

Norman H. Davis Papers
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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Norman H. Davis Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1898-1979

Bulk Dates: 1915-1944

ID No.: MSS17962

Creator: Davis, Norman H. (Norman Hezekiah), 1878-1944

Extent: 44,000 items

Extent: 99 containers plus 1 classified and 4 oversize

Extent: 40.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with some French and German

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78017962>

Summary: Economist, diplomat and humanitarian. Correspondence, journals, minutes, speeches, statements, scrapbooks, memoranda, news clippings, printed matter, photographs, and other material relating mainly to Davis's participation between the world wars in international conferences on peace, disarmament, and international monetary matters.

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

Davis, Norman H. (Norman Hezekiah), 1878-1944.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Lamont, Thomas W. (Thomas William), 1870-1948--Correspondence.

Vanderlip, Frank A. (Frank Arthur), 1864-1937--Correspondence.

Organizations

Allied and Associated Powers (1914-1920). Supreme Economic Council.

Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments (1932-1934 : Geneva, Switzerland)

International Economic Conference (1927 : Geneva, Switzerland)

League of Nations.

London Naval Conference (1935-1936 : London, England)

Monetary and Economic Conference (1933 : London, England)

Nine-Power Conference (1937 : Brussels, Belgium)

Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)

Subjects

Arms control.

Disarmament.

International economic relations.

International relations.

Peace.

Security, International.

World War, 1914-1918--Peace.

World War, 1914-1918--Reparations.

World War, 1939-1945.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Economists.

Humanitarians.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Norman H. Davis, economist and diplomat, were given to the Library of Congress in 1953, 1958, 1964, and 1984 by the Council on Foreign Relations. Priscilla Kellert gave a further addition to the collection in 2007.

Processing History

The papers of Norman H. Davis were arranged and described by staff in 1953. The collection was expanded and revised by Russell Smith in 1956, Robert A. Land in 1957, Grover Batts in 1958, David Mathisen in 1985, and Joseph K. Brooks in 2012. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Norman H. Davis 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.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Norman H. Davis Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1878, Aug. 9	Born, Normandy, Bedford County, Tenn.
1897-1900	Attended Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., and Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
1898	Married Mackie Paschall
1902	Began business career in Cuba
1905-1917	Organized Trust Co. of Cuba and served as president of the company
1917	Advisor on foreign loans to the secretary of the treasury
1918	Special delgate to Spain and representative of the United States Treasury in London, England and Paris, France
1919	Appointed finance commisioner of the United States to Europe American member, Armistice Commission Chairman of the finance section, Supreme Economic Council Financial advisor to Woodrow Wilson and the American Commission to Negotiate Peace Member of the Reparations and Financial Commissions Assistant secretary of the treasury

1920	Under secretary of state and acting secretary of state Chairman, Conference on International Communications, Washington, D. C.
1924	Chairman, League of Nations Commission to Determine the Status of Memel
1927	Member, American Delegation to the International Economic Conference, Geneva Switzerland Member, League of Nations Financial Committee
1932	Appointed member of of the organizing committee for the International Monetary and Economic Conference Chairman of the American delegation, Disarmament Conference, Geneva, Switzerland
1935	Head of the American delegation to the London Naval Conference
1937	United States delegate, Nine-Power Conference, Brussels, Belgium
1938-1944	Chairman, American Red Cross
1944, July 1	Died, Alexandria, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of diplomat and economist Norman Hezekiah Davis (1878-1944) span the years 1898-1979 with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1915 and 1944. In 1902 Davis began his business career in Cuba where he organized the Trust Company of Cuba. He commenced a public career in 1917 and served in four presidential administrations consulting on international finance at the Department of Treasury, the Department of State, and international conferences and committees during World War I and the the interwar period. Davis was chairman of the of the American Red Cross from 1938 to his death in 1944.

