

Smith Simpson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm92081483>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010247>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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

Collection Summary

Title: Smith Simpson Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1833-1993

Bulk Dates: 1925-1979

ID No.: MSS81483

Creator: Simpson, Smith

Extent: 10,000 items

Extent: 40 containers

Extent: 15.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with some French and Greek

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm92081483>

Summary: Diplomat. Correspondence, family papers, topical files, photographs, scrapbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Simpson's career as a diplomat and industrial relations specialist.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Beard, Charles A. (Charles Austin), 1874-1948--Correspondence.
Blake, Gilson--Correspondence.
Bliven, Bruce, 1889-1977--Correspondence.
Bowers, James B., Jr.--Correspondence.
Bruère, Robert W. (Robert Walter), 1876-1964--Correspondence.
Colegrove, Kenneth W. (Kenneth Wallace), 1886-1975--Correspondence.
Hedges, M. H. (Marion Hawthorne), 1888-1959--Correspondence.
Hendree family.
Hohman, Elmo Paul, 1894-1977--Correspondence.
Lemmers, Marcel J. (Marcel Jacques), 1908- --Correspondence.
Moats, Helen Margaret, 1906- --Correspondence.
Moran, Hugh Anderson, 1881-1977--Correspondence.
Moran, Irene Hornby, 1881-1964--Correspondence.
Moran, Jean--Correspondence.
Perkins, Frances, 1880-1965--Correspondence.
Phelan, E. J. (Edward Joseph), 1888-1967--Correspondence.
Riddleberger, James W. (James Williams), 1904-1982--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Shotwell, James T., 1874-1965--Correspondence.
Simpson family.
Simpson, Edith Smith--Correspondence.
Simpson, Hendree P.--Correspondence.
Simpson, Henriette Lanniée, 1908-2007--Correspondence.
Simpson, Smith.
Smith family.
Tayler, William L. (William Lonsdale), 1899-1992--Correspondence.
Thorne, Florence Calvert--Correspondence.
Tinsley family.
Underwood, Oscar W. (Oscar Wilder), 1890-1962--Correspondence.
Waelbroeck, Pierre, 1891-1944--Correspondence.
Watt, Robert J.--Correspondence.

Wilson, Richard (Corporate lawyer)--Correspondence.
Winant, John G. (John Gilbert), 1889-1947--Correspondence.

Organizations

Cornell Law School--Students.
Georgetown University. Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.
International Labour Organisation--Correspondence.
International Labour Organisation.
United States. Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service.
United States. Department of Labor.
United States. Department of State.
United States. Foreign Service.
United States. National Recovery Administration.
United States. War Shipping Administration. Recruitment and Manning Organization.
University of Virginia--Students.
Wabash (Frigate)
Wharton School--Faculty.

Subjects

Communism--Europe.
Diplomacy.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Belgium.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Greece.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--India.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Mexico.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Mozambique.
Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Industrial relations--Africa.
Industrial relations--United States.
International labor activities.
Labor unions and mass media--United States.
Labor unions--Europe.
Labor unions--United States.
Merchant marine--United States.
New Deal, 1933-1939.
Peace movements--United States.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.

Places

Africa--Economic conditions.
Fort Fisher (N.C. : Fort)--Capture, 1865.
North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Economic policy--1933-1945.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Occupations

Diplomats.
Educators.
Labor attachés.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Smith Simpson were given to the Library of Congress by Smith Simpson in 1992 and 2002. Additional material was given by Margaret Maurin and Zelia S. Broyles in 2013.

Processing History

The papers of Smith Simpson were arranged and described by Joseph K. Brooks in 2002. Additional material was processed and the finding aid revised in 2022 by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Rosa Hernandez.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include Frontline Diplomacy: the U.S. Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection, which contains a transcript of an oral history interview with Smith Simpson conducted in 1991 (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000019>).

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Smith Simpson are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1906, Nov. 9	Born, Arlington County, Va.
1927	B.S., University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1928	M.S., University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1931	LL.B., Cornell University Law School, Ithaca, N.Y.
1931-1932	Postgraduate work, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1933-1934	Special labor advisor, National Recovery Administration
1934	Married Henriette Lanniée (died 2007)
1934-1935	Administrator, Asphalt, Shingle, and Roofing Code Authority, National Recovery Administration
1935-1943	Instructor and assistant professor, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
1943-1944	Assistant director, Foreign Division, Recruitment and Manning Organization, War Shipping Administration
1944-1945	Foreign Service officer, Department of State; worked on United Nations charter and the establishment of a labor attaché program
1945-1948	First secretary and labor attaché, American embassy, Brussels, Belgium
1947-1949	First secretary and labor attaché, American embassy, Athens, Greece
1949-52	First secretary and labor attaché, American embassy, Mexico City, Mexico
1952-1954	Deputy consul general, Bombay, India
1954-1957	Consul general, Lourenço Marques, Mozambique
1958-1960	Advisor on African affairs, Department of Labor
1960-1962	Member, Board of Examiners, Foreign Service, Department of State

