

**United States Constitution Collection**  
**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/mm81082933>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011228>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

## Collection Summary

**Title:** United States Constitution Collection

**Span Dates:** 1773-1944

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1787-1919)

**ID No.:** MSS82933

**Extent:** 50 items

**Extent:** 1 container plus 2 oversize

**Extent:** .3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81082933>

**Summary:** Reports, notes, journals, letters, memoranda, and printed items documenting the drafting of the United States Constitution, the Constitutional Convention, and proposals relating to the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments to the Constitution.

## 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, John, 1735-1826.

Baldwin, Abraham, 1754-1807.

Beckley, John James, 1757-1807.

Brearley, David, 1745-1790.

Gilman, Nicholas, 1755-1814.

Ingersoll, Jared, 1749-1822.

King, Rufus, 1755-1827.

Madison, James, 1751-1836.

Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus Conrad, 1750-1801.

Pendleton, Edmund, 1721-1803.

Washington, George, 1732-1799.

### Organizations

United States. Constitution.

United States. Constitution. 1st-10th Amendments.

United States. Constitutional Convention (1787)

### Subjects

Constitutional history--United States.

### Places

United States--Politics and government--1783-1789.

## Provenance

The United States Constitution Collection was obtained by gift and purchase from various sources, 1931-1947, and by gift of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hearst, Jr., in 1986.

## Processing History

The United States Constitution Collection was processed between 1931 and 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2005 and again in 2011.

## **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of United States Constitution Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The United States Constitution Collection is 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, United States Constitution Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The United States Constitution Collection spans the years 1773-1944, with the bulk of the items concentrated in 1787-1919. The collection consists chiefly of photocopies and facsimiles of originals in various repositories, including the Library of Congress, and contains reports, notes, journals, letters, memoranda, and printed items documenting the drafting of the American Constitution, the Constitutional Convention (1787), and proposals relating to the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments to the Constitution. Included are John James Beckley's manuscript copy of the Bill of Rights signed by Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg and John Adams and material by Abraham Baldwin, David Brearley, Nicholas Gilman, Jared Ingersoll, Rufus King, James Madison, Edmund Pendleton, and George Washington.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

Original items are organized separately from photocopies, facsimiles, and transcripts, and both groups are arranged chronologically.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Originals
BOX 1	1787
BOX 1	Feb. 21, resolution to convene a meeting of delegates in Philadelphia, Pa., in May to revise the Articles of Confederation
BOX 1	circa June
BOX 1	Report of a speech in the Philadelphia, Pa., convention by Jared Ingersoll, including photocopy and transcription of report and memorandum of 1936 on the origin of the speech
BOX 1	Sept. 4, notes by James Madison in unknown hand and docketed by Madison
BOX 1	1789, Sept., John James Beckley copy of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 1	Photocopies, facsimiles, and transcripts
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 1	1787
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 1	May, Virginia plan in the hand of George Washington
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 2	circa June, resolutions preparatory to the formation of the Constitution [reported from the Committee of the Whole?], handwritten transcript of the original
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 3	Aug. 1-6, Committee of Detail, report
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 4	Aug. 6, Committee of Detail, annotations on report
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 4	Madison, James
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 5	Brearly, David
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 6	Gilman, Nicholas
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 7	Aug. 8-9, journal of the federal convention
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 8	Sept. 12
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 8	Journal of the federal convention
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 9	Committee of Style
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 9	Baldwin, Abraham, annotated copy of the Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 10	Committee report with annotations of George Washington
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 11	King, Rufus, annotated copy of the Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 12	Madison, James, annotated copy of the Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 13	Sept. 17
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 13	Final draft of the Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 14	As reported, with notes by Edmund Pendleton
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 15	Pages 2-3 16
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 16	Final signed document, printed copy and covering letter of George Washington to the president of the congress
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 17	Sept. 17-28, plans for the articles of the proposed Constitution, newspaper printing
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Oct., Connecticut General Assembly
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	1788, Nov. 20
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Avery, John, certification
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Virginia Assembly motion, Bill of Rights and other amendments
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	1789
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Jan., Connecticut election of United States representatives
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Feb. 4, New Hampshire presidential electors vote

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Mar. 4, twelve amendments
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	May 2, David Humphreys, presidential visitors
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	July 17, bill to establish the judiciary
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Sept. 30, letter, George Washington to Henry Dearborn
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 18	Oct. 2, letter, George Washington to John Hancock
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	1789-1919, first nineteen amendments
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	1790
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	June 4, Massachusetts General Court resolutions
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	Nov. 24-30, North Carolina resolutions
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 19	Dec. 1-11, North Carolina resolutions
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1865, Duval Swander & Co. issue of Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1929, Wadiah B. NeJane edition of Constitution (as a flat)
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1935, J. Franklin Jameson edition of Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1937, U. S Constitution Sesquicentennial commission, broadside
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1939, H. L. Whitteman issue of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	1943, Library of Congress "Reproolith" of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Undated
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Albertype Co. reproduction of Bogart copy of Constitution
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Miscellaneous photographs and photocopies
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	National Archives issue of Bill or Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Treasury Department issue of Bill of Rights
BOX OV 1 FOLDER 20	Unidentified material relating to Bill of Rights