

Rudolph Forster Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2000

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79021121>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011114>

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Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Rudolph Forster Papers

Span Dates: 1898-1943

ID No.: MSS21121

Creator: Forster, Rudolph, 1872-1943

Extent: 1,700 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79021121>

Summary: Secretary to United States presidents William McKinley through Franklin D. Roosevelt (1897-1943).

Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, clippings, telegrams, notes, and other papers predominantly from the Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt administrations. Includes handwritten notes and memoranda from most of the presidents, a few drafts and signed copies of public proclamations, and social notes.

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

Forster, Rudolph, 1872-1943.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901.

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

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Subjects

Presidents--United States--Staff.

Places

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Occupations

Secretaries, Presidential.

Provenance

The papers of Rudolph Forster, executive secretary to nine United States presidents, were given to the Library of Congress in 1961 by Warren R. Forster. An earlier selection of Forster's papers from the administration of President Woodrow Wilson was given to the Library in 1941 by George Sarton and transferred to the Forster collection in 1979.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Rudolph Forster is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Rudolph Forster 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, Rudolph Forster Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rudolph Forster (1872-1943) span the period 1898-1943, with the bulk of the material dating from the presidential administrations of Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1908; Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1921; and Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1934-1943. The papers include presidential files, correspondence, clippings, invitations, and memorabilia.

Among the presidential files are handwritten notes, signed proclamations, drafts of speeches and telegraphic correspondence of presidents William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, William H. Taft, Warren G. Harding, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The correspondence includes official exchanges with political notables including cabinet officials such as Cordell Hull and Dwight Davis. Also included are letters, cards and notes written to Forster by his family and many friends upon the occasion of his wife's death, 1939, and his illness during October-November 1941 and letters and cards written to Forster's son, Warren R. Forster, upon his father's death. Among the invitations are a large number to functions at the White House.

The clippings document Forster's tenure as a public servant. They also contain the public announcement of his honorary doctorate from Reed College and President Franklin Roosevelt's decision to extend Forster's service past the mandatory retirement age. The memorabilia file contains passports and other official documents related to Forster's travel or the overseas travel of the presidents he served.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1 | Clippings, 1927-1943 (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Correspondence |
| BOX 1 | Chronological, 1903-1943 (8 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Forster, Emma (wife), funeral, 1939 (2 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Forster, Joan (granddaughter), 1935-1938 |
| BOX 2 | Forster, Rudolph |
| BOX 2 | Funeral, 1943 (4 folders) |
| BOX 3 | Hospitalization, 1941 (4 folders) |
| BOX 3 | Invitations, 1911-1943 (2 folders) |
| BOX 4 | (2 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Memorabilia, 1910-1941 (3 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Presidential files, 1898-1943 (4 folders) |
| BOX 5 | (9 folders) |