

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://lcn.loc.gov/mm93081989>

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

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Revised by Patrick Kerwin

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Collection Summary

Title: Philip W. Bonsal Papers

Span Dates: 1914-1992

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1943-1963)

ID No.: MSS81989

Creator: Bonsal, Philip W. (Philip Wilson), 1903-1995

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://lcn.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 Maximilian, 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

Bonsal, Philip W. (Philip Wilson), 1903-1995.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.

Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, 1832-1867.

Ollivier, Emile, 1825-1913. *Expédition du Mexique*. English.

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Geographical file
BOX 1	Africa, 1965
BOX 1	Argentina, 1943-1944, 1982
BOX 1	Cambodia, 1964-1965
BOX 1	Colombia, 1956-1957, 1988 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Cuba
BOX 1	1959 (2 folders)
BOX 1	1960
BOX 1	Jan.-Apr.
BOX 2	May-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 2	1961-1972 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1973-1983, 1992
BOX 3	France, 1950-1951
BOX 3	Indochina, 1954
BOX 3	Inter-American relations, 1945-1946
BOX 3	Spain
BOX 3	1944-1946 (4 folders)
BOX 4	1946-1947
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Duggan, Laurence, regarding State Department, 1944
BOX 4	Ollivier, Emile, <i>L'Expedition du Mexique</i>
BOX 4	Original volume (in French), 1914
BOX 4	English translation by Bonsal, undated (4 folders)
BOX CL 1	Classified material
BOX CL 1	Geographical file
BOX CL 1	Cuba, 1959-1960