The papers are organized into seven series: [Correspondence and Other Papers](#), [Printed Matter](#), [Addition I](#), [Addition II](#), [Addition III](#), [Oversize](#), and [Classified](#). The [Correspondence and Other Papers](#) series consists of correspondence, diaries, journals, minutes, addresses, statements, scrapbooks, memoranda, clippings, printed matter, photographs, and other papers relating chiefly to Davis's services as a participant in international conferences and commissions on peace, disarmament, monetary matters and as a financial and economic consultant. The series includes material on conferences and organizations including the Supreme Economic Council of the Allied and Associated Powers (1914-1920), the Armistice, Paris Peace Conference (1919), International Economic Conference (Geneva, 1927), League of Nations, Limitation of Arms Conference (Geneva, 1932-1934), Monetary and Economic Conference (London, 1933), London Naval Conference (1935-1936), the Brussels Nine-Power Conference (1937), and other conferences and organizations. Correspondents include Herbert Hoover, Viscount Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, Cecil of Chelwood, Cordell Hull, Thomas W. Lamont, and Frank A. Vanderlip.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1942](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1933-1937](#)
- [Addition I, 1915-1945](#)
- [Addition II, 1918-1960](#)
- [Addition III, 1898-1979](#)
- [Oversize, 1920-1943](#)
- [Classified, 1927-1935](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-71	<p><u>Correspondence and Other Papers, 1918-1942</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, memoranda, copies of statements and addresses, journals, minutes, addresses, statements, scrapbooks, memoranda, clippings, printed matter, photographs, and miscellaneous material.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, or subject. There is some arrangement of dossiers within larger subjects such as the Supreme Economic Council, but many subject groups are wholly unarranged.</p>
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BOX 77-92	<p><u>Addition I, 1915-1945</u></p> <p>Financial papers, subject files, correspondence, printed matter, and newspaper clippings</p> <p>Mostly arranged alphabetically by topic. Some files arranged by type of material.</p>
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BOX CL 1	<p><u>Classified, 1927-1935</u></p> <p>Documents containing national security information removed from the collection.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

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BOX 52	1921-1930 (5 folders)
BOX 53	1931-1932
BOX 53	"S" cross-reference sheets
BOX 53	"S" miscellaneous
BOX 53	Salter, Sir Arthur, 1928-1932
BOX 53	Shotwell, James T., 1925-1942
BOX 53	Silver, 1931
BOX 53	Simon, Sir John, 1932
BOX 53	Social Security Act, 1938
BOX 53	Spain, 1937
BOX 53	Speyer, James 1932
BOX 53	Standard Oil Co., 1920-1921
BOX 53	State Department
BOX 53	1928-1929
BOX 54	1938-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 54	Addresses, statements, memoranda, and press releases, 1937-1941
BOX 54	Steinhardt, Lawrence, 1934
BOX 54	Stimson, Henry L., 1931-1936
BOX 54	Streit, Clarence, 1934-1942
BOX 55	Sugar Conference
BOX 55	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1937, Mar. 24-May 15

Correspondence and Other Papers, 1918-1942

Container	Contents
BOX 55	General, 1937, Mar.- Apr
BOX 55	Official correspondence, memoranda, 1937, Apr.
BOX 55	Conversation memoranda, 1937, Apr.-May
BOX 55	Statements and agreements, 1937, Apr.-May
BOX 56	Supreme Economic Council
BOX 56	General, 1919
BOX 56	Proceedings, 1919, Feb.-Sept (2 folders)
BOX 56	Mainly minutes and agendas, 1919 (1 folder) (3 folders)
BOX 57	Proceedings, financial subcommission, 1919
BOX 58	Finance Section, minutes, 1919 (3 folders)
BOX 59	(3 folders)
BOX 60	Financial meeting at Treves, France, 1919 (3 folders)
BOX 60	Correspondence, 1919
BOX 60	Mar.-Apr.
BOX 61	May-June (2 folders)
BOX 61	Correspondence between Finance Section and German Finance Commission 1919-1920
BOX 61	Papers arising out of deposits of german gold for food, 1919
BOX 61	Duplicates of German letters and translations, 1919
BOX 61	Miscellaneous, 1919
BOX 62	Sweetser, Arthur, 1919-1940 (3 folders)
BOX 62	"T" cross-reference sheets
BOX 62	"T" miscellaneous
BOX 62	Taussig, F. W., 1919-1924
BOX 62	Thompson, Dorothy, 1936-1941
BOX 62	Trade and tariff, 1937
BOX 62	Treasury Department
BOX 62	1919-1921
BOX 62	Russian inquiries, 1935
BOX 63	Trust Co. of Cuba, 1918-1921
BOX 63	Tumulty, Joseph P., 1919-1921
BOX 63	"U" miscellaneous
BOX 63	"V" cross-reference sheets
BOX 63	"V" miscellaneous
BOX 63	Versailles Treaty <i>See Containers 43-47, Paris Peace Conference</i>
BOX 63	"W" cross-reference sheets
BOX 63	"Wa-Wh" miscellaneous
BOX 63	War debts, 1932-1937 (2 folders)
BOX 63	Welles, Sumner, 1921-1942 (2 folders)

