Philip W. Bonsal Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93081989

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009156

Prepared by Bradley E. Gernand
Revised by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary

Title: Philip W. Bonsal Papers
Span Dates: 1914-1992
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1943-1963)
ID No.: MSS81989
Extent: 1,100 items
Extent: 4 containers plus 1 classified
Extent: 1.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English, with French
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93081989
Summary: Diplomat. Correspondence, diaries, memoranda, speeches, and statements documenting Bonsal's foreign service career, especially as United States ambassador to Cuba during and after its 1959 revolution, including also material on Argentina, colonial Africa, and an English translation of L'Expedition du Mexique concerning Maximillian, Emperor of Mexico.

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
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.
Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, 1832-1867.
Welles, Sumner, 1892-1961.

Subjects
Colonies--Africa.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Cuba.
International agencies.

Places
Africa--Politics and government--20th century.
Argentina--Foreign relations--United States.
Cuba--Foreign relations--United States.
Cuba--History--Revolution, 1959.
Mexico--History--European intervention, 1861-1867.
United States--Foreign relations--Argentina.
United States--Foreign relations--Cuba.

Titles
Philip Wilson Bonsal papers

Occupations
Diplomats.

Provenance

The papers of Philip W. Bonsal, diplomat, were given to the Library of Congress by Bonsal in 1993.
Processing History

The papers of Philip W. Bonsal were arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 1998 to reflect the declassification of some previously classified material.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Philip W. Bonsal in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.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 Philip W. Bonsal 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.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Philip W. Bonsal Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip Wilson Bonsal (1903-1995) span the years 1914-1992, with the bulk of the material dated 1943-1963, and consist of correspondence, diaries, memoranda, speeches, and statements. The focus is on Bonsal's postings as a career foreign service officer, with emphasis on his assignment as American ambassador to Cuba during and after its 1959 revolution. Included are descriptions of the differences between Cordell Hull and Sumner Wells regarding Argentina and of ideological battles during international meetings on independence for colonial Africa. Also included is a 1914 book on Maximilian III of Mexico published in French but accompanied by an English translation by Bonsal.

National security-classified information in these papers has been housed separately, where it is organized and described according to the folders and boxes from which it was removed.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.
# Container List

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<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Geographical file</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Africa, 1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Argentina, 1943-1944, 1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Cambodia, 1964-1965</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Colombia, 1956-1957, 1988 (3 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1959 (2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Jan.-Apr.</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>May-Dec. (3 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1961-1972 (5 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>France, 1950-1951</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Indochina, 1954</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Inter-American relations, 1945-1946</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>1944-1946 (4 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>1946-1947</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Duggan, Laurence, regarding State Department, 1944</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Ollivier, Emile, <em>L'Expedition du Mexique</em></td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Original volume (in French), 1914</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>English translation by Bonsal, undated (4 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX CL 1</td>
<td>Classified material</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX CL 1</td>
<td>Geographical file</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX CL 1</td>
<td>Cuba, 1959-1960</td>
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