

J. Laurence Laughlin Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78029553>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms012171>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: J. Laurence Laughlin Papers

Span Dates: 1902-1931

ID No.: MSS29553

Creator: Laughlin, J. Laurence (James Laurence), 1850-1933

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 13 containers

Extent: 5.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78029553>

Summary: Economist, professor, and editor. Correspondence, lectures, writings, articles, notes, financial papers, printed matter, clippings, and other papers relating to Laughlin's career at the University of Chicago and to his activities as editor of the *Journal of Political Economy* and as a member, delegate, or chairman of groups concerned with money and banking, credit, and related economic 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

Laughlin, J. Laurence (James Laurence), 1850-1933.

Laughlin, J. Laurence (James Laurence), 1850-1933. Federal reserve act, its origin and problems. 1933.

Marshall, Leon C. (Leon Carroll), 1879-1966--Correspondence.

Warburg, Paul M. (Paul Moritz), 1868-1932--Correspondence.

Willis, Henry Parker, 1874-1937--Correspondence.

Organizations

University of Chicago. Department of Political Economy.

Subjects

Banks and banking.

Credit.

Economics--Periodicals.

Economics--Study and teaching.

Economics.

Finance.

Money.

Silver question.

Tariff.

Titles

Journal of political economy.

Occupations

Authors.

Economists.

Educators.

Provenance

The papers of J. Laurence Laughlin, economist, professor, and editor, were given to the Library of Congress in 1934 and 1935 by Lawrence Cramer Laughlin.

Processing History

The Laughlin Papers were processed in 1954. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of J. Laurence Laughlin is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of J. Laurence Laughlin 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, J. Laurence Laughlin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1850, Apr. 2	Born, Deerfield, Ohio
1873	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1873-1878	Taught in Hopkinson's Classical School, Boston, Mass.
1875, Sept.	Married Alice McGuffey
1876	A.M. and Ph.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1878-1883	Instructor in political economy, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1883-1888	Assistant professor of political economy, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1888-1890	President, Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
1890-1892	Professor of political economy, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
1890-1916	Professor and head of Department of Political Economy, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1892	Became editor of <i>Journal of Political Economy</i>
1894-1895	Prepared monetary reform for government of Santa Domingo that was later adopted
1897	Member, monetary commission created by Indianapolis Monetary Conference
1906	Lecturer, Berlin, Germany, on invitation of Prussian Cultus Ministerium; Doctor, honoris causa, University of Giessen, Giessen, Germany
1909	Delegate, Pan-American Scientific Congress, Santiago, Chile
1911	Chairman, Executive Committee National Citizens' League for Promotion of Sound Banking System
1919	Member, European Commission of National Industrial Conference Board
1933, Nov. 28	Died, East Jaffery, N.H.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Laurence Laughlin (1850-1933) span the years 1902-1931. The collection consists of correspondence, lectures, writings, articles, notes, financial papers, printed matter, clippings, and other papers relating to Laughlin's career at the University of Chicago and to his activities as editor of the *Journal of Political Economy* and as a member, delegate, or

chairman of groups concerned with money and banking, credit, and related economic matters. The collection is organized into four series: [Personal File](#) , [Subject File](#) , [Writings](#) , and [Printed Matter](#) .

Subjects include economics, finance, the silver question, and tariff. Included is a manuscript of Laughlin's work *The Federal Reserve Act, Its Origin and Problems* (1933). Correspondents include Leon C. Marshall, Paul M. Warburg, and Henry Parker Willis.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Personal File, 1902-1931](#)
- [Subject File](#)
- [Writings](#)
- [Printed Matter](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Personal File, 1902-1931</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, financial matter, and notes. Arranged by type of material, with the correspondence arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-4	<p><u>Subject File</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received and miscellaneous related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of subject, person, or organization. Laughlin's working groups of material have been retained so far as possible.</p>
BOX 5-10	<p><u>Writings</u></p> <p>Handwritten and typed drafts of articles, lectures, and book material, including notes, printed matter, and occasional correspondence. Arranged according to type of writing and therein by title as supplied by Laughlin.</p>
BOX 11-13	<p><u>Printed Matter</u></p> <p>Pamphlets and clippings. No arrangement.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Personal File, 1902-1931 Letters sent and received, financial matter, and notes. Arranged by type of material, with the correspondence arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1902-1927
BOX 1	Financial papers, mainly regarding Agatha Laughlin, 1927-1931
BOX 1	Notes
BOX 2-4	Subject File Letters sent and received and miscellaneous related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of subject, person, or organization. Laughlin's working groups of material have been retained so far as possible.
BOX 2	Aldrich plan
BOX 2	Aldrich, Nelson W., life of
BOX 2	Bank currency based on trade
BOX 2	Banking, Chamber of Commerce of U.S.
BOX 2	Banking contro
BOX 2	Banking reform
BOX 2	Bond-secured circulation
BOX 2	Bryan, William Jennings
BOX 2	Carson, William E.
BOX 2	Currency Act, Mar. 13, 1913
BOX 2	Delano, F. A.
BOX 2	<i>Dictionary of American Biography</i>
BOX 2	Farwell, John B.
BOX 2	Federal Reserve Board
BOX 2	Printed circulars, regulations, etc.
BOX 2	Statements for the press, and other multicopy material
BOX 2	Financial housekeeping; elasticity of credit and currency
BOX 2	Glass Bill, creation of
BOX 2	Guarantee of deposits
BOX 2	Hamlin, Charles S.
BOX 2	Hepburn, A. B.
BOX 2	Influence of tax upon volume of bank notes
BOX 2	Kalamazoo, Mich.
BOX 3	Lauck, W. Jett
BOX 3	LeBerthon, T. T. and J. L.
BOX 3	Marie Antoinette indictment
BOX 3	"Money Trust"
BOX 3	Morss, Charles A.
BOX 3	National Citizens League