Correspondence and Other Papers, 1918-1942

Container	Contents
BOX 64	Whitner, W. M.
BOX 64	1920-1926 (4 folders)
BOX 64	1929, Jan.-July
BOX 65	1929, Aug.-Dec.
BOX 65	1930-1931 (3 folders)
BOX 66	Hartford Fire Insurance Co., 1916-1926
BOX 66	Insurance, Royal Bank and Trust Co. of Cuba, 1917-1918
BOX 66	Home Insurance Company, circa 1917-1926
BOX 66	Insurance Agencies Corp., circa 1919-1926 July 1 (3 folders)
BOX 66	Johnson and Higgins, 1923
BOX 66	Meidlinger, Charles R., circa 1916-1918
BOX 66	Pedroso agreement and correspondence, 1925
BOX 66	Phoenix Insurance Co., 1918
BOX 66	Purchase of Insurance Agency from Royal Bank of Canada, 1920-1922
BOX 66	Sanborn Map Co., 1920
BOX 66	Workman's Compensation Law and Tariffs
BOX 66	Whitner, W. M. and Insurance Agencies Corp., circa 1919-1931 (2 folders)
BOX 67	"Wi-Wy" miscellaneous
BOX 67	Wickersham, George W., 1922-1935
BOX 67	Wilson, Hugh R. 1932-1941
BOX 67	Wilson, Woodrow
BOX 67	1919-1924; 1929 (2 folders)
BOX 68	Memorial service, printed tributes, etc., 1924
BOX 68	Memorials, 1937-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 68	Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1924-1933
BOX 68	Woodrow Wilson Foundation
BOX 68	1921-1924
BOX 69	1925-1928 (4 folders)
BOX 70	1929-1937 (6 folders)
BOX 71	Contemplated Bok Award, 1926-1928 (2 folders)
BOX 71	Investments, 1926
BOX 71	Securities, 1926-1928
BOX 71	Finance Committee, 1931-1932
BOX 71	Woolley, Mary E., 1921-1936
BOX 71	"Y" miscellaneous

Correspondence and Other Papers, 1918-1942

Container	Contents
BOX 71	Young, Owen D., 1921-1930
BOX 72-76	Printed Matter, 1933-1937 Mainly newspaper clippings relating to international trade and finance, and to international conferences. Arranged alphabetically by topic.
BOX 72	Armaments, 1935-1936
BOX 72	Debts, 1933 (2 folders)
BOX 72	Disarmament
BOX 72	1933, Jan.-Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 73	1933, Sept.-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 73	1934, Mar.-June
BOX 73	1935, Jan.
BOX 74	Economic Conference, 1933
BOX 74	London Naval Conference
BOX 74	1935, Dec.-1936, Feb. (5 folders)
BOX 75	1936, Mar.-May (2 folders)
BOX 75	Naval
BOX 75	1934, Oct.-Dec. (5 folders)
BOX 75	1935-1937 (2 folders)
BOX 76	Neutrality, 1935-1937 (3 folders)
BOX 76	Trade, 1937
BOX 77-92	Addition I, 1915-1945 Financial papers, subject files, correspondence, printed matter, and newspaper clippings Mostly arranged alphabetically by topic. Some files arranged by type of material.
BOX 77	Kreuger Group
BOX 77	Plans, reports, and statements
BOX 78	Plans, reports, and statements
BOX 79	Miscellany
BOX 79	Kreuger & Toll
BOX 79	1927-1934
BOX 80	1935
BOX 80	Miscellany
BOX 80	Printed matter relating to Charles E. Coughlin attack
BOX 81	Kreuger Group
BOX 81	Plans, reports, and statements
BOX 81	1933-1934

