

William Orr 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/mm79035246>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012035>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: William Orr Papers

Span Dates: 1890-1939

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1927)

ID No.: MSS35246

Creator: Orr, William, 1860-1939

Extent: 1,800 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79035246>

Summary: Educator. Correspondence, diaries, reports, writings, and memorabilia relating primarily to Orr's service as education adviser on a special mission for the YMCA in Europe. Includes articles and papers of his first wife, Charlotte Pettis Orr.

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

Orr, Charlotte Pettis. Charlotte Pettis Orr papers.

Orr, William, 1860-1939.

Subjects

Education--Eastern, Europe.

Education--Europe.

Geology--Massachusetts--Springfield.

Young Men's Christian associations--Europe.

Places

Europe--Description and travel.

Occupations

Educators.

Provenance

The papers of William Orr, educator, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his daughter, Helen Orr Armstrong, in 1945. Armstrong converted the papers to a gift and made additions to the collection in 1964 and 1976.

Processing History

The papers of William Orr were arranged and described in 1964 and expanded and revised in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Orr is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Orr 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, William Orr Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1860, Nov. 16	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1883	B.A. Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
1883-1885	Principal, Hopkins Academy, Hadley, Mass.
1885-1888	Principal, Smith Academy, Hatfield, Mass.
1888-1894	Science master, Central High School, Springfield, Mass.
1889	Married Charlotte Evelyn Pettis (died 1931)
1892	M.A. Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
1894-1900	Vice principal, Central High School, Springfield, Mass.
1900-1910	Principal, Central High School, Springfield, Mass.
1895-1910	Curator, Museum of Natural History, Springfield, Mass.
1901	Published <i>An Outline of Eight Excursions for the Study of the Physical Geography and Geology of Springfield and Vicinity</i> . Springfield, Mass.
1910-1916	Deputy commissioner of education, Massachusetts
1916-1920	Senior educational secretary, International Committee, YMCA
1917-1918	Director, Educational Bureau, War Work Council, YMCA
1919	Published <i>Educational Work of the Y.M.C.A. 1916-1918</i> Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office
1920-1927	Education Adviser, Special Mission for Y.M.C.A. in Europe
1923	Decorated with Order Polonia Restituta
1936	Published <i>The History of the Classical High School Springfield, Mass. 1828-1936</i> . Springfield Classical High School Association
1936	Married M. C. M. Benson
1937	L.H.D. Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
1939, July 21	Died, Fairhaven, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Orr (1860-1939) consist of diaries, correspondence, articles, speeches, reports, the draft of an unpublished partial autobiography, clippings, printed matter, and memorabilia. The material extends from 1890 to 1939, with the bulk of the papers falling within the period 1920-1927.

Much of the collection concerns the period 1920-1927 when Orr served as an education adviser on a special mission for the YMCA in Europe. This material consists of reports and memoranda relating to YMCA activities and articles by William and Charlotte Orr concerning their travels in Europe. The majority of the reports and articles relate to the countries of Eastern Europe. The remainder of the papers consists of diaries describing Orr's trips to Europe in 1901, 1902, and 1905; congratulatory letters relating to his election as principal of the Central High School in Springfield, Massachusetts,

and to the deputy commissionership of education for Massachusetts; notes of a geological survey of Springfield; and an autobiography.

“Seven Years under Twenty-Seven Flags” is an unpublished account of Orr’s experiences in Europe from 1920 to 1927.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries
BOX 1	1901-1922 (11 folders)
BOX 2	1922-1924 (10 folders)
BOX 3	1925-1934 (10 folders)
BOX 4	1934-1936 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Letters of congratulation
BOX 4	Election to principalship, Central High School, Springfield, Mass., 1900
BOX 4	Election to deputy commissioner of education, Massachusetts, 1910-1916
BOX 4	General correspondence, 1920-1927, 1939 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Speeches and articles
BOX 4	By William Orr
BOX 4	Albania
BOX 4	America as a world power
BOX 4	Coolidge, Calvin
BOX 4	Education
BOX 4	Estonia (3 folders)
BOX 4	Europe, miscellaneous
BOX 5	Geneva, Switzerland
BOX 5	Germany
BOX 5	Great Britain
BOX 5	Greece
BOX 5	Ireland (2 folders)
BOX 5	Latvia
BOX 5	Near East
BOX 5	Palestine
BOX 5	Poland
BOX 5	"Seven Years under Twenty-Seven Flags"
BOX 5	Miscellaneous
BOX 5	By Charlotte Orr
BOX 6	Reports and memoranda concerning the YMCA, 1921-1924
BOX 6	Miscellany
BOX 6	Address book
BOX 6	Autobiography
BOX 6	Biographical material
BOX 6	Geological survey of Springfield, Mass., circa 1890

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

BOX 6	Passports
-------	-----------

BOX 6	General
-------	---------