

**Joseph Pulitzer Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78037044>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012015>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012  
Revised 2022 August

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Joseph Pulitzer Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1880-1924

**ID No.:** MSS37044

**Creator:** Pulitzer, Joseph, 1847-1911

**Extent:** 5,500 items

**Extent:** 12 containers

**Extent:** 4.8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78037044>

**Summary:** Journalist and United States representative from New York. Correspondence, memoranda, writings by and about Pulitzer, critiques of editorials, biographical material, and miscellaneous personal papers.

## 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

Aldrich, Nelson W. (Nelson Wilmarth), 1841-1915.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925.

Cobb, Frank Irving, 1869-1923--Correspondence.

Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940.

Norris, John, 1856-1914--Correspondence.

Pulitzer, Joseph, 1847-1911.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Seitz, Don C. (Don Carlos), 1862-1935--Correspondence.

Taft, Charles Phelps, 1843-1929.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930.

### Subjects

Canals, Interoceanic.

Journalism.

### Places

Panama Canal (Panama)

United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

### Occupations

Journalists.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--New York (State)

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Joseph Pulitzer, journalist and United States representative from New York, were given to the Library of Congress by his sons, Herbert Pulitzer, Joseph Pulitzer (1885-1955), and Ralph Pulitzer, in 1935.

## Processing History

The papers of Joseph Pulitzer were arranged and described in 1966. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## Related Material

Related material in the Manuscript Division includes the papers of Pulitzer's son, [Joseph Pulitzer \(1885-1955\)](#).

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joseph Pulitzer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joseph Pulitzer 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, Joseph Pulitzer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1847, Apr. 10	Born József Politzer, Makó, Hungary
1864	Emigrated with family to New York; enlisted in the Union Army
1872	Purchased the <i>St. Louis Post</i>
1878	Merged the newly founded <i>St. Louis Dispatch</i> with the <i>St. Louis Post</i> into the <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
1883	Purchased the <i>New York World</i>
1887	Founded the <i>Evening World</i> (New York)
1911, Oct. 29	Died, Charleston, S.C

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911) span the years 1880-1924 and cover the later years of his life. Letters and telegrams from Pulitzer to his staff, Dan Carlos Seitz, John Norris, and Frank Irving Cobb, make up the largest part of the collection. The letters and memoranda are arranged in chronological order from 1880 to 1911, and there are a few letters and a copy of his will after 1911. At the end of the collection is a miscellany file including newspaper clippings and reports, apparently the opinions of Pulitzer on topics ranging from Venezuela to the “rest cure.”

There are several commentaries on political matters by Pulitzer in the correspondence, but more often in memoranda or critiques of editorials. Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), William H. Taft, and William Jennings Bryan are most mentioned, as are Nelson W. Aldrich, George B. Cortelyou, and Charles Phelps Taft. Most of the newspaper clippings in the miscellany concern the death of Pulitzer. Included also is a file on the *New York World* concerning Roosevelt’s authorization to purchase Panama Canal rights and the subsequent dispute between Pulitzer and Roosevelt in the press.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Letters and telegrams
BOX 1	1880, Oct.-1897, July
BOX 2	1897, Aug.-1899, Dec.
BOX 3	1900, Jan.-1903, Dec.
BOX 4	1904, Jan.-1905, July
BOX 5	1905, Aug.-1906, Dec.
BOX 6	1907
BOX 7	1908, Jan.-Nov.
BOX 8	1908, Dec.-1909, Dec.
BOX 9	1910
BOX 10	1911
BOX 11	1912, Jan.-1924, Jan.
BOX 12	Miscellany
BOX 12	Newspaper clippings
BOX 12	Obituaries
BOX 12	Magazine articles