zillah Quayle, 1935
	"Bro-Bt" miscellaneous 1922-1933

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 48	1934-1937 Brooklyn, N. Y., speech, 1932 1922-1929
BOX 49	1930-1935
BOX 50	1936-1937 "Ca-Cd" miscellaneous 1922-1930
BOX 51	1931-1937
BOX 52	Callahan, P. H., 1926-1937 Carnegie Corp. 1931-1932
BOX 53	1933-1935
BOX 54	1936-1937 "Ce-Cn" miscellaneous 1922
BOX 55	1923-1930
BOX 56	1931-1934
BOX 57	1935-1937 Century Association, 1932-1937 Chambers, D. L., 1933
BOX 58	Chestnut, W. Calvin, 1922-1937 Child Guidance Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, 1932 Church Peace Union, 1931 Cincinnati, Ohio, speech, 1932 Citizen's League of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio, 1936
BOX 59	Clarke, John H. 1922-1933
BOX 60	1934-1937 Clayton v. Crowell, 1924 Cleveland American Legion Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, 1931-1932 Cleveland Association for Adult Education, Cleveland, Ohio, 1929-1932 Cleveland Association for Criminal Justice, Cleveland, Ohio 1922-1924
BOX 61	1925-1934
BOX 62	1935-1936 Committee on Parole, 1927 "A Study of Criminal Court Bail Bonds in Cleveland, Ohio," 1936 Cleveland Bar Association, Cleveland, Ohio 1923-1924
BOX 63	1925-1933
BOX 64	1934-1937 Speech, 1933 Cleveland Baseball Co., Cleveland, Ohio, 1932-1934 Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland, Ohio 1922-1926
BOX 65	1927-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
	Cleveland Community Fund, Cleveland, Ohio, 1929
	Cleveland College, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio <i>See also Containers 231-233, Western Reserve University</i>
	1927-1928
BOX 66	1927-1933
BOX 67	1933-1936
BOX 68	1937
	Guarantor Solicitation, 1927
	Cleveland Community Fund, Cleveland, Ohio
	1930-1934
BOX 69	1935-1937
	Cleveland Conference for Educational Cooperation, Cleveland, Ohio, 1928-1932
BOX 70	Cleveland Grays, Cleveland, Ohio, 1937
	Cleveland Humane Society, Cleveland, Ohio, 1931-1933
	Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland, Ohio, 1928-1937
BOX 71	Cleveland Packard Co., Cleveland, Ohio, 1931-1937
	Cleveland Port Advisory Board, Cleveland, Ohio, 1931-1932
	Cleveland Public Works Committee, Cleveland, Ohio, 1931-1932
	Cleveland Safety Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1932
	Cleveland Trust Co., Cleveland, Ohio
	1928-1935
BOX 72	1936-1937
	In the matter of A. F. Holden's Trust, 1930
	Cleveland World Court Committee, Cleveland, Ohio
	Clothing Arbitration, 1935
BOX 73	"Coa-Con" miscellaneous
	1924-1932
BOX 74	1933-1937
	Colcord, Samuel George Gordon Battle, 1930-1932
	Colletti investigation, 1931
	Collver-Miller Co.
	1933-1936
BOX 75	1937
	Columbia University Law School Alumni Association, New York, N.Y., speech, 1932
	Commission on Care and Education of American Youth, 1935
	Committee for the Nation
	1932-1933
BOX 76	1934-1936
	Committee on Friendly Relations Among Foreign Students, 1929-1930
	Connor, W. D., 1929-1931
	Consolidated Reporting Co., Conference of Trustees of Colleges and Universities, 1935
	Constitution Day, speech, 1932
	"Coo-Cq" miscellaneous
	1922-1924
BOX 77	1925-1935
BOX 78	1936-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
	Cook Lectures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., 1930
	Council on Foreign Relations, 1926-1937
BOX 79	Country Club, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 1933
	County Emergency Committee, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 1931-1932
	Cox, James M., 1930-1933
	"Cr-Ct" miscellaneous
	1922-1933
BOX 80	1934-1937
	Credit Extension Union
	1928-1934
BOX 81	1935
	Crile Clinic Committee, Cleveland, Ohio, 1929
	"Da-Dh" miscellaneous
	1922-1923
BOX 82	1924-1931
BOX 83	1932-1935
BOX 84	1935-1937
	Dalton, H. G., 1933-1937
	Daniels, Josephus, 1926-1937
	Davey, Martin L., 1932
	Davis, John W., 1929-1936
	Davis, Norman H., 1930
	Deane Plan, 1933
	Delta Theta Phi Fraternity
	1929-1936
BOX 85	1937
	Democratic party committees, 1928-1936
	Democratic Party County Executive Committee, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 1922-1924
BOX 86	Democratic party (local), 1922
	Democratic party, Ohio
	"Di-Dq" miscellaneous
	1922-1931
BOX 87	1932-1937
	Disarmament, 1931
	Distinguished Service Medal
	Douglas, Wolman, regarding Baker letter, 2 June 1936
BOX 88	"Dr-Dz" miscellaneous
	1922-1934
BOX 89	1935-1937
	Durbin, James, 1927-1929
	"Ea-En" miscellaneous
	1922-1929
BOX 90	1930-1935
BOX 91	1936-1937
	Education Extension Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1925-1926
	Ellis, Lynn W., 1933