Subject File

Container

Contents

BOX 3	Formation
BOX 3	Miscellaneous
BOX 3	Correspondence
BOX 3	Financial reports
BOX 3	Retirement of Laughlin
BOX 3	New York banking law
BOX 4	Patterson, C. S.
BOX 4	Peabody, George Foster
BOX 4	Perrin, John
BOX 4	“Plan D”
BOX 4	Roosevelt, Theodore, correspondence regarding article on, 1924
BOX 4	“R. B. H.” [Red Brick House], Jaffrey, N. H.
BOX 4	Redfield, William C.
BOX 4	Reynolds, G. M.
BOX 4	Scott, William A.
BOX 4	Underwood, Oscar W.
BOX 4	Taft, William H.
BOX 4	Untermeyer, Samuel
BOX 4	Warburg, Paul M.
BOX 4	Welton, A. D.
BOX 4	Willis, H. Parker
BOX 4	Weeks, John W.
BOX 4	Wilson, Woodrow

BOX 5-10

Writings

Handwritten and typed drafts of articles, lectures, and book material, including notes, printed matter, and occasional correspondence.

Arranged according to type of writing and therein by title as supplied by Laughlin.

BOX 5	Articles and lectures
BOX 5	“Abundance of Gold”
BOX 5	“The Amazing Adventures of Silver”
BOX 5	“Bank Notes and Lending Power”
BOX 5	“Banking Reform” (3 folders)
BOX 5	“Banking Reform and the Constitution”
BOX 5	“The Bolshevik Pearls”
BOX 5	“Capitalism”
BOX 5	“Coin Debate—Free Silver”
BOX 5	“Confiscation by German Paper Money”
BOX 5	“Coolidge Policy—Tariff, 1925
BOX 5	“Cupsuptic”
BOX 5	“Duration of the War”
BOX 5	“Economic Factors in International Relations”
BOX 5	“Effects of the European War on the Credit Situation of the United States”
BOX 5	“The Flambeau River”
BOX 5	“Future of Prices”

Writings

Container

Contents

BOX 6	"German Mark"
BOX 6	"Government and Banking"
BOX 6	"Henry Adams"
BOX 6	"Historical Research"
BOX 6	"Hoover's Economics"
BOX 6	"Iowa Bankers Association, 1911"
BOX 6	"John Brown's Grave"
BOX 6	Laughlin, J. L., "Statement before House Hearings"
BOX 6	"Leadership"
BOX 6	"Logic of Capitalism"
BOX 6	"Maiche"
BOX 6	"Monetary and Credit Problems of the War"
BOX 6	"Monetary Reform, 1910"
BOX 6	"Money and Banking Reform"
BOX 6	"A National Reserve Association in the Movement of Cotton in the South"
BOX 6	"National Reserve Association of the United States"
BOX 6	"New Bryanism"
BOX 7	"The Peril of Labor"
BOX 7	"Personal Reminiscence of Some Literary Men"
BOX 7	"Politics at Work"
BOX 7	"The Railway Situation Today"
BOX 7	"Recollections of the founding of the University"
BOX 7	"The Recovery of Business"
BOX 7	"Roosevelt at Harvard University"
BOX 7	"Solution of Labor Problems"
BOX 7	"Spiritual Life"
BOX 7	"Strategy of the Coolidge Administration"
BOX 7	"The Tariff of Exaggerations, 1922"
BOX 7	"Tracts for the Times"
BOX 7	"Wages and Prices"
BOX 7	"World's Monetary Problems"
BOX 7	"The Younger Generation"
BOX 8-10	Book, <i>The Federal Reserve Act, Its Origin and Problems</i>
BOX 11-13	Printed Matter Pamphlets and clippings. No arrangement.
BOX 11-13	Pamphlets and clippings