1967	Published <i>Anatomy of the State Department</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1970-1978	Founder and chair, Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Washington, D.C.
1974-1977	Research professor of diplomacy, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.
1978-1992	Cofounder and board member, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy
1980	Published <i>The Crisis in American Diplomacy</i> . North Quincy, Mass.: Christopher Publishing House
1986	Published <i>Perspectives on the Study of Diplomacy</i> . Washington, D.C.: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy
1987	Published <i>Education in Diplomacy: An Instructional Guide</i> . Lanham, Md.: University Press of America
2010, Sept. 5	Died, Charlottesville, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Smith Simpson (1906-2010) span the years 1833-1993, with the bulk of the material covering 1925-1979. This collection documents Simpson's career as a lawyer, labor and industrial relations expert, professor, federal government administrator, and diplomat. A portion of his papers was arranged and described in 2002, with additional material processed in 2022. In both depth and breadth, the addition constitutes the main body of Simpson's papers and includes journals, the bulk of his correspondence, and material relating to the main concern of his late career and retirement, what he called the "campaign for quality in American diplomacy." The 2002 material, which includes correspondence, family papers, printed matter, photographs, and subject files, can be viewed as supplemental to the addition. Simpson had most of the material in the addition bound in large chronological volumes to facilitate storage and access in his retirement home.

Simpson's journals in the addition were written in 1955 during his last Foreign Service posting as consul general in Lourenço Marques, Portuguese Mozambique (now Maputo, Mozambique), resume 1958-1960 when he advised the Labor Department on African affairs, and continue 1960-1962 when, retired from the State Department, he served on the Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service. The journals are rich in diary entries; correspondence; newspaper clippings; obituaries of friends, colleagues, and correspondents; mementos; and miscellaneous material interleaved throughout the journal volumes.

The correspondence in the addition spans from 1920, when Simpson was in grade school, through 1951 and the early years of his diplomatic service. Career and life highlights reflected in the correspondence include his undergraduate and graduate days at the University of Virginia; law studies at Cornell Law School; his time with the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration as a special labor advisor with the National Recovery Administration (NRA) and as an administrator with the Asphalt, Shingle, and Roofing Code Authority, an NRA sub-agency; a tenure as a professor at Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; his World War II stint as assistant director and director of the War Shipping Administration's Foreign Division, Recruitment and Manning Organization, charged with finding foreign nationals to crew allied shipping; and dual postwar first secretary and labor attaché postings at American embassies in Brussels, Belgium, Athens, Greece, and Mexico City, Mexico. Many correspondents recur in both the addition and in the supplementary material, such as his father, civil engineer Hendree P. Simpson, his mother, Northern Virginia civic leader Edith Smith Simpson, and his wife, Henriette Lanniè. Other correspondents, namely college friends, peace activists, professors, national and international labor leaders, particularly leaders of the International Labour Organisation, and diplomats include Newton Diehl Baker, Gilson Blake, Bruce Bliven, James B. Bowers Jr., Robert W. Bruère, Kenneth W. Colegrove, Marion Hawthorne Hedges, Elmo Paul Hohman, Marcel J. Lemmers, Helen Margaret Moats, Hugh Anderson Moran, Irene H. Moran, Jean Moran, Frances Perkins, E. J. Phelan, James W. Riddleberger, James T. Shotwell, William L. Taylor, Florence Calvert Thorne, Oscar W. Underwood (1890-1962), Pierre Waelbroeck, Robert J. Watt, Richard Wilson, and John G. Winant.

The campaign for quality in American diplomacy file in the addition documents the execution of foreign policy, or diplomacy, over foreign policy development in the education and development of Foreign Service officers; his leadership of institutions developing diplomats, especially the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, which he cofounded at Georgetown University; and his writings on American diplomacy, including many articles and two of his books, *Anatomy of the State Department* (1967) and *Crisis in American Diplomacy* (1980).