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
	"Eo-Ez" miscellaneous 1922-1934
BOX 92	1935-1937 Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va., 1933-1937
	"Fa-Fk" miscellaneous 1922-1926
BOX 93	1927-1932
BOX 94	1933-1937
BOX 95	Federal Home Loan Banking System, civic committee, Cleveland, Ohio, 1932 Federated churches, Cleveland, Ohio, speech, 1932 Fels, Mary, 1929-1936 Fesler, Mayo, 1929-1935 Filene, E. A., 1929-1936
	"Fl-Fq" miscellaneous 1922
BOX 96	1923-1935
BOX 97	1936-1937
	Foch, Marshal Ferdinand, Memorial Committee of New York and New Jersey, 1930 <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 1931-1937 "Why We Went to War," 1936 Foreign Affairs Council 1934-1935
BOX 98	1936-1937 Foreign Affairs Institute, 1933 Foreign Bondholders Protective Council 1934-1935
BOX 99	1936-1937 Foreign Policy Association, 1929-1937
	Fosdick, Raymond B. 1922-1928
BOX 100	1929-1937
	"Fr-Fz" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 101	1934-1937 Frothingham, Thomas G. 1925 Book, 1927 1928
	"Ga-Gh" miscellaneous 1922-1926
BOX 102	1927-1937 Gas formula, 1935
	"Gi-Gq" miscellaneous 1922
BOX 103	1923-1931