Addition I, 1915-1945

Container	Contents
BOX 82	1933-1935
BOX 83	Memoranda and printed matter
BOX 84	Millett-Roe financial papers, 1928-1932
BOX 85	J. P. Morgan & Co., financial papers and correspondence, 1930-1934
BOX 86	Seaboard Airline Railroad, financial papers and correspondence
BOX 86	1930-1934
BOX 87	1930-1934
BOX 88	1930-1934
BOX 89	Bank statements
BOX 90	Miscellaneous clippings and pamphlets on Geneva, Switzerland, 1933
BOX 90	Report on Cuba sugar industries, 1915, 1924-1925
BOX 91	Miscellaneous clippings, 1932-1938
BOX 92	Diary, 1921
BOX 92	Cable correspondence relating to John Maynard Keynes plan 1919, Apr. 26-May 27
BOX 92	Correspondence relating to financial reconstruction, 1919, Mar. 30-May 16, 1919
BOX 92	Correspondence, 1920, Apr. 11-Nov. 15
BOX 92	Notes taken during Paris Peace Conference, 1919
BOX 92	Miscellany
BOX 93-94	Addition II, 1918-1960 Subject files on the Peace Commission and miscellaneous correspondence, writings, notes, printed matter, clippings, and other material. Arranged by topic.
BOX 93	Correspondence, 1918-1947
BOX 93	Notebook, message of Davis to his children, prayers and poems, and copies of letters of condolence on the death of his wife, Mackie Paschall Davis, 1942, Mar.
BOX 93	Book manuscript, "Mission to Memel-1924," Chapter VII
BOX 93	Writing fragments
BOX 93	Notes
BOX 93	Articles and radio address relating to Davis
BOX 93	Photographs
BOX 93	Miscellany
BOX 93	Printed matter, general
BOX 93	Clippings
BOX 93	Peace Commission material, 1919 (2 folders)
BOX 94	(5 folders)
BOX 94	Scrapbooks, 1920-1940 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 95-99	Addition III, 1898-1979 Correspondence, speeches and writings, subject files, printed matter, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.
BOX 95	American Club of Havana, Havana, Cuba 1936
BOX 95	Chronological file, 1921-1944, undated <i>See also Classified</i> (2 folders)
BOX 95	Correspondence

Addition III, 1898-1979

Container	Contents
BOX 95	Davis, Mackie Paschall (wife)
BOX 95	1913-1916 (5 folders)
BOX 95	1917
BOX 95	June
BOX 96	July-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 96	1918
BOX 96	Aug.-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 96	1920-1924 (2 folders)
BOX 96	General
BOX 96	1898, 1917-1924
BOX 97	1925-1938, 1957-1958, undated (6 folders)
BOX 97	Hull, Cordell 1922-1946 (2 folders)
BOX 97	General Disarmament Conference, Geneva, Switzerland
BOX 97	Correspondence, 1932-1935
BOX 97	"Norman H. Davis, Diary and Memoranda of Conversations," 1932, Jan.-Aug.
BOX 97	<i>Nous Desarmons ...</i> , 1932
BOX 98	Miscellany, undated
BOX 98	National Archives, Washington, D. C., preliminary inventories
BOX 98	<i>Records of United States Participation in International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions</i> , 1955
BOX 98	<i>Records of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace</i> , 1955
BOX 98	Newspaper clippings, 1920-1979
BOX 98	New York University School of Law, New York, N.Y., honorary doctor of law, 1938
BOX 98	Photographs 1943, undated <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 98	Printed matter 1924-1926
BOX 98	<i>Record of Informal and Confidential Memoranda and Conferences Dealing with Reparation Clauses of Conditions of Peace</i> , 1919 (2 folders)
BOX 98	Speeches and writings
BOX 98	By Davis
BOX 98	Draft articles about the League of Nations, 1928
BOX 98	Miscellaneous
BOX 98	1919-1924
BOX 99	1925-1943, undated (2 folders)
BOX 99	By others, 1922-1968
BOX OV 1-OV 4	Oversize, 1920-1943 Scrapbooks and photographs. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and file from which the matter was removed.

Oversize, 1920-1943

Container	Contents
BOX OV 1	Addition II
BOX OV 1	<i>Scrapbooks</i>
BOX OV 1	1920-1921 (Container 94) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 2	1931-1936 (Container 94) (3 vols.)
BOX OV 3	1937 , Sugar Conference (Container 94)
BOX OV 3	1937 , Brussels Conference (Container 94)
BOX OV 3	1938-1940 (Container 94)
BOX OV 4	<i>Photographs.</i> 1943, undated (Container 98)
BOX CL 1	Classified, 1927-1935 Documents containing national security information removed from the collection. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX CL 1	Addition III
BOX CL 1	Chronological file
BOX CL 1	Meeting notes, Naval Conference, 1935 (Container 95)
BOX CL 1	Summary of information received to a telegraphic circular concerning attitude of foreign government toward the Economic Conference 1927, Mar. 7 (Container 95)