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.
Boynton, Lucien Cyrus, 1811-1896.
Buck, Solon J. (Solon Justus), 1884-1962.
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.
Kahn, Herman, 1907-1975.
MacLeish, Archibald, 1892-1982.
McMurry, Douglas C. (Douglas Crawford), 1888-1944.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
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Copyright in the unpublished writings of Solon J. Buck in these and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.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

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1884, Aug. 16</td>
<td>Born, Berlin, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1906</td>
<td>A.B. and A.M., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908-1909</td>
<td>Instructor in history, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-1914</td>
<td>Research associate in history, University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Ph.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Published <em>The Granger Movement</em>. Cambridge: Harvard University Press</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1917-1931 Assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of history, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
1919 Married Elizabeth Hawthorn
1920 Published *The Agrarian Crusade*. New Haven: Yale University Press
1925 Published *Stories of Early Minnesota*. 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

Solon J. Buck Papers
### Description of Series

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<td><strong>BOX 46</strong> Financial statements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimates on publications</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel bibliography reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports of assistants</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel bibliography, typed abbreviations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Work to be done</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>J. Christian Bay</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX oversize 47</strong> Messages of appreciation, Aug. 31, 1954</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partial typescript copy of "Bibliography of American Travel and Description, 1750-1830"

**Addition, 1778-1962**

**Correspondence and Other Papers, 1925-1962**
Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, financial and business statements, minutes of meetings, reports, speech and writing material, accounts of proceedings, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic, and therein chronologically.

**American Historical Association, 1925-1961**
(2 folders)

**American Philosophical Society-Atwood, 1958-1961**

**Conference on Microcopying Research Materials, 1940**

**Historical Records Survey, 1935-1941**

**Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association, 1939-1941**

**International Congress of Historical Sciences, 1938**

**International Federation for Documentation, 1938**

**Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1936-1938**

**Library of Congress, 1952-1961**

**Minnesota Historical Society, 1955-1961**

**National Archives**
Correspondence and memoranda, 1936-1950
Printed matter, 1939-1958
Reports (director of publications), 1935-1941

**Speeches and Writings File, 1849-1958**
Handwritten and typewritten drafts of speeches and writings, printed matter, and photocopies of Lucien Cyrus Boynton's journal.
Arranged by type of material.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 51    | Addresses and speeches, 1935-1957  
           | (2 folders) |
| BOX 52    | Articles, 1936-1958  
           | (2 folders) |
|           | Journal of Lucien Cyrus Boynton  
           | Edited selections |
|           | Working copy  
           | (2 folders) |
|           | Typescript of a letter by Bernard Reid, 24 Oct. 1849 |
| BOX 52-53 | Miscellany, 1778-1958  
           | Awards and commendations, printed matter, and photocopies.  
           | Arranged by type of material |
| BOX 52    | Printed matter |
| BOX *oversize* 53 | Citations, appointments, and photocopies of American documents, 1778-1810 |