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 104	1932-1937 Glass, Carter, 1929 Gongwer, W. B. 1924-1927
BOX 105	1928-1936 <i>Good Housekeeping Magazine</i> , 1930-1931 Goodrich Social Settlement, 1926-1934
BOX 106	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. 1935-1937 Board of Directors, 1934
BOX 107	"Gr-Gz" miscellaneous 1922-1928
BOX 108	1929-1937
BOX 109	Griswold, B. Howell, 1929-1933 "Haa-Haq" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 110	1934-1937 Hall of Fame, New York University, New York, N.Y. 1930-1935
BOX 111	1936 Hapgood, Norman, 1932 "Har-Hd" miscellaneous 1922-1928
BOX 112	1929-1936 1937
BOX 113	Harbord, James G., 1929-1936 Harper, J. C., 1929-1933 Havens, Munson, 1926-1934 Hayden, Joel B., 1925-1929 Hayes, Ralph 1922
BOX 114	1923-1927
BOX 115	1928-1931
BOX 116	1932
BOX 117	1933-1937 "He-Hh" miscellaneous 1922-1926
BOX 118	1927-1937 "Hi-Hn" miscellaneous 1922-1923
BOX 119	1924-1937 "Ho-Ht" miscellaneous 1922-1923
BOX 120	1924-1930
BOX 121	1931-1935
BOX 122	1936-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
	House and Senate bills, 1930-1932
	Howard, Roy Wilson, 1932-1934
	Howells, Thomas J., 1924
	Howie, John McF., 1930
	"Hu-Hz" miscellaneous
	1922-1923
BOX 123	1924-1933
BOX 124	1934-1937
	Hudson, Manley O., 1929, 1935-1937
	"I" miscellaneous
	1922-1935
BOX 125	1936-1937
	Illinois v. Lucas, 1931
	Institute of Pacific Relations
	1928-1932
BOX 126	1932-1934
BOX 127	1934-1936
BOX 128	1936-1937
	American Council
	1929-1930
BOX 129	1931
	Institute of Politics, Williamstown, Mass., 1931
	Institute of Public Administration & Public Administration Clearing House, 1932-1933
BOX 130	Investigation of Army Air Corps, 1934
	International Chamber of Commerce, 1929-1931
	Italian decoration, 1931
	"J" miscellaneous
	1922-1928
BOX 131	1929-1934
BOX 132	1935-1937
	Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association
	Joffre, Marshal, Monument Committee, 1937
	John, Henry J., 1930-1934
BOX 133	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
	1923-1929
BOX 134	1930-1936
BOX 135	1936-1937
	Presidential search
	1928-1929
	1934-1935
BOX 136	Judge Advocate General's Office, 1922-1925
	Judicial Council of Ohio, 1930-1932
	Juvenile Court, Harry L. Eastman, 1930-1931
	"Ka-Kh" miscellaneous
	1922-1924
BOX 137	1925-1932

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 138	1933-1937 Kates, Philip, 1932 Keppel, Frederic P., 1929-1932 "Ki-Kq" miscellaneous 1922-1926
BOX 139	1927-1937
BOX 140	"Kr-Kz", 1922-1937 "La-Ld" miscellaneous 1922-1923
BOX 141	1924-1932
BOX 142	1933-1937 Labor, 1922-1923 Lamont, Thomas W., 1936-1937 Lape, Esther Everett 1927
BOX 143	1928-1930 "Le-Lh" miscellaneous 1922-1932
BOX 144	1933-1937 League for the Organization of Progress, 1930 League of Nations, 1923-1935 League of Nations Association 1929-1930
BOX 145	1931-1937 League of Nations Non-Partisan Association 1922-1926
BOX 146	1922-1928 League of Nations, statement, 1932 Leopold, Howard, estate of, 1931 "Li-Lz" miscellaneous 1922
BOX 147	1923-1932
BOX 148	1933-1937 Lippmann, Walter 1929-1931
BOX 149	1932-1937 "Ma-Mb" miscellaneous 1922-1936
BOX 150	1927-1931
BOX 151	1932-1935
BOX 152	1936-1937 "Mc" miscellaneous, 1922-1928 "McA-McD" miscellaneous 1929-1930
BOX 153	1931-1937 McDonald, James G., 1926-1928

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
	"McE-McK" miscellaneous 1929-1932
BOX 154	1933-1937 McGean, John P. and Betty Baker, 1926-1927 McGuire, Murray M., 1926 "McL-Md" miscellaneous, 1929-1937 March, Peyton 1931
BOX 155	1932-1936 Mather, Samuel, 1929-1931 Matson, Carlton, 1926 "Me-Mn" miscellaneous 1922-1927
BOX 156	1928-1933
BOX 157	1934-1937 Military justice Miller, Ray T., 1932 "Mo-Mx" miscellaneous 1922-1924
BOX 158	1925-1931
BOX 159	1932-1937 Mirian Kerruish Stage Memorial, 1933, 1937 Mooney, Charles A. 1929
BOX 160	1930 Municipal Light Plant, Cleveland, Ohio, 1924 Muscle Shoals, Tenn., 1924 Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York, 1931-1937 "My-Mz" miscellaneous 1927-1928
BOX 161	1929-1937 "Na-Nn" miscellaneous 1922-1927
BOX 162	1928-1935
BOX 163	1936-1937 National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, 1931-1937
BOX 164	National Aeronautic Association, 1923 National Broadcasting Co. 1933-1937
BOX 165	1931-1936 National Citizens Committee for the Welfare & Relief Mobilization 1932
BOX 166	1933 National Citizens' Council Board, 1936
BOX 167	National Commission on Law Observance & Enforcement 1928-1931

