

Franz Boas Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81060202>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010175>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010
Revised 2023 December

Collection Summary

Title: Franz Boas Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1878-1943

ID No.: MSS60202

Creator: Boas, Franz, 1858-1942

Extent: 44 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English, French, German, and Spanish

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81060202>

Summary: Anthropologist, linguist, ethnologist, educator, and curator. Microfilm of originals held by the American Philosophical Society of personal and professional correspondence, diaries, and family papers relating chiefly to Boas's career as an anthropologist and social scientist.

Online Content: Links to digitized content and the finding aid to the originals of this collection and other Boas material at the American Philosophical Society is available at <https://www.amphilsoc.org/mole/view?docId=ead/Mss.B.B61-ead.xml> .

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

Boas, Franz, 1858-1942.

Boaz family.

Subjects

Academic freedom.

Anthropology

Anthropology--Latin America.

Anthropology--Study and teaching.

Anthropology--United States.

Linguistics--Study and teaching.

Linguistics--United States.

Linguistics.

Race relations.

Science.

Social sciences.

Occupations

Anthropologists.

Curators.

Educators.

Ethnologists.

Linguists.

Acquisition Information

The microfilm of the papers of Franz Boas, anthropologist, linguist, ethnologist, educator, and curator, was purchased by the Library of Congress from the American Philosophical Society in 1981.

Processing History

The microfilm of the Boas Papers was obtained and described in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Location of Originals

The originals of this collection and other Boas papers are held by the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Franz Boas is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Franz Boas 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.

Online Content

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Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on forty-four 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Reel number, Franz Boas Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The microfilm of the papers of Franz Boas (1858-1942) spans the years 1878-1943 and consists of reproductions of original material in the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. The collection contains personal and professional correspondence, diaries, and family papers, including material on anthropology and linguistics in the United States, the development of their study, anthropology in Latin America, science, academic freedom, race, and related subjects. The collection is in English, French, German, and Spanish.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,375

Container	Contents
REEL 1	24 Feb. 1878-31 Jan. 1889
REEL 2	1 Feb. 1889-30 Apr. 1894
REEL 3	1 May 1894-30 Dec. 1898
REEL 4	Jan. 1899-26 Mar. 1903
REEL 5	Apr. 1903-30 Dec. 1904
REEL 6	2 Jan. 1905-24 Jan. 1906
REEL 7	24 Jan. 1906-4 Jan. 1907
REEL 8	4 Jan. 1907-10 Dec. 1907
REEL 9	11 Dec. 1907-4 Dec. 1908
REEL 10	5 Dec. 1908-30 Nov. 1909
REEL 11	1 Dec. 1909-17 Feb. 1911
REEL 12	17 Feb. 1911-12 Sept. 1912
REEL 13	13 Sept. 1912-14 Jun 1913
REEL 14	11 Jun 1913-20 Feb. 1914
REEL 15	20 Feb. 1914-16 Apr. 1915
REEL 16	16 Apr. 1915-15 Oct. 1916
REEL 17	16 Oct. 1916-31 May 1917
REEL 18	1 Jun-31 Mar. 1918
REEL 19	1 Apr. 1918-2 Apr. 1919
REEL 20	3 Apr. 1919-19 Feb. 1920
REEL 21	19 Feb. 1920-31 July 1920
REEL 22	1 Aug. 1920-26 Nov. 1920
REEL 23	26 Nov. 1920-29 Dec. 1922
REEL 24	9 Jan. 1923-29 Feb. 1924
REEL 25	1 Mar. 1924-13 Apr. 1925
REEL 26	13 Apr. 1925-12 Apr. 1926
REEL 27	13 Apr. 1926-21 Mar. 1927
REEL 28	4 Apr. 1927-16 Jan. 1928
REEL 29	17 Jan. 1928-14 Jan. 1929
REEL 30	15 Jan. 1929-29 Oct. 1929
REEL 31	1 Nov. 1929-15 Sept. 1930
REEL 32	16 Sept. 1930-11 May 1931
REEL 33	12 May 1931-15 Jan. 1932
REEL 34	16 Jan. 1932-27 Feb. 1933
REEL 35	7 Mar. 1933-6 Nov. 1933
REEL 36	7 Nov. 1933-10 Aug. 1934
REEL 37	11 Aug. 1934-6 Sept. 1935
REEL 38	8 Sept. 1935-14 Jun 1936
REEL 39	15 Jun 1936-23 Apr. 1937
REEL 40	24 Apr. 1937-7 Mar. 1938
REEL 41	8 Mar. 1938-18 Feb. 1939

Container List

Container	Contents
REEL 42	19 Feb. 1939-11 Jan. 1940
REEL 43	12 Jan. 1940-10 Feb. 1941
REEL 44	10 Feb. 1941-3 May 1943
