

Solon J. Buck Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77014274>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010190>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2022 March

Collection Summary

Title: Solon J. Buck Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1778-1962

Bulk Dates: 1934-1957

ID No.: MSS14274

Creator: Buck, Solon J. (Solon Justus), 1884-1962

Extent: 15,000 items

Extent: 50 containers plus 3 oversize

Extent: 21.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm77014274>

Summary: Historian and archivist. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, drafts of speeches and writings, subject files, financial papers, bibliographies, and research material relating primarily to Buck's career at the National Archives and Library of Congress.

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

Adams, James Truslow, 1878-1949.

Beard, Charles A. (Charles Austin), 1874-1948.

Boyd, Julian P. (Julian Parks), 1903-1980.

Boynton, Lucien Cyrus, 1811-1896.

Buck, Solon J. (Solon Justus), 1884-1962.

Connor, R. D. W. (Robert Diggs Wimberly), 1878-1950.

De Voto, Bernard, 1897-1955.

Dirksen, Everett McKinley.

Farrand, Max, 1869-1945.

Fishbein, Morris, 1889-1976.

Ford, Guy Stanton, 1873-1962.

Handlin, Oscar, 1915-2011.

Hicks, John Donald, 1890-1972.

Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952.

Ives, Burl, 1909-1995.

Kahn, Herman, 1907-1975.

Kellar, Herbert Anthony, 1887-1955.

Langer, William L. (William Leonard), 1896-1977.

MacLeish, Archibald, 1892-1982.

McMurtrie, Douglas C. (Douglas Crawford), 1888-1944.

Morison, Samuel Eliot, 1887-1976.

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962.

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

Schlesinger, Arthur M. (Arthur Meier), 1888-1965.

Taft, Robert A. (Robert Alphonso), 1889-1953.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972.

Organizations

American Historical Association.

International Congress of Expert Archivists (1948)

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.

Library of Congress.

Society of American Archivists.
United States. National Archives and Records Service.

Subjects

Archives--United States.
Archivists--Congresses.
Archivists--Societies, etc.
History--Societies, etc.
Libraries--United States.

Places

United States--Description and travel--Bibliography.

Occupations

Archivists.
Historians.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Solon J. Buck, historian and archivist, were given to the Library of Congress by Buck and his family in 1956-1968.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1962 and revised and expanded in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Solon J. Buck in these 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 Solon J. Buck 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, Solon J. Buck Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1884, Aug. 16	Born, Berlin, Wis.
1900-1906	A.B. and A.M., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
1908-1909	Instructor in history, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Ind.
1910-1914	Research associate in history, University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, Ill.
1911	Ph.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1913	Published <i>The Granger Movement</i> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press

1917-1931	Assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of history, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
1919	Married Elizabeth Hawthorn
1920	Published <i>The Agrarian Crusade</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press
1925	Published <i>Stories of Early Minnesota</i> . New York: Macmillan Co.
1931-1935	Professor of history, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1935-1941	Director of research, National Archives Secretary, National Historical Publications Commission
1941-1948	Archivist of the United States
1948-1951	Chief, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress
1951-1954	Assistant librarian of Congress
1962, May 25	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Solon Justus Buck (1884-1962) span the years 1778-1962, with the bulk from 1934 to 1957, and consist mainly of correspondence and related matter concerning Buck's career at the National Archives and Library of Congress. While director of Research at the National Archives, 1935-1941, Buck served also as secretary of the National Historical Publication Commission, delegate to the Eighth International Congress of Historical Science, and chairman of the United States delegation to the Fourteenth International Federation for Documentation. As archivist of the United States he served in 1948 as representative of the United States at the International Conference of Expert Archivists. The papers testify to these activities and to his wide associations in the fields of scholarship and public affairs. The collection is organized in four series: [Correspondence and Other Papers](#), [Miscellaneous Correspondence](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Addition](#).

During his tenure at the National Archives, Buck corresponded with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt as well with President Harry S. Truman. Other correspondents include James Truslow Adams, Charles Austin Beard, Bernard Augustine De Voto, Everett Dimuson, Morris Fishbein, John Donald Hicks, Harold L. Ickes, William L. Langer, Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982), Douglas C. McMurtrie, Arthur M. Schlesinger (1888-1965), and Robert A. Taft. As chief of the Manuscript Division and assistant librarian of the Library of Congress, Buck corresponded with Oscar Handlin, Burl Ives, Herman Kahn (1907-1975), and Samuel Eliot Morison, among others.

The Buck Papers also contain a partial typescript of his unpublished "Bibliography of American Travel and Description, 1750-1830" and correspondence accumulated during its production, miscellaneous professional papers, a volume of letters of appreciation that he received when he retired from the Library of Congress in 1954, and correspondence following his retirement.

The [Addition](#) to the collection contains correspondence and related matter, speeches and writings, and miscellaneous material. The transcript of a journal kept by Lucien Cyrus Boynton, 1835-1853, used as a working copy for an article by Buck, provides information about life in New England and Virginia during that period.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence and Other Papers, 1926-1957](#)
- [Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1910-1943](#)
- [Miscellany, 1927-1943](#)
- [Addition, 1778-1962](#)

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