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 168	1931 National Committee on Calendar Simplification, 1931 National Conference of Jews and Christians 1929-1932
BOX 169	1932-1935
BOX 170	1935-1937 Williamstown Institute of Human Relations, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., 1935 National Consumers League 1922-1930
BOX 171	1931-1937 National Crime Commission 1925-1926
BOX 172	1926-1928
BOX 173	1929-1932 National Economy League, 1932-1935 National Educational Survey Voluntary Appointing Committee, 1930-1932 National Institute of Public Administration 1929
BOX 174	1930-1931 National Peace Conference 1936-1937
BOX 175	1937 National Relief Committee 1934-1937 National Relief Work (Alan Burns), 1935
BOX 176	National Society of Penal Information, 1929-1931 National World Court Committee, 1931-1935 New York County Lawyers Association, 1931-1934 <i>New York Times</i> , letter, 11 Nov. 1935 Newspaper clippings 1927-1932
BOX 177	1933-1937 "No-Nz" miscellaneous 1922-1936
BOX 178	1937 "O" miscellaneous 1922-1932
BOX 179	1933-1937 Ohio Bar Association, 1928-1931 Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 1932
BOX 180	1933-1935
BOX 181	1936-1937 Industrial Research, 1935 Military training 1934

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 182	1935 "Pa-Ph" miscellaneous 1922-1929
BOX 183	1930-1934
BOX 184	1935-1937 Palmer, Frederick D. 1930-1935
BOX 185	Comments and acknowledgments on <i>Newton D. Baker: America at War</i> , by Palmer, 1931 Park School of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio, 1933 Peabody, George Foster 1922-1929
BOX 186	1930-1935 Permanent Court of Arbitration, Hague Tribunal, Netherlands 1928-1930
BOX 187	1930, 1935-1936 Pershing, John J. National Military Park Association, 1931 Memoirs, 1931 Phi Gamma Delta 1922-1927
BOX 188	1928-1935
BOX 189	1935-1937 Photographs 1929-1931
BOX 190	1932 "Pi-Pq" miscellaneous 1922-1934
BOX 191	1935-1937 "Pr-Pz" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 192	1934-1937 Presidential campaign, 1932 President's Organization on Unemployment Relief 1931
BOX 193	1931-1932 Progress and the Constitution, 1923 Prohibition report, 1931 "Q" miscellaneous 1924-1934
BOX 194	1935-1937 "Ra-Rh" miscellaneous 1922-1931
BOX 195	1932-1937 Radio Corp. of America 1933-1934
BOX 196	1934-1936

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 197	1936-1937 Religious Education Foundation
BOX 198	1928-1934 1935-1937 Rhodes Scholarship Trust, 1931 "Ri-Rof" miscellaneous
BOX 199	1922-1931 1932-1937 "Rog-Rz" miscellaneous
BOX 200	1922-1923
BOX 201	1924-1932
BOX 202	1932-1936 1937 Roosevelt, Franklin D., 1935-1936 Rotary Foundation, 1935 "Sa-Scg" miscellaneous
BOX 203	1922-1932 1933-1937 Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y., 1930-1935 "Sch-Sd" miscellaneous
BOX 204	1922-1923
BOX 205	1924-1937 Scott, Frank A., 1922-1937 "Se-Shd" miscellaneous
BOX 206	1922-1923 1924-1937
BOX 207	1924-1937 Security Owners Association, 1933-1935 Selzer, Louis B., 1930 "She-Shz", 1922-1937
BOX 208	Shotwell, James Thomson, 1929-1937 "Si-Sn" miscellaneous
BOX 209	1922-1927
BOX 210	1928-1933 1934-1937 "So-Ss" miscellaneous
BOX 211	1922-1930 1931-1937 Social Science Research Council 1932 Advisory Committee on International Relations, 1931 "Sta-Sth" miscellaneous
BOX 212	1922-1930 1931-1937 Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N.J., Committee on Educational Finance, 1932 "Sti-Stz" miscellaneous
	1922-1927