The material processed in 2002 includes family papers chiefly related to the genealogy of the Hendree, Simpson, Smith, and Tinsley families. A file on Simpson's grandfather, John T. Smith, a naval officer, includes a January 16, 1865, letter describing the participation of his ship, the *Wabash* (steam frigate), in the capture of Fort Fisher in North Carolina during the American Civil War.

Also part of this material is a labor attaché reading file Simpson culled from American popular, official, industrial, and trade union press (1945-1954) when he was a labor attaché in Belgium, Greece, and Mexico and deputy consul general in Bombay, India. The file also includes Simpson's "The Labor Movement of the United States." He used the material as reference when answering questions from contacts in host countries and as a source of ideas and opinions to exchange with his foreign interlocutors.

Other supplementary material includes his 1991 interview as part of the Foreign Affairs Oral History Project. Photographs and scrapbooks also document his time in the Foreign Service. His interest in the conduct and history of American diplomacy and in overcoming deficiencies in the recruitment and training of Foreign Service officers is reflected in his numerous articles and letters to the editor in the writings file in the material processed in 2002.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material, followed by an addition similarly arranged.

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BOX 1	American peace movements, 1921-1933, undated
BOX 1	Commissions and certificates, 1947-1954, 1964, 1973, 1983
BOX 1	Committee for the Study of Diplomacy, 1969-1990 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Department of Labor Executive Reserve Program
BOX 1	1963-1971 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Undated
BOX 2	Family papers
BOX 2	Burton, Mrs. Lewis W., "Hendree-Paine Family and Collateral Branches," undated
BOX 2	Christmas newsletters, 1952-1990
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	1925, Nov. 2-1930, May 20 (4 folders)
BOX 3	1930, June 2-1932, June 10; 1974 July 23 (5 folders)
BOX 3	Hendree, William Woodson, <i>Preludes</i> , 1880
BOX 3	Maurin, Elana (granddaughter), 1990, undated
BOX 3	Maurin, Margaret Lanniée Simpson (daughter)
BOX 3	"Memories of World War II, an account of the role of the Belgian Consul in Geneva, Switzerland, and Mrs. Marcel Lannieé, and interviews with four Belgian officers," 1985
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1955-1977, undated
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1887, 1938-1940, 1958, 1966-1967, 1974, 1991, undated
BOX 4	Mitchells Presbyterian Church, Mitchells, Va., 1967, 1977
BOX 4	Park, Emily Hendree, 1910-1911
BOX 4	Pickens, Andrew, 1968, 1976, undated
BOX 4	Simpson, Edith Smith (mother), 1903, 1912, 1941, 1950-1958, 1971, 1982, undated
BOX 4	Simpson family, 1986-1990, undated
BOX 4	Simpson, Hendree P. (father), 1927-1931, 1955, undated
BOX 4	Smith, John T., and Smith family, 1833, 1865, 1874, 1901
BOX 4	Tinsley family, 1920, undated
BOX 4	Foreign Affairs Oral History Project, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., interview with Simpson and other biographical material, 1977-1982, 1991
BOX 5	General correspondence
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BOX 6	1939-1941, 1964-1969, 1991 (5 folders)
BOX 6	Greece, 1947-1948 (2 folders)
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BOX 7	Labor attaché's reading file

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BOX 8	Miscellany, 1942-1954, undated
BOX 8	National security and problems of communism, 1946-1954, undated
BOX 8	News releases, 1953-1954, undated
BOX 8	Soviet Union and its satellites, 1945-1951, undated
BOX 8	Trade unions and industrial relations
BOX 8	Articles, 1945-1954, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Booklets, pamphlets, and magazines, 1945-1954, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Clippings, 1948-1950, undated
BOX 9	"The Labor Movement of the United States" and other writings by Simpson, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Reports, fact sheets, and news releases
BOX 9	"America Is Different," Danish Federation of Labor, undated
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1943-1954, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	United Nations, 1947-1949
BOX 10	World War II and its aftermath, 1941-1946, undated
BOX 10	Miscellany, 1930-1932, 1953, 1984-1987, undated
BOX 10	National Economic and Social Planning Association, <i>The Textile Industry in the United States of America</i> , 1937
BOX 10	Photographs, 1944-1954, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	Scrapbooks
BOX 10	General
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BOX 13	Affidavits, 1979
BOX 13	Background material and notes, 1977, undated
BOX 13	Briefs and related material, 1979-1981, undated (3 folders)

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BOX 25	Campaign for quality in American diplomacy
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BOX 40	Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, 1987-1993, undated (7 folders)
BOX 40	Official travel, 1945-1952