

**Robert Wickliffe Woolley Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2011**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78046409>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011186>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Robert Wickliffe Woolley Papers

**Span Dates:** 1842-1956

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1912-1921)

**ID No.:** MSS46409

**Creator:** Woolley, Robert Wickliffe, 1871-1958

**Extent:** 17,000 items

**Extent:** 54 containers

**Extent:** 10 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78046409>

**Summary:** Journalist, politician, and public official. Correspondence, autobiography, reports, memoranda, speeches, articles, financial and family records, clippings, printed matter, photographs, and memorabilia pertaining mainly to Woolley's political career in the Democratic Party and as a public official.

## 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

Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956--Correspondence.  
Brandeis, Louis Dembitz, 1856-1941--Correspondence.  
Breckinridge, Desha, 1867-1935--Correspondence.  
Cox, James M. (James Middleton), 1870-1957--Correspondence.  
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.  
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.  
McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.  
Peabody, George Foster, 1852-1938--Correspondence.  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.  
Roper, Daniel C. (Daniel Calhoun), 1867-1943--Correspondence.  
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.  
Tumulty, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1879-1954--Correspondence.  
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.  
Woolley family.  
Woolley, Robert Wickliffe, 1871-1958.

### Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)  
United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Interstate Commerce.  
United States. Interstate Commerce Commission.

### Subjects

Elections--United States--1912.  
Elections--United States--1916.  
Elections--United States--1920.  
Energy policy--United States.  
Fuel consumption.  
Interstate commerce--United States.  
Railroads and state--United States.  
Railroads--United States.  
World War, 1914-1918--Transportation--United States.

## Places

United States--Commerce.

United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

## Occupations

Journalists.

Politicians.

Public officials.

## Provenance

The papers of Robert Wickliffe Woolley, journalist, politician, and public official, were given to the Library of Congress by Woolley in 1951. Additional papers were given by his daughter, Marguerite Trenholm Woolley, in 1959, and by Mrs. Clarence List in 1977. Several items of correspondence owned by Woolley were reproduced by the Library for the collection in 1952.

## Processing History

The collection was processed in 1959 and expanded in 1977. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

## Additional Guides

A note concerning the Woolley Papers appeared in the Library's *Information Bulletin* 10, no. 10 (Sept. 3, 1951): 2; and in vol. 18, no. 32 (Aug. 10, 1959): 491. The material was also described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 9, no. 3 (May 1952): 143-144; and vol. 17, no. 3 (May 1960): 189. In 1960 the Library published *Robert W. Woolley: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Wickliffe Woolley Papers in these papers 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 Woolley Papers 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, Robert Wickliffe Woolley Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1871, Apr. 29	Born, Lexington, Ky.
1886-1887	Attended University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
1887-1889	Attended Fordham University, New York, N.Y.
1893	Reporter, <i>Lexington Leader</i>

1895-1896	Editor, <i>American Sportsman</i>
1896-1897	Sports editor, <i>Chicago Tribune</i>
1897-1905	Reporter, <i>New York World</i>
1900	Married Marguerite Holmes Trenholm (died 1936)
1907-1909	Washington, D.C., correspondent, <i>New York World</i>
1911-1912	Chief investigator for the Stanley Committee investigating the U.S. Steel Corp.
1912	Compiled Democratic Party campaign text book
1913-1915	Auditor, Interior Department
1914	Edited Democratic Party campaign text book
1915-1916	Director of the Mint and chairman, Inter-Departmental Committee on Information
1916	Member and chairman of publicity, Democratic Campaign Committee
1917	Director of publicity, first Liberty Loan
1917-1921	Member, Interstate Commerce Commission
1929-1935	Member of law firm, Washington, D.C.
1934-1937	Chairman, National Democratic Council of Washington, D.C.
1936	Delegate, Democratic National convention
1940	Delegate, National Democratic convention
1945-1947	Member of twelve emergency boards of the National Mediation Board
1958, Dec. 16	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Wickliffe Woolley (1871-1958) consist of correspondence, reports, memoranda, manuscripts of speeches and articles, the draft of an unpublished autobiography, photographs, clippings and other printed matter, financial records, and memorabilia. The material extends from 1842 to 1956, with the bulk of the papers from the period 1912-1921. The collection is organized into six series: [General Correspondence](#); [Letterpress Books](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Printed Matter](#).

Nearly a third of the papers concerns the Democratic national political campaigns of 1912, 1916, and 1920, when Woolley was engaged in organizing party publicity. Another third of the material relates to his work with the Interstate Commerce Commission from 1917 to 1921. The greatest emphasis of this portion is on the regulation of railroads during and after World War I, inquiries relating to the United States Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, and fuel economy. The remainder of the papers is comprised of family, political, and financial correspondence, memorabilia, and printed matter. Although Woolley was a member of twelve emergency boards of the National Mediation Board, between 1945 and 1947, only a few items in the papers concern these matters. Material is also scant on the Stanley Committee for which Woolley was chief investigator into the affairs of the U.S. Steel Corporation.

“Politics Is Hell,” an unpublished autobiography, chronicles Woolley's acquaintance with the political leaders and issues during his career.

Prominent correspondents include Alben William Barkley, Louis Dembitz Brandeis, Desha Breckinridge, James M. Cox, Josephus Daniels, Edward Mandell House, William Gibbs McAdoo, George Foster Peabody, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Daniel C. Roper, Joseph P. Tumulty, Harry S. Truman, and Woodrow Wilson.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, circa 1910-1956](#)
- [Letterpress Books, 1915-1916](#)
- [Subject File, 1908-1945](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1907-1950](#)
- [Miscellany, 1842-1955](#)

- Printed Matter, circa 1912-1950

## Description of Series

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-25	<b><u>General Correspondence, circa 1910-1956</u></b> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or topic.
BOX 26	<b><u>Letterpress Books, 1915-1916</u></b> Copies of private letters sent by Woolley while director of the U.S. Mint. Arranged chronologically within volumes.
BOX 27-40	<b><u>Subject File, 1908-1945</u></b> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, charts, maps, tabulations, and pamphlets in folders. Arranged alphabetically by subject. There is little arrangement within folders.
BOX 41-45	<b><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1907-1950</u></b> Handwritten, typewritten, and near-print copies of speeches, articles, statements, and press releases; also unpublished manuscript of autobiography, "Politics Is Hell." Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 46-49	<b><u>Miscellany, 1842-1955</u></b> Early family records, invitations, financial papers, memorabilia, photographs, and memoranda. Organized by type of material.
BOX 50-54	<b><u>Printed Matter, circa 1912-1950</u></b> Newspaper clippings, autographed books and pamphlets. Organized by type of material.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
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	<i>Richmond Virginian</i> , 1914
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