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 213	1928-1937 Stocks, 1928 Stone Mountain Confederate Association, Stone Mountain, Ga. 1927
BOX 214	1928-1929 "Su-Sz" miscellaneous 1923-1936
BOX 215	1937 Survey Associates, 1930-1936 "Ta-Tn" miscellaneous 1922-1928
BOX 216	1929-1936
BOX 217	1937 "To-Tz" miscellaneous 1922-1936
BOX 218	1937 Town Hall Club of New York, 1935-1937 Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., 1937 Twentieth Century Fund 1922-1927
BOX 219	1928-1931
BOX 220	1931-1934
BOX 221	1934-1936
BOX 222	Reports for annual meeting, 1927 "U" miscellaneous 1922-1937 Ungerleider, Samuel, 1929-1935 United Educational Program, 1932
BOX 223	United States Attorney General, Department of State United States Chamber of Commerce, 1930 United States Society 1932-1934
BOX 224	1935-1937 "V" miscellaneous 1922-1927
BOX 225	1928-1937 Van Sweringen, O. P. and M. J., 1929-1931 Vaness Co., 1927-1928
BOX 226	Vinson, Robert E., 1934 "Wa-Wd" miscellaneous 1922-1932
BOX 227	1933-1937 War Policies Commission, 1931 Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. 1928-1931
BOX 228	1932-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container

Contents

	"We-Wg" miscellaneous 1922
BOX 229	1922-1931
BOX 230	1932-1937
	Welfare Federation 1927
BOX 231	1928-1933
	Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 1923-1927
BOX 232	1927-1934
BOX 233	1935-1937
	Request Committee School of Applied Social Sciences, Group Work Committee, 1929-1930 University Neighborhood Centers, 1929
	"Wh" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 234	1934-1937
	Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad, 1927-1928
	"Wia-Wil" miscellaneous 1922-1927
BOX 235	1928-1933
BOX 236	1934-1937
	Wickersham, George W., 1929-1935
	Wilkins, Ernest H., 1929
	Willard, Daniel 1929-1934
BOX 237	1935-1937
	Williamsburg, Va., speech, 1934
	"Wim-Wn" miscellaneous 1923-1936
BOX 238	1937
	"Wo-Wz" miscellaneous 1922-1933
BOX 239	1934-1937
	Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1929-1933
	Woodrow Wilson Foundation 1926-1929
BOX 240	1929-1933
	Woodrow Wilson Memorial, speech, 1932
	Woodrow Wilson Memorial Society, 1929-1933
	World Peace Foundation 1932-1933
BOX 241	1933-1935
BOX 242	1936-1937
	Cooperation of peace agencies, 1935
	Wright, Fulton and Peggy Baker, 1930-1937

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 243	Wright, Howell, 1929-1930 "X-Z" miscellaneous 1923-1928 1929-1937 Young, Hugh H., 1929-1932 Young Democratic Clubs of America, 1932-1935 "Z" miscellaneous, 1929-1937
BOX 244-252 not filmed	Speeches and Writings, 1915-1937 Correspondence, notes, drafts, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to speeches and writings by Baker. Arranged by type of writing and speeches organized chronologically therein.
BOX 244	Speeches 1915-1918
BOX 245	1919-1922
BOX 246	1923-1926
BOX 247	1927-1931
BOX 248	1931-1932
BOX 249	1933-1935
BOX 250	1935-1937, undated
BOX 251	Miscellaneous, 1918-1919, 1932 Writings <i>Why We Went to War</i> , draft, notes, and related matter, 1936
BOX 252	"Cancellation of War Debts," public response to article, A-Z, 1926-1927
BOX 253-254 not filmed	Miscellany, 1918-1935 Miscellaneous topical files. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, subject, or title of writing.
BOX 253	John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., Presidential Committee, master file and notes, 1934-1935 "Report of General T. H. Bliss on the Supreme War Council," 1918
BOX 254	Senate investigation (Chamberlain), congratulations on Baker's reply to committee, A-Z, 1918 <i>Your Hall of Fame</i> , by Robert Underwood Johnson, 1935
BOX 255-265 not filmed	Ralph Hayes File, 1916-1962 Correspondence between Baker and Ralph Hayes, subject files, speeches and writings, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 255	Correspondence Baker and Ralph Hays 1916-1924 (12 folders)

Ralph Hayes File, 1916-1962

Container	Contents
BOX 256	1925-1927 (12 folders)
BOX 257	1928-1929 (24 folders)
BOX 258	1930-Mar. 1932 (27 folders)
BOX 259	Apr.-Dec. 1932 (12 folders)
BOX 260	1933-1934 (24 folders)
BOX 261	1935-1949 (44 folders) Pauer, Lewis, 1962 Subject file Baker, Newton D. Funeral, 1937-1938 Memorial meeting, 1943-1944
BOX 262	<i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i> , May 1922-1945, undated (22 folders) Replies to speech, Institute of Politics, Williamstown, Mass., July-Sept. 1931 (3 folders) Sugar processing tax, 1933-1934
BOX 263	Speeches, articles and clippings, 1918-1945 (9 folders)
BOX 264	Miscellaneous printed matter Jan.-Mar. 1932
BOX 265	Appointment to Permanent Court of Arbitration, Hague Tribunal, Netherlands, 1928 Cleveland contempt case, 1929 General, 1928-1937
BOX 266-275 REEL 1-18	Letterbooks, 1896-1917 Bound volumes of copies of personal letters sent, 1896-1916, and of letters sent as secretary of war, 1916-1917. Arranged chronologically. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,549
BOX 266 REEL 1	Personal 30 July 1896-20 Mar. 1905
REEL 2	22 Mar. 1905-21 July 1906
BOX 267 REEL 3	13 July 1906-22 Jan. 1908
REEL 4	23 Jan. 1908-14 Jan. 1909
BOX 268 REEL 5	14 Jan. 1909-9 Mar. 1910
REEL 6	9 Mar.-22 Dec. 1910
BOX 269 REEL 7	22 Dec. 1910-22 Sept. 1911
REEL 8	22 Sept. 1911-2 Apr. 1912
BOX 270 REEL 9	2 Apr.-29 Aug. 1912
REEL 10	29 Aug. 1912-6 Feb. 1913

Letterbooks, 1896-1917

Container	Contents
BOX 271 REEL 11	6 Feb.-10 July 1913
REEL 12	11 July-1 Dec. 1913
BOX 272 REEL 13	2 Dec. 1913-20 Aug. 1914
REEL 14	21 Aug. 1914-8 Apr. 1915
BOX 273 REEL 15	8 Apr.-31 Dec. 1915
REEL 17	9 Mar.-10 May 1916
BOX 274 REEL 16	Secretary of war 10 May-13 July 1916 13 July-25 Sept. 1916
BOX 274 REEL 18	23 Sept.-5 Dec. 1916
BOX 275 REEL 18	4-20 Dec. 1916 Secretary of war, presidential 10 Mar. 1916-10 Apr. 1917
BOX 275 not filmed	Addition, 1917-1930 Letters to D. C. Westenhaver and Paul Westenhaver. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 275	Letters to D. C. Westenhaven and Paul Westenhaven, 1917-1930 (2 folders)